

Safeguarding Annual Report 2016/17



**Young People's
Edition**

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What is safeguarding?

“Safeguarding means:

- protecting children and young people from harm and abuse and
- ensuring children and young people are safe, happy and healthy”.

“The role of the City of York Safeguarding Children’s Board (CYSCB) is to:

- make sure that children and young people are safeguarded when needed **and**
- encourages people to understand and to make sure that they safeguard children and young people.”

The CYSCB wants to make sure that children and young people are protected from abuse and neglect by making sure that everyone who works with children and/or their families works well together.

The aim of the Children’s Safeguarding Annual Report is to look at how well the City of York Safeguarding Children Board, and the people it works with, did in improving safeguarding outcomes for children and young people in York in 2016/17. The work that the board does aims to make sure that:

“All the children of York to grow up in safety and to always feel safe.”

In 2016 CYSCB set up the Inter-Board Protocol.

The Inter-Board Protocol makes sure that strategic boards work together to get the best results for everyone in York.



What you told us!

The safeguarding board believes that you should have your voice heard. Your wishes and feelings can and should change the way that services are run.

A large number (65%) of young people stated that their experience of care was quite good or very good.

Aspire to More (a creative project in the form of a website) was created. Its aim is to raise aspirations among children and young people in care through stories shared by successful care leavers and other creative activities such as poetry writing.

<https://aspiretomore.wordpress.com>

York Youth Council successfully piloted a bike library at the Vale of York Secondary School. They are now working with Welcome to Yorkshire, Yorkshire Bank and a local cycling group to develop a wider community bike library.

44% of the young people felt their experience of being on a child protection plan was either good or very good.



York Youth Council worked with schools across York to support the Make Your Mark campaign which gives young people the chance to vote on which issues are important to them. There was a record turnout of 5570 votes in York. Curriculum for Life was voted as top issue for young people nationally, and locally transport was voted as the top issue.

The Children's Rights and Advocacy Service received 66 referrals for advocacy. Advocacy is supporting young people to have their voice heard about decisions that affect their life. Of the 66 referrals, there were:

- 47 for children and young people in care.
- 16 for children and young people with a Child Protection Plan.
- 3 to support a young person to make a complaint.

The "Minding Minds Award" campaign is now used by schools to support their students to better deal with stress, balance academic study with wellbeing and improve overall mental health.

What now?

There is still more work to be done to make sure that children and young people have the chance to be heard and in 2017/18:

A new Voice and Involvement Strategy will be drafted, and young people are helping to create a young person's version of this strategy.



The terms of reference of the safeguarding board Voice and Involvement Group will be reviewed.

A "Review of Voice", with a focus on workforce development and 'voice' of disabled children will take place.

Work will take place to improve the voice of children and young people who need early help support.



Sub-group Priorities

The safeguarding board set 5 priorities last year for the sub-groups to work on. They were:

1

Early help - There are 3 teams within York that help and support families. They aim to give children and young people the chance to have their voices heard.

2

Neglect - The neglect sub group organised an event which was for all the people who work in children and young people's services. Social workers and other professionals were also given more training on recognising signs of neglect.

3

Child sexual abuse and exploitation - In 2016 the 'It's Not Ok' campaign - aimed to raise awareness in York and other areas about Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. The campaign was successful and young people's voices were heard.

4

Children Missing from Education - If a child or young person is missing from school, the school has to contact the council to let them know. Sometimes we may not know if the children have found a new school, and this means that the children are 'missing from education'. In 2016/17, all children who were reported missing from education were found.

5

Children affected by domestic abuse - North Yorkshire Police said that more children and young people are reported as being there when domestic abuse happens, but this may be because police officers are now better trained to be aware of the effect of domestic abuse on children. There was also a focus on domestic abuse during Safeguarding Week and before the event there were posters and social media campaigns about the event. Feedback was positive!

What the safeguarding board found in 2016/17

The number of re-referrals within a 12 month period to Children's Social Care has more than halved since the beginning of the year and is below national averages.

There were a lot less young people going to prison in 2016-2017.

At the end of March 2017, there were 171 children subject to a Child Protection Plan. Most were listed under the category of neglect.

The Children's Referral and Assessment Team have recorded 4,446 enquiries to Children's Social Care in 2015-16.

The number of children in the care of the local authority in 2016/17 has remained consistent with last year at 204 at year end which is lower than the rate for the region and nationally.

By the end of March 2017, 97.5% of year 12/13 children (aged 16 and 17) who had special needs were in employment, education or training which compares favourably with regional and national percentages.



Social Media and Technology

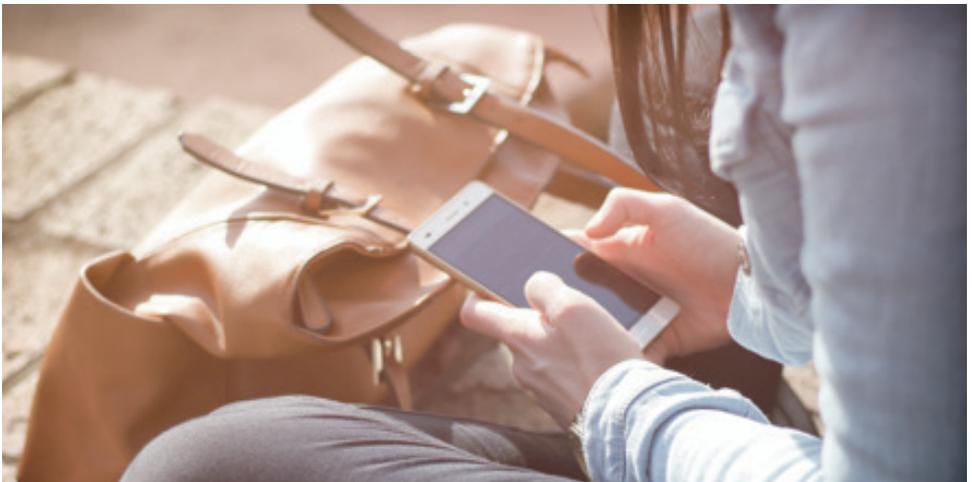
In 2016/17 the safeguarding board became more aware of social media and the way that it is both used and misused.



Because of social media and technology young people's lives are now affected. This is because social media and technology create more chances for people to start online grooming as well as making it easier for bullying to happen.



It also means that young people's lives are shown for people to judge and comment on which can cause them to feel pressure from others to act or present themselves in a certain way.



Key Message for People and Young People!

Your 'voice' – your wishes and feelings – are important to us. We are encouraging our partners to find new ways of listening to you.

We ask our partners not just to listen to you but to include your 'voice' in developing and improving their services.

We want York to be a safe and happy place for you to grow up in.



For everyone

Remember that:

**“Safeguarding
is everybody’s
business”**



CYSCB, City of York Council,
West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA

www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/contact-us.htm

How to report concerns about a child or young person

If you have a concern that a child is vulnerable or at risk of significant harm
please contact the Children's Front Door:

Phone for advice: 01904 551900

or, using a referral form:

Email: childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk

This young people's safeguarding report was made in conjunction with:

