

# Safeguarding Children



News from City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership | June 2020

## Welcome

Children's and community services have continued to work with partners to support vulnerable people across the city to ensure safety and wellbeing during the pandemic, and to continue to support education provision.

Partnerships have strengthened during this period and this provides a very positive basis for recovery. My thanks go to all staff working in this area.

### **Amanda Hatton, City of York Council**

North Yorkshire Police has prioritised protecting the vulnerable throughout the Covid19 pandemic and we have focused on ensuring that we continue to safeguard children and families with our partners.

It has been very reassuring to see that we have all stepped up to the challenges and adapted and used innovative ways to continue to deliver our services together and is testament to the dedication and commitment to protecting children. We are now planning for the recovery phase and have in place arrangements to ensure that children and families are supported as we move to the 'new normality'.

### **Annette Anderson, North Yorkshire Police**

The focus of health commissioners and providers over the last few months has clearly been on responding to those people directly affected by Covid19. This has been a massive challenge but hospitals, community services and primary care have risen magnificently to the challenge of adapting services rapidly and in line with emerging government guidance, whilst still delivering core health services to our population.

Throughout this time, there has been sustained multi-agency effort to support children and families, particularly those who are struggling with the impact of lockdown and to ensure that those in need of services are able to access them.

We will continue to work closely with our partners across the safeguarding community in the City of York to keep children and families at the centre of practice throughout the pandemic and as we move towards restoring services as 'normal.'

### **Michelle Carrington, Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group**

## CYSCP Coronavirus Webpage

The CYSCP has created a dedicated [Coronavirus page](#) on our website, to provide a single point of access for anybody needing information and resources in relation to safeguarding children and young people whilst the outbreak is ongoing.

The page includes guidance, information and advice for professionals, parents and carers and children and young people, as well as links to information from the government and local authority.

The information detailed on this webpage is subject to constant review and change. If you would like to share any further resources or information please email [CYSCP@york.gov.uk](mailto:CYSCP@york.gov.uk)



[Click here to view the CYSCP Coronavirus Page](#)

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



## Coronavirus response

Throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, our partners have successfully adapted their ways of working and continued to support vulnerable children and young people in York.

Most agencies RAG-rated cases, with only Red cases justifying face to face (but socially distanced) meetings or visits.

The remaining interactions were carried out via social media or using zoom, which proved to be the most popular platform with children and young people.

Feedback suggests that many children and young people prefer not to be pro-actively contacted, but are happy just to know that support is available to them if they need it, and how to find it.

## Accessing Training

In light of the coronavirus pandemic, all CYSCP's face to face training has had to be cancelled. With social distancing measures still in place, we are working hard to develop multi-agency training that will be delivered virtually instead. Further details on courses and dates will be provided as soon as available.

Practitioners can still access the [City of York Safeguarding Children Awareness e-learning course](#). The CYSCP website has been updated with links to a wide range of [free e-learning courses](#) from other providers.

## Criminal Exploitation and County Lines training

Would you like to develop your understanding about how children are criminally exploited in County Lines? Child Exploitation charity, Pace, has launched a new interactive E-learning Course, to allow practitioners to develop their understanding of [how children are criminally exploited through County Lines](#). The course includes a film of a parent talking about their lived experience and the impact the exploitation had on her and her family's life.

A [webinar series](#) is also available. The series includes filmed presentations covering all aspects of Child Exploitation, including the importance of trauma-informed support; how to disrupt offenders; how to holistically support affected parents and how to respond to Online Child Abuse.



## Welcome to Sophia!

CYSCP welcomed Sophia Lenton-Brook, the new CYSCP Business and Performance Manager, in March. Despite joining in difficult circumstances (the week of lockdown!) she has already made a positive difference to the partnership unit.

Sophia brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from previous roles at North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children's Board and the Police and Crime Commissioners Office.

# The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Awareness Week

This month saw the virtual, online launch of York's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The MASH replaced York's Children's Front Door Service last summer, with the new-look team including representatives from a range of services, including Social Care, Early Help, Police and local Health Professionals. It provides a single point of contact for all concerns about children. The new partnership approach will make it easier to support children, young people and their families, and ensure they get the right level of support as quickly as possible.

The online launch and awareness campaign this month highlighted the work of the [MASH in York](#), the new multi-agency level of needs document (threshold document), the multi-agency referral form and the multi-agency response form.

