

# Safeguarding Children



News from City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership | September 2019

## Welcome

As Autumn draws in, it feels like a good time to look back on our achievements over the past year. The final Annual Report of the Safeguarding Board (2018/19)



will be published in the next few weeks and takes a look at the wide range of activities the former Board (now Partnership) has undertaken. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the Board's work over the past few years, helping us to build such a strong base from which we can continue our work to keep children in York safe.

I'm particularly pleased that this year's Safeguarding Conference, in June, was such a success, and so well received by those of you who took part. It's a great opportunity to share best practice across the region.

Looking forward, I'm pleased that new multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) arrangements will be introduced over the coming months. I hope the new structure will encourage more information sharing and help to ensure that children and families in York receive the best possible support.

### Simon Westwood

Independent Chair of City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership

## Perinatal Mental Health Service

The TEWV perinatal community mental health team provides a community service to support women who are experiencing mental health difficulties during pregnancy or in the first year after they have had their baby. More than one in ten mothers can be affected by a range of mental health problems including anxiety disorders, depression and postnatal psychotic disorders.

The team is made up of specialist community psychiatric nurses, a consultant psychiatrist, a psychologist, an occupational therapist and a specialist nursery nurse as well as a medical secretary. They support women living in North Yorkshire and York who have been suffering with significant mental health difficulties that require specialist support from mental health services.

Women can be referred by their GP, health visitor, midwife or another professional working with them.

More information and contact details for the team are available [here](#).

## Taking baby steps

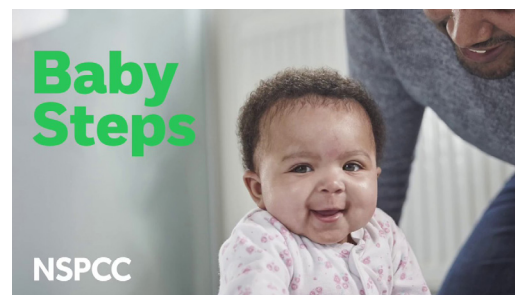
Baby Steps is a new antenatal programme for mums-to-be and their partners to help prepare them for parenthood.

Run by York NSPCC Service Centre the Baby Steps programme covers a wide range of topics, including babies' development, giving birth and caring for babies.

Baby Steps takes place weekly for two hours over a six-week period. There is a break after week six until all the babies have been born. Practitioners keep in touch with participants during this time. The group reconvenes post-natally for three further sessions with the parents and babies.

The service is aimed for mums in the 26th to 30th week of pregnancy.

**Please contact:**  
York NSPCC  
01904 232800 for  
further information.



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)

## Trusted Relationships

The [York North Yorkshire and Trusted Relationships](#) project is one of only 11 initiatives across the country to have been funded by the Home Office to improve support to young people at risk of exploitation and abuse.

The project aims to identify and support children and young people who are at risk of or subject to Child Criminal Exploitation (including County Lines, Child Sexual Exploitation and Modern Slavery). 'Trusted Relationship' trained mentors foster positive long-term relationships and build resilience with individuals.

Requests for support from the Trusted Relationships initiative must be made initially via a referral form to the Children's Front Door/MASH. A final decision is then made by the Multi Agency Child Exploitation and Missing Meeting (MACEM).

## Young thoughts

CYSCP asked young people across the city what made them feel safe over the past year and what was important to help them feel safe in the future.

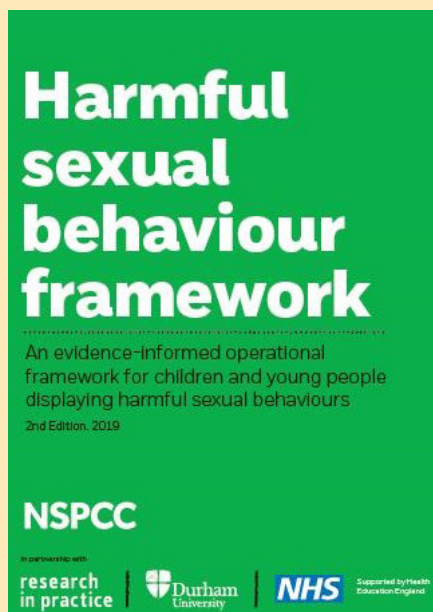
Their feedback focused on the importance of knowing that there is someone to talk to who won't judge them if they have a problem. A good support network is important, as is having people around. Young people also stressed the importance of knowing how to stay safe whilst being supported to be independent. And there is a clear message about the significance of technology for young people, knowing safe ways to use it rather than avoiding it altogether.

