

Safeguarding Children



News from City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership | April 2019

Welcome

WELCOME to the first bulletin from the new City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership.

In response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017, and the new Working Together Guidance 2018, we are now formally a 'Partnership' rather than a 'Board'.



Details about the new arrangements are online and have been officially endorsed by the Department for Education.

Our role remains essentially the same: to scrutinise, support and challenge safeguarding practice across the city and to be assured that children and young people are protected and safeguarded.

Thank you to everyone who has helped during this transitional phase. I look forward to working with partners across the city in the new phase of our work.

Simon Westwood

Independent Chair of City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership

Keep up to date with our work at www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/

and via twitter on



Early Adopters' project and Safeguarding Conference for Schools

York Safeguarding Conference for Schools was held earlier this month to help further strengthen the Partnership's relationship with children, young people and schools. This is key theme for the CYSCP, as an 'early adopter' of the new national safeguarding arrangements.

The conference focused on Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Criminal Exploitation. 120 delegates took part and we hope to continue the positive legacy of the conference as we work with schools over the next few months.



New Twitter name – YorkSCP

Look out for the new Partnership Twitter handle: [@YorkSCP](https://twitter.com/YorkSCP).

We've now got more than 720 followers who are engaging regularly with CYSCP updates, news and guidance.

Our recent 'top tweets' have included promoting the science behind the NSPCC 'Look, Say, Sing, Play' campaign and raising public awareness of the national Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

Our 'top mention' lately was when York St John University acknowledged the launch of the free 'It's Not OK' resources.

Be my valentine postcards

North Yorkshire Police created a series of Valentine's Day inspired postcards to warn young people across the county about the risks of posting nude images on Snapchat. The postcards, which were created in partnership with young people, were distributed to schools in North Yorkshire and York as part of the force's work to protect young people from online child sexual exploitation and child sex offences.

New dates for safeguarding training

You can now book CYSCP's multi-agency training courses for 2019/20. Further details can be found on the CYSCP website.

Courses include:

- Safeguarding Children – Working Together A
- Shared Responsibilities and Procedures to Safeguard Children - Working Together B
- Awareness of Neglect of Children and Young People
- Understanding Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
- Understanding Domestic Abuse and Children
- Safeguarding Disabled Children
- Introduction to Child Protection Conferences and Core Groups

Multi-agency training allows staff from different organisations to learn together and strengthens understanding amongst partners. If you have a number of staff wanting to attend a course it would be beneficial if they could attend different sessions so we can maintain a good multi-agency spread at each event.

Bookings can be made via the MyLO system at Workforce Development Unit (WDU) City of York Council at <https://york.learningpool.com/>

If you do not already have a MyLO login please follow the instructions on the login page.

ACEs – Adverse Childhood Experiences

On the [CYSCP Neglect webpage](#) you can see an animation about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) which was produced for Public Health Wales and Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority. ACEs are traumatic events that affect children while they are growing up, such as suffering child abuse or living in a household where there is domestic abuse, substance misuse or mental illness.

This is a powerful short animated film showing how ACEs can impact on children for the rest of their lives and change everything about their outcomes, their relationships and their health. It shows what can be done to prevent and change this and what the outcomes might be if help is provided.



What makes a good referral?

If you have a concern about a child or young person, or you want some advice on an Early Help Assessment, you can make an enquiry to the Children's Front Door and choose the option you need.

It is particularly helpful to the duty staff, if you provide evidence of your concern and plenty of information, as well as having spoken to your safeguarding lead and/or line manager about your concern. The best way to address a concern is through conversations with the family (as long as this does not increase the risk for the child or anyone else) and with the other practitioners involved.

Screening tools and the new Threshold Document are available [online](#).

The Threshold Document will take you through a number of possible processes and services (not just Children's Social Care) and link you to a wealth of local and national information, which will help you when considering your concern and the most appropriate level of intervention.



York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Conference

A total of 180 people attended the Domestic Abuse Practitioners' Conference last month in Harrogate

Speakers gave input on:

- Stalking and harassment
- A survivor's experience
- The new York & North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan
- An overview of newly commissioned domestic abuse services
- A project using the arts as empowerment delivered in the York Refuge
- Research commissioned by the National Rural Crime Network on Domestic Abuse and the Family Courts

Workshops were held to contribute to the cross-county Domestic Abuse Action Plan. Feedback from the event was extremely positive.

Refreshed CYSCP e-learning course coming soon

The Safeguarding Basic Awareness e-learning course will shortly be replaced with an updated version accessible through the MyLO system. Learners who have previously undertaken this course have until the end of May to log into the current system to access their certificate which can be saved or printed out.

You don't need to complete the new course any earlier than you would normally do so, but you may wish to refresh your knowledge. Keep an eye on CYSCP website in the next few weeks for the new course.

Was Not Brought' instead of 'Did Not Attend' - Children do not bring themselves to appointments

Check out the CYSCP [Neglect webpage](#) for an animated video which explains why York health colleagues are adopting a 'Was Not Brought' policy – rather than 'Did Not Attend' - for children and young people who are not brought to hospital or doctor's appointments.



The 'Was Not Brought' animation was produced for the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board and explains medical neglect. This involves carers minimising or ignoring children's illness or health needs (including oral health), and failing to seek medical attention or administering medication and treatments. The message is simple: children cannot bring themselves to medical appointments.

Safeguarding Week 24-28 June

Safeguarding Week 2019 will be held across York and North Yorkshire from 24-28 June, with the theme 'Safeguarding is Everybody's Business'.

A joint Safeguarding Conference supported by Children and Adults Boards/Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships and North Yorkshire Police is taking place on Tuesday 25 June at Harrogate Pavilions. Content will include a Modern Day Slavery key note speech and a variety of workshops including criminal exploitation and county lines; suicide prevention and self-harm pathway; and harmful sexual behaviour. The conference is fully booked at present, but more tickets *may* become available later.

We're hoping to make videos of some of the workshops available online so even those who are unable to attend will have the opportunity to access the content from the event.

2019 North Yorkshire and York
Safeguarding week
24-28 June

New digital resources from It's Not Ok campaign

Following on from the success of the city's It's Not Ok campaign in 2015/16, the NSPCC commissioned York St John University to develop online resources for use in schools and practitioners nationally to help young people aged 11 to 25 explore topics such as emotions, relationships and identity.

These national digital resources were launched by CYSCB, the NSPCC and York St John's University at an event in January attended by practitioners and stakeholders in child safeguarding. There were question and answer sessions with those who produced the resources including the actors from the original live plays and films.

The free resources are available on the [NSPCC's website](http://www.nspcc.org.uk), together with specific information to support [children and young people with learning difficulties](#).

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



It's not OK

York & North Yorkshire County Lines Practice Guidance – newly published

The new York & North Yorkshire Criminal Exploitation & County Lines Practice Guidance is [now available](#). County lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas, market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or 'deal lines'. Among young people it is known as 'going country'.

Gangs often use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money, which is child criminal exploitation.

County lines activity - and the associated drugs, violence, gangs, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons - has a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities. There are links to more information about County Lines and criminal exploitation in the [CYSCP Bitesize Guides](#).

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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