

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**8 September 2017**

**SAFEGUARDING**

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an introduction to the how it might approach the topic of Safeguarding Children and Young People in North Yorkshire.
- 1.2 The Committee wanted to address the question “How do we keep children and young people in North Yorkshire Safe?”

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The welfare of all children and young people in the local community must be a top priority for any local authority. Safeguarding ensures that children are kept as safe as possible by identifying their needs, views and any risks they face. Services, information and support can then be provided as required. Where children are likely to suffer harm, local authorities have clear duties to intervene through child protection processes.
- 2.2 Over the last five years overview and scrutiny committees have become increasingly aware of the need to consider the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements. This was highlighted by Professor Jay’s 2014 Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham and the response by the Communities and Local Government Select Committee. These reports describe the essential role of overview and scrutiny in the safeguarding process. It uses the tragic example of the sexual exploitation of girls and boys in Rotherham to demonstrate the serious consequences of any failures of independent internal scrutiny and challenge.

**3.0 Objective**

- 3.1 The objective of this piece of scrutiny work is to use the Annual Report as the centrepiece for a wider dialogue about safeguarding, taking in partnership commitment/activity in order to address the question "How do we keep children and young people in North Yorkshire safe"
- 3.2 Members are looking to gain:
- An underpinning knowledge of the principles and practice of safeguarding and child protection.

- An understanding how local safeguarding arrangements are managed and structured.

#### 4.0 Methodology

4.1 The approach members agreed to take was:

- A committee meeting of one session during which the committee will receive evidence and advice from Chairman of the Safeguarding Board, CYPS Leadership and any other relevant witnesses.
- As far as possible this will be an interactive, informal session with built in time for dialogue guided by question and answers
- The committee will have the option of making some initial conclusions and recommendations.
- If the committee is so minded, these initial conclusions will be brought together by a smaller group of members in a report or briefing for submission, via the committee meeting, to the Portfolio Holder and/or Executive

#### 5.0 Outline of Session 8 September 2017. County Hall, Northallerton

Time	Main theme	Lead
10.30am	<b>Safeguarding Board</b> How well do local safeguarding arrangements work to protect children?	Nick Frost and Judith Hay
	<b>Child Protection-</b> How well do local services protect children at risk of significant harm?	

#### 6.0 Main Line of enquiry:

6.1 Local Safeguarding Arrangements - How well do local safeguarding arrangements work to protect children?

- How are those in leadership roles held to account by the wider system?
- How effective are local safeguarding arrangements in identifying and meeting the needs of the most vulnerable children?
- To what extent are local agencies and organisations working together effectively?
- What level of internal challenge is there in local safeguarding arrangements?
- How are lessons and learning implemented to improve the system?

#### 7.0 Supporting Line of Enquiry

7.1 Child Protection- How well do local services protect children at risk of significant harm?

- How effective are child protection assessments and plans?

- How aware are services of the full range of potential risks that children face both at home and in the local community?
- What are the outcomes for children who experience abuse or neglect?
- What lessons and learning have been identified by Serious Case Reviews and other forms of monitoring? How have they been implemented?
- How well do multi-agency partners work together to protect children?

## **8.0 Other, connected aspects**

### **8.1 Children in Need - How well do local agencies identify and support children in need?**

- Who are the most vulnerable children in the local area? What are their needs and how are they met?
- How effective are services in ensuring local children and their families receive early help to reduce the need for child protection interventions?
- Do frontline social workers and other practitioners have the skills and resources to offer effective early help?

## **9.0 Recommendation**

### **9.1 The committee assess the information given in response to the proposed line of enquiry**

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Background Documents Nil