

Safeguarding Children



News from City of York Safeguarding Children Board | December 2016

Welcome

As we move towards a new year I'd like to remind you about City of York's Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB) key responsibilities.



The Board is a statutory body responsible for agreeing how child safeguarding agencies cooperate and work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Our current priorities are: neglect; domestic abuse; child sexual abuse/exploitation and missing from home; and early help.

A full overview is here:

www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/
Ofsted have just completed a review of the work of the Board and their report will be with us in February. In the verbal feedback I heard very positive messages about the work of the sub groups and their role in keeping a sharp focus on the priorities we have identified, our CSA&E sub group work was noted for its impact. The inspectors could see how the voice of the child and young people featured strongly across the work of the Board and commented on the value of this approach.

My thanks go to you all for your dedication to making York safe and happy for the children and young people growing up here.

Simon Westwood

Chair of City of York Safeguarding Children Board

Focus on Domestic Abuse

Coercive Control and Domestic Abuse

'Controlling or coercive behavior in an intimate or family relationship' has become an offence under the Serious Crime Act 2015. The Act came into force in December 2015 and closes a gap in the law around psychological and emotional abuse which stops short of physical abuse.

The offence carries a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment, a fine or both. Information about this is available in the CYSCB domestic abuse training delivered by IDAS.



National Safeguarding Week focus on domestic abuse

York's focus was to raise awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on children with a campaign which secured regional TV coverage.



Following our campaign, in early November the government announced £20 million to support domestic abuse victims with accommodation, employment and skills and local authorities can bid for a share.

Locally, on behalf of CYSCB, IDAS is offering practitioners training in December and February on domestic abuse.

Photograph above: Members of IDAS, KYRA women's group and the council at West Offices during Safeguarding Week raising awareness of domestic abuse

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass aims to have a 'key adult' present to support a child or young person who has been involved in, or witnessed, a domestic incident, by 9am the following school day.

The scheme is preparing for a pilot scheme in York in early January having already been introduced to North Yorkshire.

Head teachers have been informed and have responded positively.

CYSCB on Twitter:

You can now follow CYSCB on Twitter at [@LSCBYork](https://twitter.com/LSCBYork) for news and updates on events, local and national policy, procedures and legislation and much more.



Co-sleeping law change

The law about infants sleeping in adults' beds has changed.

If the death of an infant aged under three was caused by suffocation while the child was in bed with a person aged over 16 and who was under the influence of drink or a prohibited drug, the adult will be now guilty of an offence.

Advice given by the NHS to parents and carers reflects this: www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/pages/reducing-risk-cot-death.aspx#chair.

Local Area Team update

In the last newsletter we introduced the new Local Area Teams (LAT) with, at their heart, the ambition to for all our children and young people to have a chance to be safe, resilient and achieving.

Each will be based at the local designated Children's Centre: the East team will be based at Tang Hall, West based at Hob Moor, and North at Clifton.

The project managers are being recruited, staff have been allocated to the areas and the transition plan is underway ahead of the implementation phase from 1 January to March 2017.

Integrated Children's Front Door arrangements remain via 01904 551900. More detail at www.yor-ok.org.uk/lat

SMTIM celebration event

York's young people in care council – called Show Me That I Matter - shared their vision to about 100 guests at West Offices on 13 September when they celebrated their Aspire to More project, ahead of presenting on it at two national events.

The team was also presented with a national award by the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum for its poster campaign, members spoke at The Prince's Trust National Care Leavers Conference at Church House, Westminster and won 'Most Inspirational Youth Campaign' from charity Kids Count in late November.

More at this link <https://aspiretomore.wordpress.com>

Three SMTIM members celebrate their latest win at the Houses of Parliament.

Inclusion of children with disabilities in the work of safeguarding boards

A recent national working group report has highlighted the importance of Safeguarding Children Boards' focus on safeguarding for disabled children.

While this group is recognised as being among the most vulnerable and incorporates them into everything it does, the Board is now working to identify and respond to any changes in trends or increases in safeguarding.

Board members went along to the council's Integrating Services for Disabled Children Conference in November for information and updates on provision and multi-agency working across York.

Keep up to date with our work at www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/ and via twitter on [@LSCBYork](https://twitter.com/LSCBYork)



CSA&E Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Tool

This useful tool helps determine at what level of risk a child or young person might be and what their individual needs are.

Using information on behaviour and other details, it can also help determine whether advice needs to be sought from the Children's Front Door.

The tool is available on the CYSCB website at www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/child-protection-procedures.htm long with other child protection procedures for practitioners.

Recording contact with the Front Door

CYSCB has a responsibility to audit safeguarding practice across all agencies.

As a result, agencies and schools are being reminded that any enquiries made to Children's Social Care must include full and complete details of which agency made the enquiry and why they made it. In addition, the advice given and to whom should be recorded, as well as any discussion with parents - unless it could compromise the safety of a child or adult.

NSPCC Spotlight on Neglect

The NSPCC is shining a spotlight on neglect, which shows that child neglect is still the most common form of abuse in the UK. The charity has published its research on child neglect, evaluations and new evidence on effective early help which the NSPCC suggests could help prevent child neglect.

CYSCB is working on a citywide neglect strategy which will be published soon along with a number of learning opportunities on the matter for practitioners.

More here: www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/2015/spotlight-preventing-child-neglect/



Good news, please

The council's Case Review Group is calling for examples of positive practice and good outcomes. Please send yours to Juliet.burton@york.gov.uk who will share them with the group.

If you are concerned about a child:

If you think that a child or young person is being abused or neglected you must inform Children's Social Care or the police.

To report concerns to Children's Social Care you can do so:

- By phone – one phone number for all concerns and enquiries: 01904 551900
- By email – one email address: childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk
- Using a referral form available here: www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/concerned-about-a-child-or-young-person.htm
- By letter – Children's Social Care, City of York Council, West Office, York YO1 6GA
- Outside office hours, at weekends and on public holidays contact the Emergency Duty Team telephone: 01609 780780.



Safeguarding Children

