

## Annual Report 2010-2011

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### INTRODUCTION BY THE CYSCB CHAIRPERSON

I am pleased to write an introduction to the Annual Report of the City of York Safeguarding Children Board 2010/11. The government now requires all Local Safeguarding Children Boards to produce an Annual Report, which will set out details of the Board's activities, but also require the Board to provide a comment on the state of safeguarding in their area. This report therefore outlines the work of the Board and the key children's safeguarding issues in York.

There remains a significant national and local media interest in the children's safeguarding agenda, and it is hoped that this report will indicate to a wider audience, some key messages about safeguarding children, and the commitment of all local agencies to ensure that

the highest priority is given to maintaining the safeguarding of children in the City of York.

Safeguarding Children Boards have a number of responsibilities that aim to ensure that there is a multi-agency approach and commitment to the safeguarding of children. They have responsibility for multi-agency training and policies and procedures; for commissioning, if necessary, Serious Cases Reviews and Learning Lessons Reviews; for initiating improvements in safeguarding children services and for holding to account and challenging all local agencies about their standard of safeguarding children arrangements. Whilst there is always room for improvement in services, and a need to remain vigilant in such an important area of public policy, it is important to state

**A recent Peer Review highlighted strong and effective performance and leadership, and good partnership working**

that there is a strong commitment to high standards of safeguarding children within York, underlined by external scrutiny of local safeguarding children arrangements through inspections by Ofsted, and a very recent Peer Review from the Local Government Improvement and Development (LGID) Group of safeguarding children services, which has indicated strong and effective performance and leadership, and good partnership working. The City of York Safeguarding Children Board aims to ensure that this position is maintained and strengthened.

The Board carries out its work through regular quarterly meetings, an Executive group, two groups responsible for Professional Practice Monitoring and Serious Cases Monitoring respectively, and two Lead Officers who take

responsibility for Training and Policies and Procedures. The work is supported and organised by staff from the Safeguarding Children Unit. Over the last six months, much work has been done to improve the accountability of the above arrangements to ensure effective reporting back to the Board. In addition the Manager of the NSPCC (York) has been appointed as Vice-Chair to provide continuity of leadership to the Board.

During the last twelve months, the Board has commissioned two Serious Case Reviews. The first of these has been completed and the Executive Summary published on the Board's website. This involved a case of serious neglect, and a significant outcome has been the setting up of a thematic review into neglect to look at the way in which the issue of neglect is handled in York, and to advise the Board on how the work in this policy area can be improved by all agencies. The second Serious Case Review has only recently been commissioned and is at a very early and confidential stage. The Board will ensure that any lessons and recommendations arising from the completion of the two Serious Case Reviews will be monitored by the Serious Cases Panel and local practice improved.

It is pleasing to report that there is a good level of attendance of members at Board meetings. This helps to ensure that there is an effective multi-agency challenge to any areas of concern that come to the Board's attention. In particular, the Board has been exercised by the state of the local Health Visiting service and the implications this might have for child protection arrangements, and has made representations about this matter.

There have been some recent important developments in relation to the work of the Board. In particular, the Board is grateful to the Education Community in York for the funding of a new post of a Safeguarding Adviser for Education. Even at this early stage, the Safeguarding Adviser for Education seems to be making a significant impact on educational safeguarding standards.

The Board must remain vigilant to ensure that children's safeguarding has the highest priority, at a time of significant changes in the organisation of the Health Service and the setting up of GP Commissioning Consortia, and the

challenges brought on by reductions in public expenditure. The Board must also respond to any changes arising from the Review of Child Protection Services by Professor Eileen Munro, commissioned by the Government. Already it is clear that Professor Munro sees a significant role for Local Safeguarding Children Boards in ensuring that high standards of safeguarding are maintained when any changes are made. The City of York Safeguarding Children Board remains committed to ensuring that the high standards of safeguarding in the City are maintained, and is grateful for the support of all partner agencies enabling this to happen.

Roger Thompson  
CYSCB Independent Chairperson

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

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**Independent Chair** Roger Thompson  
**North Yorkshire Police** Acting Assistant Chief Constable Sue Cross represented by DCI Kerrin Smith  
**North Yorkshire Probation Service** Joanne Atkins, Area Manager Public Protection  
**The City of York Youth Offending Team** Simon Page, Head of Integrated Youth Support Services  
**NHS North Yorkshire & York** Sue Roughton, Designated Nurse Child Protection (CYSCB Serious Cases Lead Officer)  
**NHS North Yorkshire & York Primary Care Trust (Commissioning)** Bill Redlin, Director of Quality, Governance & Assurance  
**York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust** Jen Slaughter, Associate Director Safeguarding & Child Protection, Robin Ball, Designated Doctor Child Protection  
**CAFCASS (Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service)** Margaret Harvey  
**Askham Grange Prison** Carol Burke, Head of Learning and Skills  
**City of York Council – Adults Children and Education (ACE)** Pete Dwyer, Director ACE, Eoin Rush, Assistant Director – Children's Specialist Services, John Roughton, Head of Service (Operations) Children's Social Care (CYSCB Policy Lead Officer), Sarah Olorenshaw, Service Manager Quality Assurance Services for Children's Social Care (CYSCB Quality Assurance Lead Officer), Jill Hodges, Assistant Director of

