

NYSCP Annual Report 2023 - 2024

Heather Pearson

Executive Chair and Independent Scrutineer

Statutory Partner and Scrutiny Updates

The report outlines that over the course of 2023 to 2024 strategic activity included:

- A focus on improving early intervention, identifying risks promptly, ensuring children and families receive the support they need at right time
- Humber and North Yorkshire ICB's clear directive to retain safeguarding expertise "at place" – with the wider footprint increasing the sharing of good practice
- North Yorkshire Police's investment in time and resource into safeguarding children action and teams
- The role of Independent Scrutineer in North Yorkshire includes the Chairing of the Executive Group and will remain so
- The development and implementation of change in relation to new Working Together published December 2023 – existing strong arrangements support required change
- Strategic leads arrangements including quarterly forward planning sessions, bi-monthly executive meetings, presentations at twice yearly development sessions and regular conversations outside formal arrangements in relation to strategic and operational matters
- North Yorkshire are well supported by an efficient and effective business team that is well resourced

Feedback from Children and Young People

Increased evidence of the use of feedback from children, young people and families to review and shape safeguarding arrangements including:

- Annual Report evidences of the success of work to support children and families and keep them safe – the partnership awards showcase some of the excellent work undertaken by practitioners
- Children and young people consultation in relation to the priorities for Being Young in North Yorkshire – the annual report includes a recording of summary conversations with young people that can be accessed via a link
- North Yorkshire Youth Commission involving young people discussing issues of crime and policing and informs the work of the York and North Yorkshire Office for Policing, Fire, Crime and Commissioning key priorities identified were – Mental Health: Emotional Wellbeing: Gender Violence and Safer Streets: Discrimination: Online Safety; Relationships with Police and Authorities and Drugs Gangs and County Lines – work involved a series of workshops with those with lived experience
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy public consultation identified need for more support/activities/places to go were need for young people; more affordable, low cost or free activities; access to education and employment opportunities; feedback on strategic aims and the importance of nutrition and food

Parent and Carers Voice

- Parent and Carer's page on NYSCP website provides information on how to access the right support at right time – involvement of Experts by Experience group who have assisted in developing the guidance and content
- Availability of online parent courses on a variety of topics developed including NYC funded Solihul parenting programme - online course dedicated to improving health and wellbeing in parents, children, teenagers, adults and grandparents – all of which has received excellent feedback and the annual report provides a number of quotes in relation to this
- AskMe Have the Conversation campaign – developed from learning from a thematic case review involving three similar cases of non-accidental injury to non-mobile infants which **included direct involvement of the parents who had tragically suffered the death of their child due to SUDI**. Campaign aimed at professionals encouraging conversations with new and expectant parents and includes easily accessible resources on NYSCP website covering safe sleep safe, safe feeding, ICON (babies cry you can cope), parental mental health and masterclass attended by 100 partners in relation to the learning from the review

Theme One – A Safe Life

Protect from harm; live in safe communities, supported by family networks:

- Increased demand for services – 11% on previous year (30,822 contacts), increasing 2024/25 – police (24%), health services (19%) schools (19%) and individuals (15%) are 4 major sources. *Multi agency work ongoing currently lead by NYC Assistant Director to review demand but early work identifies that contacts are meeting threshold. Services are feeling the pressure but are coping and there is not evidence in a dip in service provision this will be subject of further reporting over 2025/2026 annual reporting*
- Increased demand across:
 - Child Protection Plans (419 at year end) – 12% higher*
 - Re-referral rate – 17% higher (lower than national average)*
 - Children in care – 500 (454 in 2023 a factor for some of the rise due to increase in UASC)*
- Relationship based practice model embedded and indicates more families are needing help and those that previously required help need more support than in previous years

Current year - 506 child protection plans in place and 508 looked after children – October 24

Theme Two – A Happy Family Life

Families are empowered to be resilient, school years are happy and community support networks help families thrive

- Growing up in North Yorkshire survey tells us what makes children happy – this is used to develop strategic plans
- Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) i-thrive identifies 80% of North Yorkshire young people are thriving most of the time
- SEMH teams work with primary schools across the county to provide training, advice and support to children including focus on preventing exclusions and increasing school attendance
- Virtual school has employed an educational psychologist to train schools in attachment and trauma – recognising the importance of adverse childhood experiences on the entire life course – available to primary, secondary and special schools where there are looked after children (112 schools currently)
- Trauma Informed Care (TIC) training roll out to senior managers, practitioners and support staff to improve understanding
- Annual Report outlines vast amount of support available through the Go-To Website

Theme Three – A Healthy Life

Promote health and wellbeing through positive choices; improve social, emotional and mental health; reduce health inequalities

- 78% of ante-natal contacts take place within recommended 10 weeks (regional average 78%)
- 6% increase in attendance at Accident and Emergency for children as a result of injury however fewer young people admitted (17%), includes fewer admissions for substance misuse
- Healthy Schools Award programme started September 2019 – 294 schools signed up (81%) and 106 have achieved an award so far
- HDFT Children’s Health Services App developed for and by 0 – 19 Healthy Child Team can have a reach of over 8000 in a 28- day period promotes drop-in clinics, campaigns and advice
- Award winning Ask a Midwife service delivered through social media – resourced by experienced midwives – with high numbers of queries, answered promptly and referrals made
- Dadpad App – easy free to use downloadable resource providing useful information to dads

Theme Four - Achieving in Life

Ensure children are “school ready”; raise achievement levels for all; create environments where children have aspirations for the future

