

Safeguarding Children

News from City of York Safeguarding Children Board | December 2018

Welcome

With Christmas and the New Year rapidly approaching, it's a great time to look back over what's been a busy year for the safeguarding board.



I'm particularly pleased with how partners have continued to work together to meet the inevitable challenges, whether it's the Joint inspection into sexual abuse in the family, or the imminent changes to the safeguarding board arrangements nationally.

I'd like to thank you all for your continued support and dedication ensure the very best for all the children and young people in York.

2019 will bring fresh challenges as we adapt to our new role as a City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership. I look forward to working with you all in the months ahead.

Best wishes to your and your nearest and dearest this festive season.

Simon Westwood

Independent Chair of City of York Safeguarding Children Board

Keep up to date with our work at www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/ and via twitter on @YorkLSCB

New Year, new name

Plans for the new safeguarding partnership arrangements in York, which will replace the CYSCB in the new year, are progressing well.

After the Board meeting in January, the City of York Safeguarding Board (CYSCB) will officially become the City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership (CYSCP).

Details of the arrangements will be published on the CYSCB website in early 2019, and the functioning of the Board will be replicated and enhanced in the new Partnership.

The implementation of the new CYSCP will refresh and re-energise the already strong partnership arrangements and maximise the effectiveness of the Partnership's role in scrutinising, supporting and challenging multi-agency safeguarding practice across the city.

Early Adopter progress

Work is now well underway on the Early Adopter programme, which the Board made a successful bid to take part in earlier this year.

In York the work is focused on enhancing the already good engagement of schools, colleges and Early Years with the safeguarding arrangements.

Caroline Wood, Safeguarding Adviser for Schools is working with Dan Bodey (Deputy Head at Fulford School) who has been appointed as Project Support.

Together they are working with the National Children's Bureau and the network of Local Authorities which has been established as part of the national Early Adopters project to share best practice.

They have been engaging locally with schools, Further Education and Early Years by attending head teachers meetings, Early Years' networks and Designated Safeguarding Leads' events.

They are also connecting with the CYSCB Voice and Involvement Group to ensure that young people in the city are linked-in with the new safeguarding arrangements.

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Joint inspection (JTAI)

Inspectors from Ofsted, The Care Quality Commission (CQC), HMI Constabulary (HMIC) and HMI Probation (HMIP) undertook a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of the way partner organisations across the city responded to 'sexual abuse in the family' in York in September.

A range of services were inspected including the CYSCB. The inspection found the Board to be an 'effective critical friend... exercising leadership and challenge in order to improve services for children'. The Board was also seen to be 'influential' in driving 'a strong, shared commitment to working in a child-focused way... at both a strategic level and in work with individual children and their families.'

The CYSCB website was cited as an example of good practice.

Thanks to everyone who was involved in the inspection.

Online safety conference

Representatives from City of York attended a Yorkshire and Humberside Multi-Agency Safeguarding Trainers (YHMAST) conference last month on Online Safety.

Jim Gamble, former chief executive of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), and CEO of the child online safety organisation the Ineqe Group gave the keynote speech.

Catherine Knibbs, Child and Adult Psychologist, talked about Cyber Trauma. The key message from the conference was that for young people there is no 'online' and 'offline'; it is all the same. Rather than stopping young people's access to the internet and social media (which might mean that they hide their use), the best way to support them is to be open, listen to them, and understand, to help equip them with the information and resilience to stay safe.

Child exploitation

In November there were six arrests in York linked to 'county lines' drug dealing.

A new national joint inspection report found that local agencies must learn lessons from past sexual exploitation cases to respond to 'county lines' and other child criminal exploitation. It calls on agencies not to underestimate the risk of child criminal exploitation in their areas.

In summary:

1. Lessons must be learned from past sexual exploitation cases
2. All children, not just the most vulnerable, are at risk of criminal exploitation
3. Children should be seen as victims, not perpetrators
4. Awareness-raising is crucial in preventing criminal exploitation.

The report urges professionals to make sure that there are clear systems in place at the 'front door' of services, so that children at risk are identified and receive a prompt and appropriate response.

You can find out more about 'County Lines' on the CYSCB website.

New 'It's not ok' resources launch for schools

Following the success of York's It's not OK campaign to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and exploitation, a new resource for schools is being launched.

Working with York St John University, the NSPCC has made four films and accompanying lesson plans which will be available free of charge for schools, youth organisations and others to use with young people.