School Improvement and Staff Development, Ann Bygrave, Assistant Director Assessment & Personalisation

**City of York Council - Legal Services** Melanie Perara, Principal Solicitor

**City of York Council - Housing Department** Steve Waddington, Head of Housing Services

**City of York Council** – Nick Sinclair, Substance Misuse Pathways Officer

**City of York Council** - Councillor Carol Runciman  
**NHS North Yorkshire & York Community & Mental Health Services (Adult & Child)** Alison Woodhouse (Mental Health represented by Joanne James, Service Manager CAMHS)

**NSPCC (The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)** Debra Radford, Children's Services Manager (CYSCB Training Lead Officer)

**Children's Society** Lynda Corker, Programme Manager, PACT Project

**Independent Schools** John Owen-Barnett, Child Protection Lead Officer, St Peter's School

**Primary Schools** Lesley Barringer, Head Teacher, Osbaldwick Primary School

**Secondary Schools** Bill Scriven, Head Teacher, All Saints School

**North Yorkshire Local Medical Committee** Claire Anderton

**Safer York Partnership** Jane Mowat

**York Council for Voluntary Services** Craig Waugh  
Agencies which should be represented but are not are **The Crown Prosecution Service** and **North Yorkshire Witness Support Services**

## **CYSCB UNIT REPORT**

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The day-to-day running of the Board's business is the responsibility of the CYSCB Unit, managed by Joe Cocker and supported by Dee Cooley, Children's Workforce Adviser, Caroline Williamson, Education Adviser and Amanda Dickinson, Administrator. On the 1<sup>st</sup> April the CYSCB launched its new website, hosted by YorOk. Whilst much of the content will remain the same, there are considerable improvements that make it easier for users. It is also felt that by integrating the website with the YorOk site, users will benefit from having access to a comprehensive range of information relevant to professionals, children and families.

The past year has seen a new Government,

leading to major changes across the field of safeguarding children. Whilst many of the changes have been welcomed, especially the national review of child protection being undertaken by Professor Eileen Munro, the financial uncertainty along with the rapidity of the change has made planning ever more complex. Despite the changes, the CYSCB Unit has continued to make considerable progress with the business plan, while developing other unplanned areas of work. The thematic review into neglect represents significant unplanned activity in terms of time and energy. However we are confident that the review will have a positive impact on this complex area of work.

The CYSCB Unit has also identified a concerning gap in safeguarding arrangements in respect of children from overseas staying with families in York, e.g. for language

**thematic review into neglect represents significant unplanned activity**

learning visits. What has emerged is that, although the sector is subject to some regulation, children can be placed with families with little or, in some cases, no vetting. As a Board we are committed to working with the sector to find solutions which do not deter children from visiting our city, whilst providing them with the necessary protection.

A welcome area of progress has come with the appointment of the CYSCB's Safeguarding Adviser (Education) funded by all the maintained schools in York. The fact that schools have provided funding for this unique role should be viewed as a vote of confidence for the work of the Board. The role enhances the Unit's capacity to deal with allegations made against education professionals, along with supporting and working with schools to develop effective safeguarding arrangements.

The Unit has developed and maintained good working relationships with partners to deliver Board objectives. Following the publication of the Safeguarding Disabled Children guidance (DCSF, 2009), we have continued to work with the Children's Society to review training, and to develop additional resources to enable children and young people with communication barriers

to discuss safeguarding, and potentially enable them to make disclosures. In relation to domestic abuse, we support a very active domestic abuse forum, and sit on City and County-wide steering groups. In addition to working on minimising the harm to children from parental domestic abuse, attention is being focussed on domestic abuse in intimate teenage relationships, and abuse from young people against parents, both of which have been identified as significant issues.

E-safety has continued to be an important issue, with new technologies providing enormous opportunities, but also risk. Training and information has been provided to children and young people, parents, carers, and practitioners on how to use and enjoy the Internet and electronic media safely.

The Board is in the process of producing a new Business Plan for 2010 – 14 and is mindful that objectives that have benefited from intensive development may now only require maintenance. This will enable the focus of activity to shift to issues, which have received less attention. In addition to responding to the outcome of the thematic review of neglect, the Board will wish to consider developing areas of work around sexual exploitation, children who go missing from home, and children and young people who sexually harm.

### WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Executive group includes Board representatives from the key statutory and other partner agencies. Specifically:

Eoin Rush	Assistant Director (Chair)	City of York Council
Debra Radford	Children's Services Manager	NSPCC
Kerrin Smith	Detective Chief Inspector	North Yorkshire Police
John Roughton	Head of Service	City of York Council
Sue Roughton	Des. Nurse Child Protection	NHS North Yorkshire & York
Robin Ball	Des. Doctor Child	NHS North

	Protection	Yorkshire & York
Roger Thompson	Independent Chair	CYSCB
CYSCB Unit officers:		
Joe Cocker	CYSCB Manager	CYSCB
Dee Cooley	Safeguarding Adviser (Children's Workforce)	CYSCB
Caroline Williamson	Safeguarding Adviser (Education)	CYSCB
Amanda Dickinson	Administrator	CYSCB

This group meet quarterly, in advance of the main Board meetings. This is a well-established group that oversees the Board's progress against key priorities. It is a forum of lively debate and challenge, which serves as a source of intelligence for the Board on a wide range of local safeguarding children issues and has undoubtedly helped to make progress in key areas.

**a forum of lively debate and challenge**

Over the past year the Executive has considered and made recommendations on issues as diverse as the budget and future funding arrangements for the Board, Serious Case Review recommendations, gaps in service areas, the development of local procedures in conjunction with our neighbours in North Yorkshire County Council, Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) arrangements and recommendations, and the development of a Professional Practice Monitoring Group.

We have had external validation of our strengths. A recent 'health check' of the CYSCB by an Local Government Improvement and Development Peer Review team conducted in February 2011 confirmed the overall effectiveness of our local arrangements. However, there is no complacency. It is right to report that overall the Executive group has tended towards a progress chasing and horizon scanning approach. Although this has delivered some good outcomes there was concern that the approach has sometimes

been at the cost of a less rigorous focus on the Board's key priorities.

In June 2010, and as part of a wider review of governance arrangements for the CYSCB, the role and remit of the Executive Group was challenged. In response the Executive Group considered how to sharpen their focus on key priority areas and strengthen reporting and accountability to the Board. Subsequent improvements and developments to the functioning of this group include:

- Inclusion of the Board's Independent Chair as a standing member of the Executive
- Introduction of improved forward planning arrangements in line with the Board's key priorities
- Circulation of the Executive's minutes to all Board members
- Six-monthly progress reports by Executive to the Board

These developments, combined with the huge commitment and skill of all the Executive Group members, will undoubtedly serve to strengthen further the overall focus and functioning of the City of York's Safeguarding Children Board.

## INSPECTIONS

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The 2010 Annual Children's Services Assessment (ACSA) published by Ofsted stated, 'children's services in the City of York continue to perform excellently'.

The ACSA, which is based upon the outcome of a range of inspections and performance measures recognised that although there were areas for development within the City, the Authority has 'conducted a clear analysis of strengths and areas for further improvement'.

[http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare\\_providers/la\\_view/\(leaid\)/816](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_view/(leaid)/816)

A further notable inspection was undertaken by the Criminal Justice Board of the City's Youth Offending Team (YOT). The Team achieved an overall score of 85% for safeguarding, 81% for

protecting the public from harm and 80% for interventions to reduce the likelihood of re-offending. As a result the City of York's YOT is rated as one of the highest performing teams in the Country.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectors/hmi-probation/recent-reports.htm>

## PEER REVIEW

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In February 2011, Children's Social Care in conjunction with the CYSCB commissioned a peer review of safeguarding from the Local Government Improvement Development Agency (LGID). The Peer Review process brought together a team of professionals from a variety of backgrounds from other local authorities areas.

The Peer Review used a framework focussing on six "signposts" to good practice:

- Legislation and Policy
- Leadership, Accountability and Culture
- Capacity and Capability
- Effective Practice
- Performance, Evaluation and Monitoring
- Local Safeguarding Children Board

The review commended the work of the CYSCB highlighting the positive challenge provided by the independent chair along with the commitment by Board members to attendance. It also found that the CYSCB objectives were well researched and informed training. Praise was also provided to the School's Forum with their commitment to safeguarding through the funding of the specialist CYSCB Safeguarding Advisor (Education).

Areas for further consideration were also identified including the need for the CYSCB to reassure itself that the arrangements for dealing with children from home and children who sexually harm were sufficiently robust. The absence of lay members on the Board was also noted along with a need to more effectively engage front line staff. Whilst the current review of neglect was acknowledged, the review felt that the Board should further develop multi-agency case file audits.

