

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26th March 2010

NORTH YORKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDRENS BOARD

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 At the request of your Chairman an invitation was extended to the Independent Chair of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children's Board (NYSCB).

The purpose of this paper is provide background information on Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) provides the strategic direction and operating framework that is needed to ensure that all relevant agencies, partnerships and organisations focus on their responsibilities with regard to the safeguarding of children and young people.

Children can only be safeguarded properly if the key agencies work effectively together. Local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) are designed to help ensure that this happens. They put the former area child protection committees (ACPCs) on a statutory footing.

The North Yorkshire local safeguarding children's board was started in April 2004 and since that time Government has substantially increased the Board's obligations.

Members will be interested to learn about the core membership of the NYSCB and how it ensures the effectiveness of their member agencies in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

For your information a copy of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children's Board Business Plan 2009-11 is attached at annex A.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- 3.1 note the information contained with in this report.

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Date: 17 March 2010

Background Documents: None

Annexes: Annex A - Work Programme
Annex B - North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children's Board,
Business Plan 2009-11

Key Strategic Strategies

- 1 Help all children and young people to stay safe: road accidents/accidents in the home/abuse by strangers/bullying/victims of crime/internet safety/suicide and harm.
- 2 Protect vulnerable children and young people - maintain a focus on neglect, substance misuse and domestic violence in families.
- 3 Respond effectively when children and young people have been harmed.
- 4 Develop a training strategy.
- 5 Develop a shared understanding of thresholds for intervention related to the continuum of need.

LSCB means Local Safeguarding Children Board - the term used nationally for safeguarding children's boards.

*Denotes recommendations from LSCB Training Review (May 2008).

1. Governance Arrangements for the LSCB

Objectives	Link	Key Actions	LSCB	NYSCB UNIT	PERFORMANCE SUB	LOCAL FORUMS	OPERATION SUB	TRAINING SUB
Review the structure of the LSCB		Review terms of reference for LSCB	X	X				
		Revise terms of reference for sub groups and forums	X		X	X	X	X
		Agree work plans for sub groups and forums	X		X	X	X	X
		Develop a communications strategy for the revised LSCB agenda	X				Communication Task Group	
		Develop 3&4 tier training for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LSSCB members • Sub Groups • Local Forums 						X
Develop business processes for the LSCB		To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints • FOI • Access to personal records • Information sharing and recording • Research governance • Equalities compliance 	X	X	X	X	Procedure Task Group	X
External review of the LSCB		Commission annual external review of the work of the LSCB	X	X				

2. Core Statutory Business Objectives the LSCB

Link	Objectives	Key Actions	LSCB	NYSCB UNIT	PERFORMANCE SUB	LOCAL FORUMS	OPERATION SUB	TRAINING SUB	THEMATIC REVIEW/ BENCHMARK
WT CYPP 2.1	Safer Recruitment	Produce policy and procedure for the LSCB	X				Workforce Task Group		
		Ensure NCSL accredited training is delivered to member agencies					Workforce Task Group	X	
		Agencies to audit compliance against policy and procedure with annual reporting to LSCB	X	X	X		Workforce Task Group		
WT CYPP 2.1	Allegations against people who work with children	Effective policy and procedure for the LSCB	X				Workforce Task Group		
		Ensure agencies provide training for key staff					Workforce Task Group	X	
		Monitor compliance and consistency to procedure across county. Report to LSCB/Ofsted		X			Workforce Task Group		
PSA: 13 Indicator 4 - Preventable child deaths CYPP 2.1	Child Death Reviewing Processes	Establish a Child Death Overview Panel					CDOP Sub Group		
		Procedures and training for multi-agency Rapid Response processes across the county based at each acute hospital trust					CDOP Sub Group	X	

2. Core Statutory Business Objectives the LSCB (Continued)

Link	Objectives	Key Actions	LSCB	NYSCB UNIT	PERFORMANCE SUB	LOCAL FORUMS	OPERATION SUB	TRAINING SUB	THEMATIC REVIEW/ BENCHMARK
PSA: 13 Indicator 4 - Preventable child deaths	Child Death Reviewing Processes	Monitor the effectiveness of the Rapid Response processes across the county			X		CDOP Sub Group		
CYPP 2.1		Reporting outcomes from CDOP to LSCB and PSA Board	X	X			CDOP Sub Group		
WT CYPP 2.1	Serious Case Reviews	Effective policy and procedure for the LSCB compliant with new Ofsted requirements (SCR and LAC25, Serious Incidents)					SCR Sub Group		
		Monitoring of individual reviews against Ofsted requirements	X				SCR Sub Group		
		Action Plans from SCRs to be implemented, monitored and reported on	X	X			SCR Sub Group		
		Lessons from SCRs and from National Survey to be disseminated to staff through briefings and training sessions					Communications Sub Group	X	X