Over the course of the week, the MASH Awareness tweets were seen on the CYSCP Twitter account by over 74,000 users, there were over 2000 hits to the CYSCP Landing Page and 1400 hits to the 'Concerned about a Child' page. The new MASH Threshold document was downloaded 419 times, the MASH Referral Form 274 times, and the MASH Referral Response Form 101 times.

## New Missing and Exploitation Team

Significant work has been done over the past year to improve the partnership's response to missing children and those vulnerable to exploitation.

A new specialist Missing and Exploitation Team has been created in City of York Council to work alongside police, health and education colleagues, as well as the Youth Justice Service. Its remit is to identify children most at risk of exploitation in the city, co-ordinate mapping activity, share and collate intelligence and develop approaches to the investigation of exploitation and vulnerability. The aim is identify offenders and help the young people. Focus is on direct work and engagement with young people and their families.

If you require any further information please contact

Sara Sherwood Service manager - CSA/Exploitation & Missing [sara.sherwood@york.gov.uk](mailto:sara.sherwood@york.gov.uk)

## Closure of the CSAAC at York Hospital

The Child Sexual Assault Assessment Centre is no longer operating from the Acorn Unit at York Hospital.

All of City of York and North Yorkshire cases can be seen by the Mountain Healthcare Team. This includes both acute and non-recent cases.

The Mountain Healthcare Team hold a weekly clinic every Friday at Bridge House in York for children aged 12 years and under. Any acute cases which need to be examined before the next Friday clinic can be seen at the West Yorkshire CSAAS (0330 223 3617), including on weekends and bank holidays.

Young people aged 13 years and upwards can be seen by the Mountain Healthcare Team seven days a week at Bridge House in York.

Referrals can only be taken from the police or children's social care.

Please contact Mountain Healthcare to make a referral on **0330 223 0099**

Further information can be found at: [mountainhealthcare.co.uk](http://mountainhealthcare.co.uk)

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

## Child Death Overview Panel

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a multi-agency statutory requirement of local partners who review all deaths in children and young people. City of York and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnerships work together to co-ordinate the review of child deaths and share learning to help safeguard children.

Professionals who become aware of a child death must notify the Child Death Review Officer within 48 hours:

**Ali Firby**

**T:** 01609 797167    **M:** 07967 469790

[cdop@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:cdop@northyorks.gov.uk)

Notification of the death should be made using the [Notification of Child Death Form](#) or the [Child Death Online Notification Form](#) including as much information as possible. The form should be returned to [cdop@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:cdop@northyorks.gov.uk)

The forms have been updated due to the outbreak of coronavirus. Further details can be found on the [CYSCP Child Deaths webpage](#).

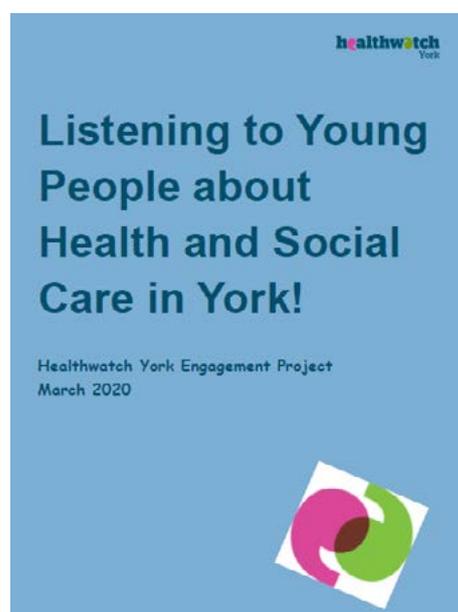
Keep up to date with our work at [www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk](http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk) and via twitter on [@YorkSCP](https://twitter.com/YorkSCP)



## Healthwatch

Healthwatch York has been working with children and young people to learn more about their views and experiences of local health and social care services through the 'Listening Board' project.

[The associated report](#) features over 300 responses from the young people. Their feedback will be considered as part of the development of the city's new Children and Young People's Plan.



## If you are concerned about a child or young person

You must contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) or the Police.

You can report concerns to the MASH:

- By phone – 01904 551900
- By email – [MASH@york.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@york.gov.uk)
- Using a [MASH Referral Form](#)
- By letter – The MASH Team, 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.

To make an Early Help referral or access advice from the MASH Early Help Team call 01904 551900 or email [earlyhelp@york.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@york.gov.uk)

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