The CYSCB welcomed the contribution and

observation of the review team, not least in the positive approach they adopted. Participants found the process to be constructive, feeling more able to be open about the strengths and, most importantly, the weaknesses in the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

**CHANGES TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES INCLUDING CHILD PROTECTION TRENDS**

In 2006, it was agreed the CYSCB would work jointly with the North Yorkshire LSCB to develop common procedures reflecting the fact that many partner agencies work across the authorities. In 2010, changes were made to national guidance requiring revision of the local procedures. However, it is clear that the national review of child protection being undertaken by Professor Munro will result in significant changes to statutory guidance. Therefore the CYSCB have agreed to hold off introducing new procedures pending the outcome of the review. Consequently, the existing procedures will remain in force although there will be a guidance section on the website that reflects the 2010 version of *Working Together 2010*.

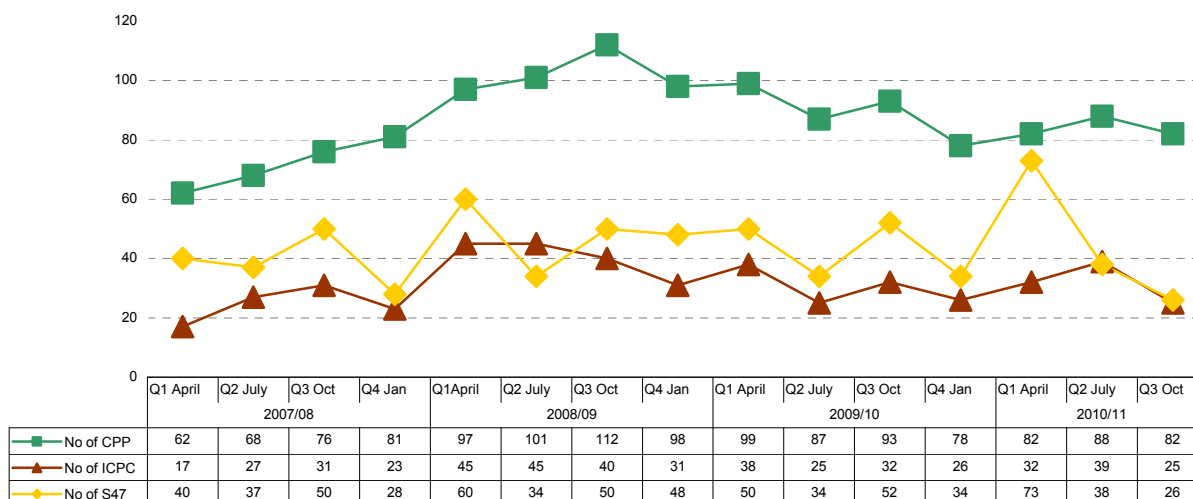
Another joint initiative with the North Yorkshire Board has been with respect to reviewing and revising practice and procedures around the issue of children who sexually harm. Obviously this is

an issue common to the police, Youth Offending teams, Children’s Social Care and other agencies, where both victim and offender contend with complex problems. It is expected that new guidance for professionals working in this area will be brought to the respective Safeguarding Children Boards in the Spring of 2011.

Although it is referred to elsewhere in this report, a major piece of work being undertaken by the Board over 2010 / 11 is the thematic review of neglect. For many years, neglect has been the most prevalent reason as to why children are considered to be at risk of significant harm in York (in common with most of the country), but until now the professions have not tried to understand the most frequent underlying causes, and why issues in some families seem to be intractable, whereas in others it is possible to bring about change. Much analysis is already underway, and the Board will be producing a substantive report and consequent recommendations by the summer of 2011, which we hope will influence practice in this area for the better.

**TRENDS IN CHILD PROTECTION - 2007 TO 2011**

As can be seen in the above chart, over the last year there has been something of a levelling off in the number of children requiring a Child



**Key**

**CPP** – Children subject to Child Protection Plans

**ICPC** – Children who are the subject of Initial Child Protection Conferences, where the decision is made as to whether they should be subject to Child Protection Plans

Protection Plan as a consequence of significant concerns for their well-being. Registration categories continue to show neglect as the predominating category of concern, and increasing numbers of children have needed to be cared for away from their families where the risk is so great. The category of neglect is most

frequently applied in cases where there are chronic problems of parental alcohol and / or drug misuse and domestic violence.

There has been a greater fluctuation in the number of enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 over the same period, but less in the number of Initial Child Protection Conferences, which are the processes to be followed by Children's Social Care when they receive a referral indicating that a child is, or is at risk of, being abused. A number of factors can influence the rate of fluctuation, including public awareness at times when the media focuses on child abuse issues, local awareness-raising campaigns, training activities across the professional community and political change, when support services may become increasingly stretched when funding is cut or reduced.

