

Safeguarding Children



News from City of York Safeguarding Children Board | March 2018

Welcome

The DfE's consultation on 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' has ended and the Government has published its response:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/working-together-to-safeguard-children-revisions-to-statutory-guidance

The CYSCB made a submission as it is important that we take the opportunity to influence national policy. It is also important that you all help to shape the local strategies that guide our work.

The Board is already developing ideas for the new local safeguarding children arrangements and we will be sharing feedback with you later this spring with the aim of final publication of the local arrangements towards the end of the year.

Simon Westwood

Independent Chair of City of York Safeguarding Children Board



NSPCC research on 'Everyone deserves to be happy and safe'

Young people aged 15-19 have told researchers how online abuse has affected them, in a new research report by the University of Birmingham and the NSPCC.

Among the experiences they reported were flashbacks, depression and low self-esteem, trouble sleeping, panic attacks and self-harm. They also identified problems at school such as difficulty keeping up with work, behavioural problems, with self blame being a particular feature.

The young people talk about what they think professionals can do to help, and professionals were asked how they perceive technology-assisted abuse and what impact they think it has on young people. More at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/2017/impact-online-offline-child-sexual-abuse/>

Conversations not thresholds

CYSCB recommends that, rather than simply adhering to 'threshold guidance', practitioners should talk to families about their concerns - unless this puts someone at risk - and seek advice from their safeguarding leads and social workers at the Children's Front Door to assess need and risk.

Individual situations can be multifaceted and cannot necessarily be addressed by a checklist approach. Communication and collaboration between practitioners at all levels, and with the child and family, are the best way to understand needs and when other intervention is needed.

Advice and contact numbers to support this approach is at: www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/concerned-about-a-child-or-young-person.htm

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

Safeguarding
Children



New mentor scheme for young people at risk of exploitation

Set up by City of York Council, the new project will recruit consistent, helpful role models for young people who will be offered weekly sessions to take part in positive activities.

To be referred for a mentor, young people need to be getting services from children's social care.

For more information or to make a referral please email mo.crossley@york.gov.uk

Voluntary sector safeguarding survey

CYSCB is carrying out a quick survey of the important voluntary sector across York and North Yorkshire, in partnership with North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board.

This opportunity for voluntary sector organisations includes the chance to do a self-check on safeguarding children policies and procedures. Funders may ask for information about these.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey before the end of April: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YNYSafeguarding-children

Participants will get a certificate to confirm their participation and also an anonymised copy of the report.

New free face-to-face training from CYSCB

Besides online training CYSCB is offering free, face-to-face training sessions in 2018/19. Dates will be given shortly for courses on:

- Safeguarding children – Working together A
- Shared responsibilities and procedures to safeguard children – Working together B
- Safeguarding disabled children
- Understanding child sexual abuse and exploitation
- Understanding domestic abuse and children
- Awareness of neglect in children and young people
- Introduction to child protection conferences and core groups.

More information is at:

www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/learning-and-development.htm

CYSCB twitter news

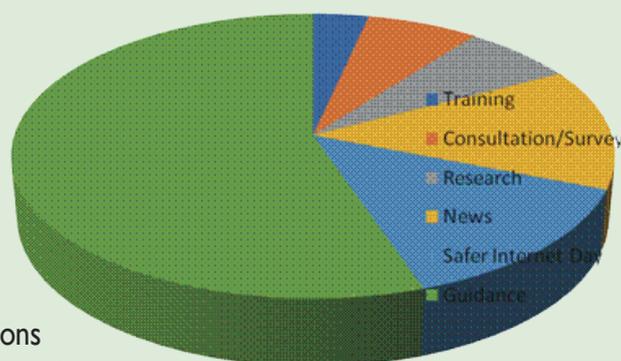
In February 2018 the CYSCB twitter feed reached almost 16,000 users with a 20% rise in people checking our account.

We gained more new followers with every tweet and most were re-tweeted at least twice.

Our most popular retweets over the last month shared information about County Lines (children being used as drug mules), safeguarding children who are home-educated; the implications to children of maternal imprisonment; and the young people's version of the CYSCB Annual Report.

To see our tweets without needing an account, please visit: www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/about-the-cyscb.htm

Retweets



Young people edit CYSCB annual report

Members of Show Me That I Matter (children in care council) and York Youth Council worked with the local area teams, the council's communications team and the CYSCB to produce a version of the report for young people.

The content was chosen and adapted by the young people themselves and was very popular on social media.

Its success means that it will become a regular feature of CYSCB's output and the Board looks forward to future editions.

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

Over 80 join in Secondary Voice event

York's first open forum for secondary school students on Wednesday 15 November welcomed young people to discuss major developments and services in the city.

Young people, staff and York Youth Council members met at this first Secondary Voice event for Years 8 and 9. Held at West Offices, co-hosted by City of York Council and Clifton Green Primary School.

Young people met senior councillors, gave their views on plans for York Central and were consulted on the Healthy Child Service and provided campaign ideas for York Youth Council.

They said they appreciated York's history and feel it's a safe place with a nice community feel, however, they wanted to see improvements to road surfaces and the safety of cyclists.



First Minding Minds award

York Youth Council has awarded Scarcroft Primary School the first Minding Minds Award in recognition of the school's commitment to improving pupils' mental health and wellbeing.

The award has been created to support and recognise schools which actively work to improve their students' mental health and wellbeing.

As part of its bronze level Minding Minds project, Scarcroft School worked with its council wellbeing worker to identify three areas for improvement and develop an action plan. The areas identified were the friendship bench; friendship skills and looking into establishing a quiet area of the playground.

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.