- 17,469 2 – 4 year-olds across North Yorkshire with 88% achieving expected level of development
- Higher than national average of children with special education needs achieving expected levels at 4 – 5 years (20%)
- Outline of Dingley’s Promise – early identification of children in early years with special educational needs – 394 practitioners signed up (8%) of North Yorkshire early years settings – 95% feedback indicates helpful input and would do something different having had training – **more to do?**
- During 2023 - 24 - 87% of primary schools and 76% of secondary schools were rated good or outstanding (91% nationally) and 76% of secondary schools 83% national average –**continuing improving picture over 2024**
- Electively Home Educated (EHE) increased by 25% on previous year – continues to increase throughout 2024 (national trend)
- Exclusions and fixed term suspensions increased and have increased throughout 2024 (significantly so year on year)

Non school attendance is an area of focus as this is an issue we are concerned about – when not at school the potential for exposure to safeguarding risks increase – current picture 88% secondary school attendance in North Yorkshire with national attendance at 91% primary is level with national attendance at 91%

NYSCP Work 2023 - 2024

Structure of NYSCP outlined in report and work of subgroups:

- **Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group** – undertakes case learning review activity both statutory and those referred in locally by organisations. Over course of year 4 were referred and 4 cases have been reviewed for learning.
- A thematic review was undertaken relating to non-accidental injuries to non-mobile babies and the review work linked to work in relation to developing professional skills management of the unsettled infant, pathways to support parents with mental health difficulties, sharing good practice – all of which has been tracked and actioned through the Practice Development and Learning group.
- Practitioner Event following the unexpected death of a 4 month old baby led to development of the AskMe Campaign. The use of practitioner events has been embedded into further learning activity.
- Progress in relation to priorities and achievements over 2023 – 24 are outlined on page 29 of the report and include elements already outlined in earlier slides.
- Learning Audits undertaken in relation to Domestic Abuse, Responses to Children Excluded/Suspended from School, Responses to Unborn babies – this work has led to recognition of good practice and development plans and implementation of changes to practice – outlined within the report.

Working with Education

Working Together 2023 has outlined the requirement for all partnership areas to review and strengthen the role of education settings within partnership arrangements. A review of existing arrangements has taken place and consultation with DfE leads indicated North Yorkshire have strong mechanisms in place including:

- School safeguarding audit completed across all schools in North Yorkshire – introduced this year a series of safeguarding audit panel sessions where NYSCP representatives from Police, Health and Local Authority met with a representative sample of 3% of our schools. This resulted in identification of good practice and understanding of how school's approach some of the challenges. This was felt to be collaborative. The findings were presented to Executive and DSL groups and an action plan tracked through the subgroup
- DSL Leads Conference took place attended by 157 delegates from schools across North Yorkshire. Presentations delivered included supporting children with adverse childhood experiences and mental fragility and guidance relation to harmful sexual behaviours.
- Implemented Working Together with Education Focus Group – Chaired by Virtual School lead – multi agency.
- Examples given of value of the support of the Pathfinder programme on page 33 (11 – 15 year olds in Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven who experience school anxiety, refusal or exclusion)

Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE)

March 2024 – launch of new Multi-agency Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding Strategy 2024 – 2027 with focus on child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, missing from home, harmful sexual behaviour, modern day slavery and human trafficking, online child exploitation, peer on peer exploitation/teenage relationship abuse/radicalisation and extremism.

- Introduction of police 4P model – prepare, prevent, protect and pursue with an action plan monitored through the work of the MACE Strategic and Operational groups
- Be Aware Knowledge Hub kept up to date with key information for children, parents and professionals
- Online training sessions available for professionals with 10 key themes of exploitation with sessions accessed by nearly 300 partners – overwhelmingly positive feedback
- Introduction of the secure MACE bulletin highlighting good practice and creative disruption planning with sharing of key information and new and emerging trends
- National Working Group recognized strong model of working in North Yorkshire

Multi Agency Training, Learning and Communication

- **Masterclasses** key way of delivering training these are recorded and viewed in YouTube with 868 people booked on – 793 delegates with over 678 views – efficient and effective model of delivery - over course of 2023 – 2024 a total of additional 74 subscribers, 7.2k views of content, 646 hours of watch time – most watched being Threshold Document, Contextual Safeguarding, Sexting and Revenge Porn, Signs of Safety Terminology
- **Safeguarding Week together with adult safeguarding and community safety leads** – sessions available for professionals and members of the public – 44 virtual sessions over 5 days, 1112 delegates, 117 feedback survey which were scrutinised for learning for future events
- **Local Safeguarding Partnership meetings** – a review of arrangements currently underway to strengthen the link between strategic and operational activity an existing strength is that this involves Community Safety, Adult and Children leads and is local meeting for local delivery
- **Proactive use of social media** – new use of Linked In, reducing use of X but strong use of popular platforms remains a good way of communicating information out
- **NYSCP E-bulletin** – 1848 people subscribed over 2023 – 2024.

Priorities for 2024 - 2025

The priorities have been set in line with feedback from children, young people and families and partner consultation:

- **Criminal and Sexual Exploitation** (including gender based violence and discrimination) – a review of MACE arrangements is currently underway, a September 24 development session focused on exploitation with input from St Giles Trust (commissioned service) and workshops, national models for harm outside the home are being considered
- **Strengthening the role of education in the partnership** – over the course of 2024 work has been undertaken in line with Working Together 2023 requirements
- **Children and Young People's emotional and mental health** – work over 2024 includes review of early help strategy, threshold. Work is underway in relation to the new Being Young in North Yorkshire due to be launched for January 2025
- **Online Safety** – Development session in March 2024 reviewed

The planned audit programme for 2024 – 25 includes Children Missing from Home and Care, Harmful Sexual Behaviour, and Parental Substance Use and Mental Health