

# Safeguarding Children



News from City of York Safeguarding Children Board | March 2017

## Welcome

I am heartened that the hard work of all the organisations and individuals that make up the Safeguarding Board have been recognised as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.



To be only the second out of 117 Safeguarding Children Boards in England to be given this grading, is recognition of the incredible achievement and effort of all the people in York who work day-to-day with children and young people to keep them safe.

I am particularly pleased that Ofsted recognises a key to the success of the Board is the explicit focus on understanding the perspectives of children and young people by asking for and listening to their views and, most importantly, acting on them.

This reflects well on the culture of partnership working in York and its outcomes which we aim to continue.

**Simon Westwood**

Chair of City of York Safeguarding Children Board

## Domestic abuse support now extends to very young children

A scheme in which the police report incidents of domestic abuse to the school of a child or young person who witnessed it the previous evening or night is being extended to include pregnant women and children aged up to five.

Called Operation Encompass, the scheme now reports domestic abuse incidents involving pregnant mothers or children aged under the age of 28 days to York Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust's Safeguarding Children Team to ensure their midwives are aware and can offer support. Notifications of incidents involving children aged from 29 days to five years go to the 0-19 Healthy Child Service.

This early years element is unique to York and North Yorkshire.

Following a successful pilot in York starting in early January 2017, North Yorkshire Police (NYP), City of York Council and the City of York Safeguarding Children Board rolled out the initiative to all schools in York from 6 March 2017.



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

# Local authorities must report modern slavery suspicions

All police and local authorities have a duty to notify the Home Office of anyone believed to be a victim of modern slavery or human trafficking. Modern slavery can take many forms including trafficking people, forced labour and servitude.

Children aged under 18 are considered victims of trafficking if they have been recruited, transported, received or harboured for the purpose of exploitation whether or not they have been coerced, deceived or paid to do so.

For more detail go to: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-duty-to-notify](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-duty-to-notify)

## Centre for expertise on child sexual abuse

A new centre funded by the Home Office and led by Barnado's has opened to improve the way abuse is responded to locally and nationally.

The significant and system-wide change it hopes to bring about involves identifying, generating and sharing high quality evidence of what works to prevent and tackle child sexual abuse - including child sexual exploitation - to inform both policy and practice.

More about the centre and research results is at: [www.csacentre.org.uk/](http://www.csacentre.org.uk/)

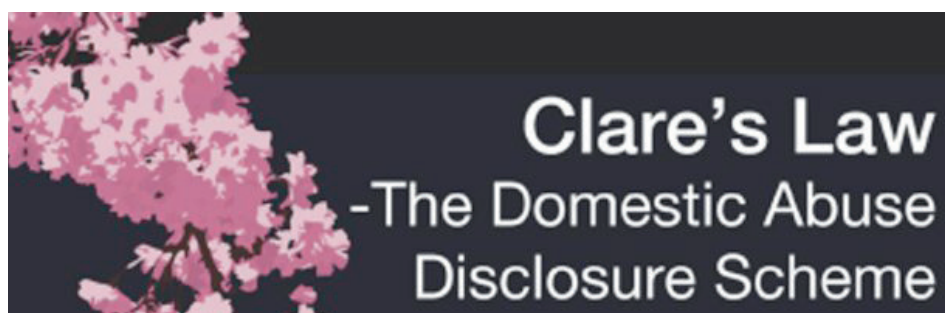


## 'Clare's Law' and the Right to Know

The board's domestic abuse sub-group is reminding practitioners and the public about the domestic violence disclosure scheme.

Known as Clare's Law, this gives people concerned that they may be at risk of harm, the 'right to ask' the police if their partner or, if a member of their family or a friend, could pose a threat.

This legislation also allows the 'right to know'. This means that the police may decide to disclose to an individual that they could be at risk of harm of domestic abuse from someone they know, and they may share that information to someone best placed to protect the potential victim.



# New guidance:

## New strategy to tackle neglect

This new strategy aims to improve the identification of neglect and achieve a multi-agency, coordinated approach to tackle it, and so build strength and resilience within the affected families.

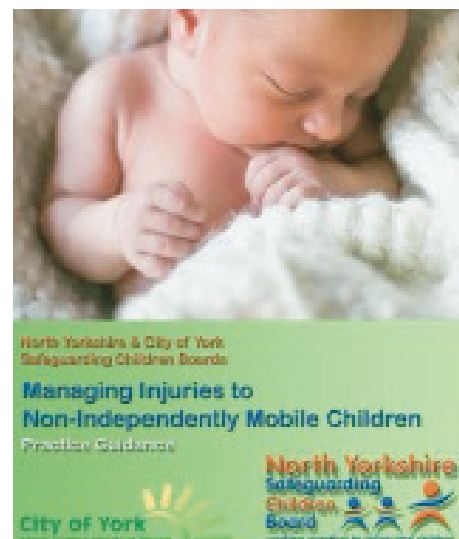
CYSCB will be shortly hosting multi-agency training workshops for all practitioners.

You can read the strategy at: [www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/news.htm](http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/news.htm).

## Joint guidance on managing injuries to non-mobile children

North Yorkshire's and City of York's Safeguarding Children Boards have produced new guidance on the assessment and management of children who are not independently mobile and who show evidence of injuries or bruising.

Alongside the guidance for professionals there is also an information guide for parents and carers and both can be found at: [www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/child-protection-procedures.htm](http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/child-protection-procedures.htm)



## New definition of child sexual exploitation

The Department for Education has revised the statutory definition of child sexual exploitation.

The new definition has been adopted by North Yorkshire Police and agreed for York by the Board's CSA&E/Missing Sub-Group which has also agreed that it should be adopted by agencies in York.

Alongside the definition, the DfE has produced a guide for practitioners available at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners)

## Consent guidance

Following a recent audit by CYSCB, practitioners are being reminded about gaining consent prior to making an enquiry or referral.

While agencies making referrals or enquiries to children's social care should obtain consent from parents or carers, in some circumstances, consent is not required when a child or another individual might be put at risk.

Generally, consent should be obtained or, at least, families should be advised of the professionals' concerns so that parents, carers or young people can make their views known.

Consent needs to be recorded as part of the audit trail.

## Local Area Teams' locations

York is delivering preventative and early help to children, young people and families from pregnancy through to adulthood through new multi-agency teams covering one of three areas of York.

The Local Area Teams – or LATs - work from bases in Tang Hall, Hob Moor and Clifton. You can find out more on the YorOK website: [www.yor-ok.org.uk/workforce2014/where-are-local-area-teams.htm](http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/workforce2014/where-are-local-area-teams.htm)



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

## 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](mailto:childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk)
- Using a referral form available here: [www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/concerned-about-a-child-or-young-person.htm](http://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.