## CYSCP teams up with NSPCC to tackle Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) will be a priority for the CYSCP over the next year. A strategic task and finish group has been set up to look at:

- Creating and driving forward a new multi-agency HSB Strategy for York and guidance for practitioners
- Providing HSB training, workshops and seminars for practitioners.
- Working with partners to ascertain how practitioners trained to assess and work with children and young people who are victims/perpetrators of HSB can be expanded to include specific assessments for children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- Making a direct link to the recommendations from the Learning Lessons Review.

The NSPCC has been commissioned to support York with a scoping exercise and using the HSB Framework in the city. The project will be launched later in the year, but some information is already available on the [CYSCP website](#).



## Child Criminal Exploitation Screening Tool

The Child Sexual Exploitation Screening Tool has been replaced with a new tool which covers all aspects of Child Criminal Exploitation. The new screening tool has been put together by the multi-agency members of the CYSCP Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Sub-group, and enables practitioners to consider their concerns before making a decision about the next steps.

The screening tool offers examples of behaviours at three levels: emerging concerns; escalating concerns/harm; and significant concerns/harm. Designed to inform the Exploitation Assessment Tool, it can be used to support a contact with, or referral to, the Children's Front Door/MASH.

## North and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Conference

Over 360 people attended the county's safeguarding conference in Harrogate in June. Delegates heard two informative key note speeches, notably from Sir Clive Ruggles, who spoke very movingly about his daughter, Alice, who was murdered by an ex-boyfriend following a relentless campaign of stalking.

Workshops covered a wide range of topics, including modern slavery, harmful sexual behaviour, adult self-neglect, county lines, suicide prevention and domestic homicide. Market Stalls offered advice and information from 25 different agencies.



## York Youth Justice Service launches

York Youth Offending Team has changed its name to York Youth Justice Service. The new name better reflects the service's work to prevent young people from offending; safeguard the welfare of young people; and protect the public. The [contact details](#) for the service remain the same.

## Hand in Hand

A new service delivered by the Children's Society, Hand in Hand, will support children and young people across York and North Yorkshire who are affected by child sexual and criminal exploitation, or who are vulnerable to grooming. Its aim is to reduce the harm and incidence of child sexual and criminal exploitation and provide support and safety for those affected by it.

The service will:

- Raise awareness, develop and implement preventative strategies
- Provide intensive individual support
- Provide localised expertise through training and information events
- Contribute to multi-agency district-wide work (e.g. the Multi-agency Child Exploitation Meetings (MACEM) and the Trusted Relationships Project) to identify and support victims and disrupt the organisation and facilitation of child sexual and criminal exploitation

For more information call 01133 876410 or email [handinhand@childrenssociety.org](mailto:handinhand@childrenssociety.org)




## Relaunch of County Lines

The Home Office has relaunched its County Lines campaign to raise awareness of the issue with frontline staff. [Guidance](#) is intended to explain the nature of county lines to enable practitioners to recognise the signs and respond appropriately so that potential victims get the support and help they need.

Further promotional material aimed specifically at social housing, bus and coach companies, taxi and private hire organisations, train and rail operator staff, letting-agents and landlords and those working in the private security industry, is also available [here](#).



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)

## Changes to the Children's Front Door

York's Children's Front Door will become a new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) this autumn. The MASH will continue to provide a single point of access for all concerns about children, with a multi-agency team providing advice, support and protection.

If you are [concerned about a child](#), and their needs are not being met by services currently involved with the family, you should identify them to the MASH using a referral form, and a Family Early Help Assessment (FEHA) if there is one.

The MASH will consider the information you provide to identify the most appropriate response and will also ensure an immediate response to concerns for children deemed at risk of significant harm. Advice to professionals who are concerned about children will also be available.

The MASH will deal with referrals in a timely manner, so there is no delay for children, and information will be shared lawfully between agencies within a secure environment. This will ensure that the family receives the right kind of intervention, help or support at the right time.

The contact details for the Children's Front Door/MASH remain the same:

☎ 01904 551900

Keep up to date with our work at

[www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/](http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/)

and via twitter on

 @YorkSCP

## New 'Levels of Need' document and Referral Form

Workshops to introduce and consult on a new 'Levels of Need' tool will be held over the next few months. Dates and locations will be available shortly so keep an eye on the ['Concerned About a Child Webpage'](#) and the [Learning & Development webpage](#) for information on the new documents and the workshops and follow CYSCP on twitter [@YorkSCP](#).

## If you are concerned about a child:

If you think that a child or young person is being abused or neglected you can report your concerns:

- By phone – one phone number for all concerns and enquiries: 01904 551900
- By email – one email address: [childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk)
- Using a referral form available [here](#)
- By letter – Children's Front Door, 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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