2. Core Statutory Business Objectives the LSCB (Continued)

Link	Objectives	Key Actions	LSCB	NYSCB UNIT	PERFORMANCE SUB	LOCAL FORUMS	OPERATION SUB	TRAINING SUB	THEMATIC REVIEW/ BENCHMARK
WT	Multi-Agency Training	*Training strategy to be agreed and implemented, underpinned by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of training need • Multi-agency audit of training provision • Oversight of training and development activity • Evaluation of impact on practise • Maintain delivery of training at all levels • Develop sub group with regard to quality assurance 	X					X	
		*Training strategy to incorporate gaps in provision identified in review of LSCB Training Review (May 2008): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of 3&4 tier training • Where there is emotional abuse/neglect in families 							

2. Core Statutory Business Objectives the LSCB (Continued)

Link	Objectives	Key Actions	LSCB	NYSCB UNIT	PERFORMANCE SUB	LOCAL FORUMS	OPERATION SUB	TRAINING SUB	THEMATIC REVIEW/ BENCHMARK
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Whole family” focus training (domestic violence, mental illness, substance abuse) Training for managers 	X					X	
		*Review of the staffing capacity to deliver the training strategy and establish a multi-agency training panel to design/deliver training	X	X				X	

3. Practice Issues: For protective and preventive services

Link	Objectives	Key Actions	LSCB	NYSCB UNIT	PERFORMANCE SUB	LOCAL FORUMS	OPERATION SUB	TRAINING SUB	THEMATIC REVIEW/ BENCHMARK
PSA; 13, Indicator 2 - Initial assessment within 7 days	Preventive Services for children and young people	Ensure LSCB has effective policies and procedures	X				Procedure Task Group/ Communication Task Group	X	
		Stronger links with the LSP's leading to closer links with Safer Communities	X						
		*Further development of thresholds for referral, assessment and intervention within continuum of service delivery	X				X	X	
		Develop regular performance reporting			X				
		Quality Assurance and reporting performance to LSCB/Ofsted of child protective services	X		X				
PSA; 13, Indicator 2 - Initial assessment within 7 days CYPP 2.1	Child Protection Services	Ensure effective LSCB policies and procedures are in place	X				X	X	
		Develop regular performance reporting for the Child Protection Services			X				

3. Practice Issues: For protective and preventive services (Continued)

Link	Objectives	Key Actions	LSCB	NYSCB UNIT	PERFORMANCE SUB	LOCAL FORUMS	OPERATION SUB	TRAINING SUB	THEMATIC REVIEW/ BENCHMARK
PSA; 13, Indicator 2 - Initial assessment within 7 days CYPP 2.1	Child Protection Services	Quality Assurance of Child Protection Services		X	X				
		Reporting performance to LSCB/Ofsted of child protection services	X		X				
	Monitor statutory and non-statutory safeguarding responsibilities	Ensure effective procedures are in place, that there is regular monitoring and regular reporting for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private fostering • Licensing • Family Group Conferencing • Forced Marriage/ FGM/FII/Complex Abuse 	X		X		X	X	

4. Forward Planning for the LSCB (including Horizon Scanning)

Link	Objectives	Key Actions	LSCB	NYSCB UNIT	PERFORMANCE SUB	LOCAL FORUMS	OPERATION SUB	TRAINING SUB	THEMATIC REVIEW/ BENCHMARK
3.1 Help all children and young people to stay safe									
CYPP 2.1	A Safe Workforce	Ensure that member agencies have effective safer recruitment strategies, training plans and awareness of the ISA	X				Workforce Task Group	X	
	New threats to safety: Bullying	Promote on-line safety and develop a cyber-bullying strategy in response to the Byron Review.	X	X	X		E Safety Task Group	X	
		Develop new guidance on tackling bullying			X		E Safety Task Group	X	
	Reducing numbers of accidents	Ensure there is an effective local area accident prevention strategy					CDOP Sub Group	X	
	Children living in rural communities	With similar LSCBs, identify the safeguarding needs of children livingt in rural communities and develop appropriate strategies		X			Communications Task Group		

4. Forward Planning for the LSCB (including Horizon Scanning) (Continued)

Link	Objectives	Key Actions	LSCB	NYSCB UNIT	PERFORMANCE SUB	LOCAL FORUMS	OPERATION SUB	TRAINING SUB	THEMATIC REVIEW/ BENCHMARK
3.2 Protect vulnerable children and young people									
CYPP 2.1	Improving Safety on the Streets	Develop and implement guidance on Hidden Harm		X	X		X	X	
	Domestic Violence	Develop with partner agencies a county-wide domestic violence strategy with emphasis on safeguarding children			X		X	X	
3.3 Responding when children and young people have been harmed									
	Youth Justice and children involved in the courts	Highlighting the public role		X			X		
		Monitor the effectiveness of guidance about children in care proceedings in the family courts					X	X	
		Implement action following the publication of review of protection of children from sex offenders, the co-ordinated prostitution strategy and the sexual violence and abuse action plan			X		X X	X X	