### **WORK OF THE PRACTICE MONITORING GROUP (PPMG)**

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After a difficult start the PPMG has finally started to consider a range of issues arising from the Child Protection Conference system and elsewhere. In particular, the Group has the responsibility of overseeing the thematic review into child neglect and, once completed, will have

the responsibility of ensuring the lessons learned are applied and monitored.

#### **Working to improve the consistency, quality and timeliness of agency reports**

Child Protection Conference processes. The key priorities for action arising from this work include a commitment to ensure that Child Protection processes are child centred and that there is demonstrable evidence of children's participation

The PPMG also monitors a range of key information relating to

and representation in the assessment and planning processes. Work will also be ongoing to increase the consistency, quality and timeliness of agency reports prepared for conference, and to address greater consistency regarding the recording of Core Group activity. The PPMG will oversee the implementation of a multi agency work plan to address these issues and will monitor success in achieving the objectives set.

One area of early success for the PPMG has been the rationalising of the paper work generated from Child Protection Conferences. The changes were in response to professionals from all agencies telling us that it was often difficult to get at the important information due to being swamped in a mass of paperwork. As a result, Conferences are now audio recorded and only a summary of the discussion, along with agency reports, and the recommendations are distributed. The evaluation of the changes has been positive.

### **SINGLE AND INTER-AGENCY TRAINING, INCLUDING SAFER RECRUITMENT**

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The CYSCB continues to offer a range of multi-agency training courses, linked to the delivery of Board objectives. All training courses have been reviewed, and a new training strategy has been drafted, to

reflect the Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance re-

issued in March 2010. Partner agencies continue to be well engaged with the training programme, with most organisations represented in the delegate profile, and trainers are released by their agencies to support training free of charge, for which CYSCB is grateful.

**Evaluations showed participants rated CYSCB training as 60%+ as Excellent, and 30%+ as Good**

Training Report Jan 2010 - End Dec 2010

- 22 multi-agency courses (not charged for), which attracted a total of 412 delegates
- 9 commissioned courses (charged) were delivered, raising £5,050 for CYSCB
- Delegate evaluations register satisfaction

- as 60%+ as Excellent, and 30%+ as Good
- 25 additional training events/sessions were delivered including multi-agency Safer Recruitment training, safeguarding sessions for LEA education advisers, and e-safety sessions for children, parents and professionals
- Close links have been forged with York St John University, with involvement in developing and delivering the Foundation Degree in Working with Children and Young People, supporting the School Improvement project for governors and providing input for 3rd year teaching students on safeguarding and professional practice.

#### Forward Planning

- Developing systems and processes for assuring the quality of single-agency safeguarding training (as required by Working Together 2010, chap 4)
- Developing and delivering new training and learning packages in 2011 in response to priorities identified by CYSCB, e.g. the findings from the neglect thematic review
- Developing processes to measure the long-term impact of training on practice
- Maintaining quality and consistency of learning opportunities, and engagement of partners in supporting delivery and attendance at training, in a challenging economic environment.

#### **CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL**

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The purpose of the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is to learn lessons and identify preventable factors at both national and local level, so that local and/or national action can then be taken to reduce the number of child deaths in the future.

Over the past year, nineteen deaths of children living in York were considered by the Panel in contrast to twelve reported during 2008/9. However, whilst representing an increase, the total number of fatalities across the county has remained more or less the same at fifty and forty-six each year respectively. Due to the small

cohort, it is difficult to identify patterns over such a small timescale. However, the issue of children dying as a result of unsafe sleeping arrangements continues to represent the single largest group of fatalities, especially when compounded by alcohol, drugs and smoking. In the two years from April 2008 to March 2010, there were nine deaths where the sleeping arrangements for the infants appeared to be an important factor. As a result of these findings the City of York and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Boards, in partnership with NHS North Yorkshire and York, embarked on a campaign to raise the awareness of all new parents across the county about safe sleeping for their babies.

For further information about the work of CDOP and the Rapid response process, please download the CDOP Annual Report from: <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/annual-reports.html>

#### **SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS, CURRENT AND PAST, AND LEARNING LESSONS REVIEWS**

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The CYSCB Serious Cases Panel is comprised of members from Police, Health, Children's Social Care, CYC Legal Services and NSPCC and also benefits from the attendance of the CYSCB Manager and Chair. In 2010 the Panel met on six occasions with an additional two extraordinary meetings to consider specific and urgent issues.

The first Extraordinary Meeting, in June 2010, identified the need for work on improving communication between CAF/CASS and the Local Authority, and work with CAF/CASS and the Courts to support the development of a joint protocol to manage atypical cases. The second Extraordinary Meeting, in September 2010, was held following the receipt of an 'inadequate' grading by Ofsted in relation to a Serious Case Review Overview Report, submitted to them in March 2010. An appeal was made but was not upheld.

