

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****24 October 2014****North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board: Annual Report - April 2013 to March 2014****Purpose of Report**

1. This report alerts the Committee to the publication of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board (NYSCB) Annual Report 2013/14.

The NYSCB Annual Report 2013/14

2. Foreword by Professor Nick Frost, NYSCB Independent Chair:

“It is a privilege to provide the foreword for the 2013-14 Annual Report of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board (NYSCB).

This is my first year as Independent Chair of NYSCB and therefore I must thank my predecessor, Nancy Palmer. When I took up my role on 1st August I found a well-established and well-functioning Board with a strong staff team. Thanks to Nancy for helping to establish this legacy.



The period between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014 has been busy and demanding. The NYSCB has been active on a number of fronts – E-safety and working against Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) being two areas of innovation. The NYSCB has worked alongside partners to develop our work in this complex and demanding field. We now have a robust and high quality way forward established in our work against CSE. This is perhaps the most horrifying and damaging of crimes committed against children and young people and it is important that we do all in our power to oppose it.

E safety is an equally complex challenge – one that is relevant to every child and young person in North Yorkshire. Led by the NSPCC and with support from our Elected Members, we have developed ground-breaking policies and practices in this field. We have worked closely with young people in developing our work. Of course, there is no room for complacency and we will continue to develop this work during 2014-15.

Whilst NYSCB has been leading on these and other initiatives we also have many other tasks that have to be undertaken every year: producing this report, undertaking our audit of agency practice and undertaking our case file audits being just some of these. These are undertaken to a high standard and ensure that our scrutiny of services is robust and evidence-based.

Training is another essential element of our duties. Amongst the many highlights of this training programme have been the day conferences reported on later in

this report. These have attracted large multi-disciplinary audiences who have been addressed by leading national experts.

Amongst the saddest of our tasks is to conduct reviews of child deaths and other serious incidents. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) undertakes an overarching analysis of all child deaths: important learning arises from this work. This year we conducted a review of a tragic child death: a summary analysis of the review can be found in Chapter 4 of this report. We have learnt important lessons from this report and actions have been taken by both the Board and our partners.

During the forthcoming year we will continue to develop and strengthen as outlined later in this report. We need to develop our e-safety and anti-CSE work, embed the work of our Children Safeguarding and Strategy Groups (CSSGs) and continue to engage with children and young people.

No doubt 2014-15 will bring many challenges - some foreseeable and predictable and others which cannot be foreseen. My view is that NYSCB is in a strong position to develop our important work in safeguarding the children and young people of North Yorkshire.

Professor Nick Frost
Independent Chair NYSCB

3. The full Annual Report is available at:
<http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/managed/NYSGC/reports/NYSCBAnnualReport2013-14.pdf>
4. Professor Frost will be attending the meeting to provide additional information and to respond to Members' questions and comments.

Recommendation

5. The Committee notes the achievements of the NYSCB during 2013/14 and its priorities going forward.

Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader
Central Services, County Hall, Northallerton
16 October 2014

Background Documents: None