

Safeguarding Children



News from City of York Safeguarding Children Board | September 2016

Chair's Foreword

You will probably be familiar with the phrase: 'Safeguarding is everybody's business'.

Now I am asking all people who come into contact with children to 'think safeguarding' and for practitioners to be 'professionally curious' with other practitioners and when working with young people and their families.

No single professional can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances and, if children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

At the CYSCB meeting in August we heard how information and intelligence from a range of sources is used to inform targeted work to safeguard children.

The Board has endorsed the use of the Partnership Information Sharing Form (<http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/concerned-about-a-child-or-young-person.htm>) to enable all concerns to be passed on. Please make sure all your contacts are aware of this.

And as always: 'Say something if you see something'.

Simon Westwood

Independent Chair of CYCSB



Tackling neglect in York

Event shares ideas

Child neglect and the best ways of tackling it are being considered by CYCSB.

Around 70 practitioners from a number of agencies and organisations came to West Offices in July to



listen to ideas on addressing neglect by Professor Jan Horwath, Emeritus Professor of Child Welfare from the University of Sheffield.

Delegates heard about and discussed the challenges of assessing neglect and considered some of the ways of addressing it. They were also shown CYCSB's draft multi-agency child neglect strategy for comments and feedback.

New assessment tool

The Graded Care Profile is being introduced in York this month to identify and address neglect.

The Graded Care Profile has been extensively researched by the NSPCC and will be used by the council's Children's Social Care and 0-19 children's Public Health teams to help practitioners measure the quality of care a child gets.

New campaign on impact of domestic abuse

York's focus during National Safeguarding Week (17-21 October) will be domestic abuse. The city's Safeguarding Boards for both children and adults will work alongside IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services) to share the message that 'Domestic abuse can affect anyone'.

Stalls in West Offices' foyer will share information about this abuse and the support that's available for those affected by it in York.

York's Early Help and Local Area Teams

Agreed at the council's Executive in July, Local Area Teams (LAT) are the model through which early help will be delivered to those in greatest need and to narrow the gaps in outcomes across the city.

Multi-agency teams will operate across three geographical areas of York to prevent the escalation of needs which may require statutory, complex and costly interventions at a later point. They will bring together all partners in a local area that exist in the lives of children, young people and families to address need and build resilience.

York's Children and Young People in Care Strategy 2016-20

This strategy, published earlier this Summer, sets out a vision, ambition and aspirations for children in care to be:

- happy and healthy
- safe and protected
- supported each step of the way to adult life.

Since the publication of the last children in care strategy in 2012, York has had a significant, but safe, reduction in the overall numbers of children in care. Placements have become more stable and children and young people are doing better in school and are healthier, while excellent work has taken place with those leaving the care system.

Children in care themselves have stated that, in the majority of cases, their placements are of good quality and that they feel safe.

The strategy is at: <http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/workforce2014/looked-after-children-strategy.htm>

Children in Care Council latest action

Celebration of Aspire to More

Board members have been invited to attend the first event held by York's Children in Care Council which showcases its recent work to raise the aspirations of young people in care.

On 13 September at West Offices from 4-7pm there will be film screenings and a presentation on the Aspire to More project which is at:

<https://aspiretomore.wordpress.com>.

Please email showmethatimatter@york.gov.uk if you would like to attend.



Speak Up and Hear My Voice

Young people in care have trained a number of decision-makers to listen to what young people have to say.

The 'Speak Up and Hear My Voice' training was designed to encourage practitioners to listen to children and young people while drafting their individual care plans. Members of CYSCB, the YorOk Board and councillors have been attending this during July.

Another of these training sessions is planned for September. To attend, please email: michelle.howlett@york.gov.uk.

Refugees arrive in York

The council and local partners have confirmed that the first two groups of refugees have arrived and are settling in to life in York. The families have been welcomed into private accommodation and into their local communities and are beginning their recovery from their harrowing experiences.

The council is working with partners including Migration Yorkshire the local community, faith, academic and voluntary groups to co-ordinate provision.

Keeping children safe in the summer holidays

Organisations in York have worked together again this summer to help children and young people enjoy their holiday safely right from the start.

North Yorkshire Police and City of York Council are leading Operation Liberate, an initiative that identifies young people in potentially vulnerable situations. They are then taken to a designated 'place of safety' where they are spoken to and advised by police and volunteers, and referred on to other sources of support, if necessary.

New phone number for the Emergency Duty Team

The Emergency Duty Team, which covers out of hours concerns about children and adults for York and North Yorkshire, has changed its phone number.

The number is now 01609 780780.

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.

It's not OK round-up

Closing event...

Over 50 professionals and volunteers attended the It's not OK closing event in July to review the impact of the campaign and discuss how partners could continue to work together to combat child sexual abuse and exploitation.

The event, opened by the NSPCC's Chief Executive Peter Wanless, included presentations from volunteers and teachers about the campaign.

...and training for drivers

This month, City of York Council's Licensing officers, North Yorkshire Police and The Railway Children charity, will train York bus and taxi drivers to spot and report signs of child sexual exploitation or vulnerability as they transport people around the region.

For more information about the It's not OK Campaign visit www.itsnotokay-york.org.uk or www.northyorkshire.police.uk/CSE



NSPCC tools and resources for practitioners

A range of information and resources are available to practitioners in the NSPCC's Impact and Evidence Hub website.

The Hub presents a series of reports with the findings of evaluations and other research. It also provides evaluation models and tools for measuring outcomes, plus a space where researchers and others can share experience and mutual support.

The Hub is at: www.nspcc.org.uk/evidencehub and is linked to www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/about-the-cyscb.htm.

Pantosaurus to help parents keep children safe from abuse

A cartoon dinosaur is helping parents keep their children safe at York cinemas.

Commissioned by the NSPCC from the creators of Wallace and Gromit, 'Pantosaurus' appears ahead of main features at Reel and Vue cinemas to share the 'Pants' rule (<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>).

York was the first local authority in the UK to run a 'Pants' campaign in 2014 which helped parents across the city talk about sexual abuse in a child-friendly way.



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.saferchildreneyork.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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