During 2010, the Panel considered whether the criteria for a Serious Case Review or a Learning Lessons Review had been met in seven cases. In one case (that initially came to Panel in 2009) the criteria for Serious Case Review was met and the Executive Summary of the Review has now been

published. A further case, which also commenced in 2009, resulted in a Learning Lessons Review, the Executive Summary of which has been circulated to appropriate agencies. The Serious Cases Panel is monitoring the implementation of single agency and CYSCB action plans arising from these cases. Both involved neglect as a very significant theme, resulting in the neglect thematic review that the CYSCB is currently undertaking, and from which the Board expects to learn further lessons that will significantly improve practice.

The other five significant cases discussed by the Panel prompted actions and increase in knowledge, which have been disseminated to the appropriate agencies. In one particular case, the concerning practice related solely to another local authority, which subsequently decided to undertake its own Learning Lessons Review in relation to the case, and shared the outcome of that Review with the Panel.

In addition to considering referrals the Panel has looked at some Serious Case Reviews and Executive Summaries published by other Local Safeguarding Children Boards (since June 2010 all Serious Case Reviews have to be published in full), to ascertain if there were any implications for CYSCB and partner agencies, and has made recommendations to agencies where appropriate. The Panel has also reviewed the implications of the revised Chapter 8 of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 (DfES) and developed plans for how media interest in high profile York cases will be handled.

The Chair of the Panel remains grateful for the continued commitment to learning and improvement from all agencies, and in particular the commitment of the Panel members.

#### **PROGRESS ON BOARD'S PRIORITIES - NEGLECT THEMATIC REVIEW**

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In May 2010, following the completion of two reviews dealing with the issue of child neglect, the CYSCB embarked on an ambitious project with the undertaking of a thematic review into professional responses to neglect. Simply, the review is seeking to understand why

professionals find it difficult to identify neglect and respond effectively.

The single largest category of Child Protection Plans is for neglect, so there is a need to explore why the response to neglect is difficult. The evidence suggests that . Neglect is often chronic and incremental and as such professionals struggle to

**neglect is identified when an incident occurs, and at a stage when the problem is already**

recognise a slow deterioration in a child or mask the problem by for example,

feeding or clothing children rather than asking why they need professionals to clothe and feed them. Tackling parents can also be difficult, especially when the issue is about hygiene or other, what are typically considered, 'personal issues'.

The thematic review is looking at the issue in a number of different ways:

- Questionnaires are being used with professionals, asking them to assess their understanding of neglect.
- Focus groups are also being used to understand professionals' decision-making, focusing on a number of case studies.
- A random sample of cases is also being evaluated with the aim of understanding why and how decisions were made, and the impact of those decisions on outcomes.

The review is being managed by the Professional Practices Monitoring Group, which aims to complete its work by Summer 2011, with the CYSCB having committed itself to accepting the findings and, importantly, acting on any recommendations. If you feel you can help with the work, please contact [joe.cocker@york.gov.uk](mailto:joe.cocker@york.gov.uk)

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

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The CYSCB works to a Business Plan which sets out Board priorities and work areas, and can be viewed at [www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk](http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk). In planning its work, a balance must be achieved between maintaining key priority areas which

have already been developed, reviewing these in light of emerging knowledge, good practice and current resources; and, responding to new and emerging policy and challenges. Plans for the year include the following:

- **Child sexual abuse** continues to be a high priority for the Board, with an ongoing need to support practitioners in identifying and responding to victims of suspected sexual abuse, including via the internet. In the coming year, CYSCB plans to develop multi-agency responses to the needs of children and young people who sexually harm others.
- In line with national work, the Board has prioritised the issue of **child sexual exploitation** for local development, with a need to understand the ways in which young people are exploited, and develop good practice in preventing and intervening, including educating young people and carers.
- The recent Peer Review of safeguarding children services in York highlighted some gaps in co-ordinating responses when young people go missing from home or care. Relevant agencies will work together to ensure that a range of measures are put in place to minimise risk to affected young people.
- The Board has had success with the development of responses to the issues of **domestic abuse**, and the **safeguarding of disabled children**. Continuing work will take place to review and undertake further action as appropriate, e.g. raising awareness of domestic abuse in teenage relationships, and of the mental health needs of deaf children and young people.
- The CYSCB thematic review into neglect is due to report to the Board in Summer 2011, and will recommend a number of measures and actions to improve and enhance awareness, knowledge and practice in relation to neglect in the City.
- Finally, The Munro Review of Child Protection is due to report in May 2011. It is expected that the recommendations will be far reaching. The Board will review its work in light of

the findings and government responses.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

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The last year has seen a significant growth in the CYSCB budget with the contribution from all the schools in York to fund the unique post of Safeguarding Adviser (Schools), demonstrating the commitment of schools to safeguarding children.