The films feature the same four characters as in the play of the same name and exploring issues around child sexual abuse, exploitation, sexting, relationships and consent.

The resources will be available from January with a special launch event taking hosted by the Vice Chancellor at York St John University in partnership with the NSPCC and City of York Safeguarding Children Board.



New Director of Children's Services

Amanda Hatton has taken up the post of City of York Council's new Corporate Director for Children, Education and Communities.

Amanda comes to York from Lancashire County Council where she was Director of Children's Services. She has provided strategic advice and intervention at a national level to ministers and national bodies such as the Social Work Taskforce and the national Children's Improvement Board.

A qualified Social Worker, Amanda has a track record of delivering improved outcomes in both adult and children's services and has worked regionally, nationally and internationally.



Threshold

The new draft Threshold Document, which sets out local criteria for action, is now available for use by practitioners in draft (final version due by end of December)

The includes links to information which could help with professional judgements in understanding and meeting a child and family's need, including contacting the Children's Front Door, Early Help and FEHAs, Children's Social Care, allegations against professionals and the LADO process, and much more.

And there are links to the CYSCB Neglect and CSE Screening Tools which are available for use by any practitioner.

Preventing Suicide

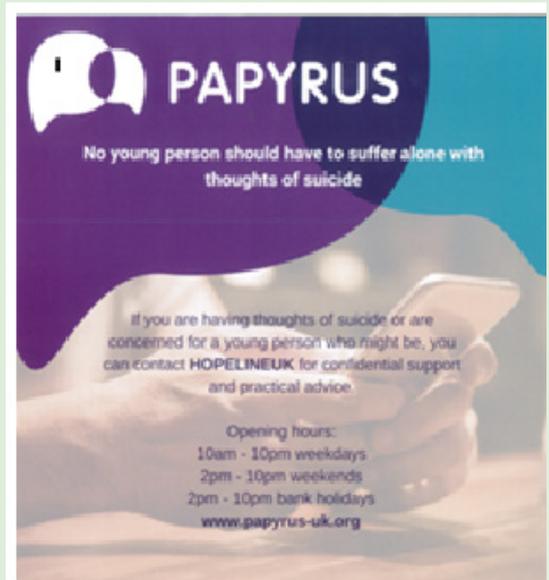
Did you know that more than 200 school children are lost to suicide every year in the UK?

Children and young people spend most of their time at school or college so teachers and school staff have a vital opportunity to recognise the signs that a student might be at risk of suicide and they are best placed to respond effectively. Sadly, many are unsure of what to do or to say and may even be frightened of making things worse by talking to their pupils about suicide.

The charity, Papyrus, provides confidential help and advice to young people and anyone worried about a young person. It helps others to prevent young suicide by working with and training professionals as well as campaigning and influencing national policy.

Check the website: <https://papyrus-uk.org/save-the-class/>

York is working to become a suicide-safer city and has a new city-wide suicide prevention strategy, which looks at how, by working more closely with partners, the council will work to reduce suicides in the city.



Safeguarding week

Next year's North Yorkshire and York Safeguarding Week takes place the week of 24 June.

This year's theme is **'Safeguarding is Everyone's Business'** once again.

A Safeguarding Conference will be held during the week with prominent key-note speakers and several workshops for practitioners across all safeguarding services.

Planning has already begun and a York task group has been set up for York specific events, which will meet monthly until June.

If you are planning any special events or activities for Safeguarding Week please do let us know. Please contact cathy.brown@york.gov.uk to provide information about how your organisation is marking the week or to join the task group.

We will keep you up to date with progress on events, activities and the conference in the coming months.

Learning and Development

Details of all of CYSCB safeguarding training - online and face to face - can be found on the CYSCB website here:

<http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/learning-and-development.htm>

with booking available here:

<https://york.learningpool.com>

Children vulnerable to extremism/ radicalisation

If you think that a child or young person is vulnerable to extremism/ radicalisation or exhibiting behaviour or making comments that suggest he/she may be involved in activity which could be linked to terrorism, you need to follow the [safeguarding guidance](#) in regard to being concerned about a child. This means talking to your designated safeguarding lead and making an enquiry to the Children's Front Door. Children's Social Care (CSC) have updated their referral form (available here: <http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/concerned-about-a-child-or-young-person.htm>) to include a tick box asking if the concern is in relation to radicalisation.

This may result in a referral to the 'Channel process' for a multi-agency plan but your first step must be the safeguarding enquiry.

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.

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