

1. The Partnership

- 1.1 This protocol sets out the relationship and describes the working arrangements that exist between the North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board (NYHWB) and the Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards operating across North Yorkshire.
- 1.2 The role of the Safeguarding Children Board (NYSCB) and the Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB) in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Board is one of equal partners underpinned by this protocol. The protocol sets out the distinct roles and responsibilities of the Boards, the inter-relationships between them in terms of safeguarding and well-being and the means by which we secure effective co-ordination and coherence between the Boards.
- 1.3 The role of North Yorkshire County Council Scrutiny Committees, to scrutinise performance of safeguarding boards and to be consulted on for policy changes and related service design and commissioning intentions, remains unchanged, as does the governance of partner agencies to oversee and monitor respective agency contribution and performance to prevent and protect.

2. North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board

- 2.1 The North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board (NYHWB) was established consequent to the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The Board provides a forum where leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce variations in outcomes through a shared understanding of local need, agreed priorities and a collaborative approach to ensure services are commissioned and delivered in an integrated way.
- 2.2 The North Yorkshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) informs and supports the development of a Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy (JHWS) which provides the Board with a framework of strategic influence regarding commissioning decisions across health, public health and social care. This enables a more effective and responsive local health and care system which connects to other key policy and decision making areas that impact on health and wellbeing such as housing, transport and education.
- 2.3 The NYHWB undertook a governance review in 2014. The review identified a number of actions, including the need to update the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). The governance review identified that close links with both Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Boards is essential to ensure that commissioning plans and service delivery incorporate key findings

from the Boards. The JHWS builds on this review and sets out that treating people with dignity and respect and keeping them safe and free from abuse is a core principle adopted by all HWB member organisations.

3. North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board (NYSCB)

- 3.1 Section 13 of the Children Act 2004 requires each Local Authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for their area. It specifies the organisations and individuals (other than the Local Authority) that should be represented on LSCBs.
- 3.2 Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013) provides guidance as to the role and responsibilities of LSCBs and the functions they undertake:
- a) To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
 - b) To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.
- 3.3 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:
- Protecting children from maltreatment
 - Preventing impairment of children's health or development
 - Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- 3.4 A key objective in undertaking these roles is to enable children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.
- 3.5 The role of an LSCB is to scrutinise and challenge the work of agencies both individually and collectively. The LSCB is not operationally responsible for managers and staff in constituent agencies.

4. North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB)

- 4.1 The Care Act (2014) requires each Local Authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board for their area. Chapter 14 of the Care Act Statutory guidance (2014) provides guidance as to the role and responsibilities of Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) and the functions they undertake.

- 4.2 The main objective of a SAB is to assure itself those local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area where they meet the criteria below.
- they have needs for care and support and
 - they are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse and neglect; and
 - as a result of those care and support needs they are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of or the experience of abuse or neglect.
- 4.3 The forms of abuse which the Board aims to prevent and address are: physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, financial or material abuse, neglect or acts of omission, discriminatory abuse, organisational abuse, domestic violence, modern slavery and self-neglect.
- 4.4 The NYSAB has identified agreed objectives and priorities for its work which include clear policy, procedural and practice arrangements, mechanisms to secure co-ordination of activities between agencies, the provision of training and workforce development in support of safeguarding and quality assurance and performance management arrangements to test the effectiveness of safeguarding and the impact of the Board.
- 4.5 The role of a SAB is to scrutinise and challenge the work of agencies both individually and collectively. The SAB is not operationally responsible for managers and staff in constituent agencies.

5. Effective communication and engagement between the Boards

- 5.1 Safeguarding is everyone's business. As such, all key strategic plans whether they be formulated by individual agencies or by partnership forums should include safeguarding as a cross-cutting theme, to ensure that existing strategies and service delivery as well as emerging plans for change and improvement include effective safeguarding arrangements that ensure that all people of North Yorkshire are safe and their wellbeing is protected.
- 5.2 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is a key commissioning strategy for the delivery of services to children and adults across North Yorkshire and so it is critical that in developing, delivering and evaluating the strategy there is effective interchange between the North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board and the two safeguarding boards.
- 5.3 'Working Together' 2013 outlines a number of statements intended to formalise the relationship between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the

local Safeguarding Boards, particularly in relation to the JSNA and the presentation of the Safeguarding Board Annual Reports.

5.4 The opportunities presented by a formal working relationship between the NYHWB and NYSCB/NYSAB can be summarised as follows:

- Sharing of strategic intelligence to inform commissioning decisions and/or provide assurance on significant issues
- Ensuring safeguarding is 'everyone's business', reflected in the public health agenda and related health strategies
- Consideration of the impact of the JHWB Strategy on safeguarding outcomes, and of safeguarding on wider determinants of health
- Providing a formal mechanism for mutual Board support and assurance of the health and social care system

6. Co-ordination between the Boards

6.1 In order to secure the opportunities identified above the following arrangements will operate to ensure effective co-ordination and coherence in the work of the three Boards:

- The two Safeguarding Boards' Annual Reports will be received by the NYHWB for:
 - i. consideration in setting strategic commissioning plans
 - ii. assurance of the system in relation to NYHWB partners' safeguarding arrangements
 - iii. Updating NYHWB on performance against Business Plan objectives in the previous financial year.
- The JHWB Strategy will be received by NYSAB and NYSCB for:
 - i. Consideration of any key safeguarding policies, emerging themes and implementation of best practice wherever possible
 - ii. Consideration of the proposed priorities and objectives for the refreshed JHWB Strategy to ensure alignment to the Business Plans
- The NYCC Executive Officers in consultation with the Chairs for NYSCB and NYSAB will be the conduit for escalation of strategic issues that require consideration by NYHWB, or its substructure. This is a reciprocal arrangement between the three Boards and is the mechanism for action outwith the annual business planning cycle.

7. Relationships between the Safeguarding Boards and other partnership forums reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board

7.1 The overarching strategic plan for North Yorkshire is the Community Plan. The partnership objectives of the Community Plan are overseen by a series of groups providing strategic leadership:

- Local Government North Yorkshire and York
- Chief Executives' Group – North Yorkshire and York
- Local strategic partnerships (District local authority level where these are in place)
- North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership
- York Community Safety Partnership
- York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership
- North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership

7.2 The NYHWPB is a statutory committee of North Yorkshire County Council, it has a substructure to lead on delivering the key strategic strands to ensure the health and wellbeing needs of the local population are met. Key subgroups of the Board are:

- North Yorkshire Delivery Board
- North Yorkshire Commissioning Forum
- Local Transformation Boards

7.3 In the context of our aim to ensure that 'Safeguarding is Everyone's Business', there should be effective co-ordination and coherence in relation to safeguarding and wellbeing between the two Safeguarding Boards and the key strategic partnership forums as described above. The 2 Safeguarding Boards can ask any of these groups to consider a relevant aspect of safeguarding as can these groups request the Safeguarding Boards to consider and advise them.

Revised 17 November 2015