Despite the increase in the CYSCB's budget, there remains an underlying shortfall in funding that has arisen as a result in the increasing demands placed on Local Safeguarding Children Boards over the past five years. Although the underlying deficit has existed for a number of years, it has been offset by savings in earlier years arising from unfilled posts.

Efficiency measures have been taken to lessen the shortfall, including a saving of almost £2,000 on the website following a move to the YorOk website, in addition to savings from identifying cost-effective training venues along with a reduction in printing costs. Additionally, income is being generated by the CYSCB providing external training and teaching, which in 2010/11 brought in over £5,000.

Despite the income generated and the savings, the Board's budget is projected to show a deficit in 2011/12.

For a full budget and projection please see the following page.

City of York Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2010/11

**BUDGET**

<u>Expenditure</u>	2009/10	2010/11 Projected Costs	2011/12 Projected Outturn (£)	<u>Income</u>	2009/10	2010/11 Projected Income	2011/12 Projected Outturn (£)
				<b>Balance B/fwd</b>	<b>24,484</b>	<b>18,300</b>	<b>15,252</b>
CYSCB Unit Staffing Costs	114,813	144,704	156,208	Children's Services: City of York	64,057	59,270	62,070
Training Budget	2,483	5,500	2,500	Health: Selby & York PCT	30,117	34,320	31,951
Information/Miscellaneous	9,444	10,000	10,000	Police: North Yorkshire Police	15,060	15,510	15,975
Chairing	4,994	6,500	5,000	Education/Early Years: City of York	14,900	14,900	14,900
Website	1,840	1,900	1,900	Probation: NY Probation Service	5,016	5,166	5,321
Recharges	18,840	18,840	18,840	Schools: for Safeguarding Advisor	15,000	50,000	50,000
Child Death Review Grant	15,020	15,020	15,020	Child Death Review Grant	14,550	14,550	
				CAFCASS	550	550	550
				Others:	2,000	5,150	5,150
	167,434	202,464	209,468		161,250	199,416	185,917
<b>Balance C/fwd</b>	<b>18,300</b>	<b>15,252</b>	<b>-8,299</b>				
			<b>201,169</b>				<b>201,169</b>

*Accessibility*

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**APPENDIX – BUSINESS PLAN**

**Mission Statement**

**What has been done so far?**

**What needs to be done?**

**DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES**

Objectives requiring significant input, including stakeholder engagement, to develop and deliver outcomes

<p>1. Ensure that children are safeguarded from <b>sexual exploitation</b> through the development and implementation of processes that raise professional awareness, develop practical intervention skills, and facilitate effective interagency working. Specific issues may include the vulnerability of children via the Internet, and to commercial sexual exploitation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training developed and ongoing within CYSCB training calendar</li> <li>• Interim procedure now complete</li> <li>• Lessons can be learned from other authorities via membership of the National Working Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene a stakeholder group to undertake/commission work to understand the nature and risk of sexual exploitation in City of York</li> <li>• Convene a NY &amp; Y working group</li> <li>• Develop York practice guidance</li> <li>• Ensure links to other relevant CYSCB objectives, e.g. E-safety, YP substance misuse</li> </ul>
<p>2. Ensure that <b>children whose parents or carers misuse substances or alcohol</b> are safeguarded from harm through the development and implementation of processes that raise professional awareness, develop practical intervention skills, and facilitate effective interagency working.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good links developed with some local services to take forward this work in the future</li> <li>• Interim procedure now complete</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-convene multi-agency stakeholder group to inform development of practice guidance and training (previous lack of capacity to take forward)</li> <li>• Develop training and awareness-raising targeted at key staff</li> </ul>
<p>3. Ensure that <b>children whose parents or carers suffer mental ill health</b> are safeguarded from harm through the development and implementation of processes that raise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim procedure now complete</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-convene multi-agency stakeholder group to inform development of practice guidance and training</li> <li>• Develop training and awareness-raising targeted at key staff</li> </ul>