4. Forward Planning for the LSCB (including Horizon Scanning) (Continued)

Link	Objectives	Key Actions	LSCB	NYSCB UNIT	PERFORMANCE SUB	LOCAL FORUMS	OPERATION SUB	TRAINING SUB	THEMATIC REVIEW/ BENCHMARK
3.3 Responding when children and young people have been harmed (Continued)									
		New Safeguarding Strategy with YJB/Youth Crime Action Plan		X			X		
	Young runaways and missing children	Effectiveness of the revised Missing From Home and Care Guidance					X	X	

4. Quality Assurance of the CYPP and actions from the NYSCB Business Plan 2007/9

Link	Objectives	LSCB	NYSCB UNIT	PERFORMANCE		LOCAL FORUMS	OPERATION SUB	TRAINING SUB	THEMATIC REVIEW/ BENCHMARK
				SAFEGUARDING PROCESSES	QUALITY ASSURANCE OF CYPP				
NYSCB Business Plan 2007/9	Promote good working relations between professionals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Continue the roll-out of "Buddying Schemes" and consider development of the scheme to various professional groups					X			
NYSCB Business Plan 2007/9	New procedures will incorporate actions from the NYSCB Business Plan that were not completed i.e. UASC, use of core assessment in residential special schools						Procedure Task Group		
NYSCB Business Plan 2007/9	Contribute to a public campaign relating to safeguarding children. (Re-launch and update the NYSCB website)						Communications Task Group		
CYPP 2009/2012	Monitor delivery and effectiveness of the staying safe outcome with the CYPP				X		X		

Appendix 1

Children and Young People's Plan: 2.1 Safeguarding Children

What we will do over the next three years

- Develop and implement the Safeguarding Strategy, including a focus on safeguarding rural children.
- Ensure there are consistent and robust procedures for the monitoring of child deaths.
- Promote consistent safer recruitment practices across the constituent agencies of the Safeguarding Board through advice, guidance and training.
- Promote consistent arrangements for the management of allegations across the constituent agencies of the Safeguarding Board through advice, guidance and training.
- Ensure there is a robust performance framework for safeguarding activity and that action is taken as a result of performance information.
- Ensure safeguarding requirements are consistently applied to vulnerable children including those living away from home.
- Ensure robust procedures are in place for Serious Case Reviews and Serious Incidents.

What we are going to do this year

- Ensure quantitative data is available across all partner agencies.
- Develop local performance indicators.
- Continue the improvement in meeting initial and core assessment timescales.
- Evidence that a drop in Child Protection Plans is not putting children at risk.
- Review the membership and Business Plan and funding for the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children's Board and make recommendations where necessary.
- Develop a draft safeguarding strategy including a focus upon safeguarding local children.
- Establish the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and deliver training to CDOP members, monitor implementation of CDOP, identify operational issues.
- Introduce the regional Allegation Management Database and its application in North Yorkshire.
- Monitor performance information and share findings.

How we will know we are improving

Year 1:

- Introduction of the Child Death Overview Panel.
- An audit on the referral, assessment and review processes to safeguard children will be undertaken.
- Audit of Initial Assessments within a 7-day period will be undertaken.
- policy on safer recruitment developed and training in place.
- Maintenance of the Allegation Management Database in line with regional agreements and provide regular reports to NYSCB.
- Reduction in the number of children reporting they have been bullied in the past 4 weeks (Tellus Survey) from 28% in 2007.
- Audit of LADO arrangements.
- Mapping of services for children who have witnessed Domestic Violence.

Year 2:

- Implement and monitor the Safer Recruitment Policy.
- Monitor the number of Initial Assessments within a 7-day period (PSA 13).
- Reduction in the number of children reporting they have been bullied in the past 4 weeks (Tellus Survey) from 28% in 2007.
- Develop Serious Case Review and Serious Incident Protocols.
- Evaluate the impact of Child Death Overview Panel.

Year 3:

- Review the implementation of the Safer Recruitment Policy.
- Monitor the number of Initial Assessments within a 7-day period (PSA 13).
- Reduction in the number of children reporting they have been bullied in the past 4 weeks (Tellus Survey) from 28% in 2007.
- Implement and monitor the Serious Case Review and Serious Incident Protocols.