Mission Statement	What has been done so far?	What needs to be done?
<p>professional awareness, develop practical intervention skills, and facilitate effective interagency working.</p>		
<p>4. Ensure that children are safeguarded from <b>sexual abuse</b>, and that appropriate actions are taken when children display sexually harmful behaviours through the development and implementation of processes that raise professional awareness, develop practical intervention skills, and facilitate effective interagency working.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim procedure now complete</li> <li>• Practice based, advanced training on child sexual abuse for targeted practitioners and managers</li> <li>• Multi-agency sexual abuse conference Dec 2008</li> <li>• NY &amp; Y multi-agency working group convened to look at processes and gaps where a child is displaying sexually harmful behaviours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further work on targeting training at key staff</li> <li>• Briefings and awareness raising on new procedures and particular reference to children who display sexually harmful behaviours</li> <li>• Explore means of providing services for children who harm</li> </ul>
<p>5. Ensure that children are safeguarded from the impact of <b>Neglect</b> through the development and implementation of processes that raise professional awareness, develop practical intervention skills, and facilitate effective interagency working.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thematic review into Neglect initiated using threshold testing vignettes</li> <li>• Review group established and meeting</li> <li>• Links to SCR panel established</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue thematic review - interviews and threshold analysis</li> <li>• Identify barriers and levers to good practice</li> <li>• Develop practice guidance re: Neglect</li> <li>• Develop and deliver training and briefings to identified staff re: Neglect</li> <li>• Develop QA processes to monitor progress re: responding to neglect</li> <li>• Further establish and develop links to promote enhanced awareness of dental health as an indicator of neglect with dental and other practitioners</li> </ul>
<p>6. Ensure that <b>schools are well placed to play their unique role in contributing to the safeguarding of children</b> from abuse and neglect</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding Advisor (Education) funded and appointed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

Mission Statement	What has been done so far?	What needs to be done?
<p>through the development and implementation of processes that raise professional awareness, develop practical intervention skills, and facilitate effective interagency working; and in meeting the Safeguarding requirements outlined by Ofsted</p>		
<p><b>MAINTENANCE OBJECTIVES</b>            Objectives where significant work has been undertaken, but which remain Board priorities and, therefore, require input to maintain</p>		
<p>7. Ensure children are safeguarded from the harm arising from <b>domestic abuse</b> through the development and implementation of processes that raise professional and public awareness and facilitate effective interagency working.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim procedure now complete</li> <li>• Guidance on domestic abuse in Allegations process</li> <li>• CYSCB is represented on the NY&amp;Y JCG and the York DATG</li> <li>• Domestic abuse developments and stats reported to each Board meeting</li> <li>• Training has been developed and is ongoing in CYSCB training calendar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that current activity is maintained</li> <li>• Keep CYSCB informed of relevant issues</li> <li>• Monitor developments and review activity as appropriate</li> </ul>
<p>8. Ensure that <b>disabled children and children with additional needs</b> are safeguarded from harm through the development and implementation of processes that raise professional awareness, develop practical intervention skills, and facilitate effective interagency working.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim procedure now complete</li> <li>• Multi-agency stakeholder group convened to inform policy and training development</li> <li>• Training reviewed in line with WT 2010 and Safeguarding Disabled Children Guidance and delivered 2010</li> <li>• Children's Society representative on CYSCB to ensure the issues re: disabled children are a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that current activity is maintained</li> <li>• Work with local and national agencies (e.g. Children's Society, National Deaf CAMHS) to ensure the safeguarding needs of disabled children are understood and promoted</li> <li>• Keep CYSCB informed of relevant issues</li> <li>• Monitor developments and review activity as appropriate</li> </ul>

Mission Statement	What has been done so far?	What needs to be done?
	continuing priority	
<p>9. Ensure that <b>children and young people who misuse substances or alcohol</b> are safeguarded from harm through the development and implementation of processes that raise professional awareness, develop practical intervention skills, and facilitate effective interagency working.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership of Young People's Substance Misuse Steering Group</li> <li>• Working group identified to develop training for targeted staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convene multi-agency stakeholder group to inform development of procedure, practice guidance and training</li> </ul>
<p><b>CORE OBJECTIVES</b> Objectives required to ensure the ongoing functioning of the Board</p>		
<p>10. Ensure that the Board develops and delivers <b>training</b> that complies with national guidance and effectively promotes the CYSCB objectives to the wider professional community. This includes specialist training to school communities to support safeguarding and Ofsted requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core training has been reviewed in line with WT 2010</li> <li>• The training calendar for 2011 has been agreed and published on the website</li> <li>• Evaluation of training for 2010 has been completed</li> <li>• Head teachers briefings developed and delivered</li> <li>• Governor training (for YSJ school improvement module) developed and delivered</li> <li>• Child protection designated teachers identified and surveyed re: training needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and deliver, or commission (cost permitting) additional specialist, targeted training to meet Board priorities for 2011, including dissemination of Neglect findings</li> <li>• Develop and implement post training processes to monitor the impact of training on practice</li> <li>• Develop and deliver rolling programme of updates for child protection designated leads within schools</li> <li>• Ensure that current activity is maintained</li> </ul>
<p>11. Ensuring the Board has an <b>understanding of unexpected child deaths</b> in the City of York by providing a rapid response by key professionals for the purpose of evaluating all unexpected child deaths via the development and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The joint CYSCB/NYSCB panel established and has produced first annual report</li> <li>• Safe sleeping campaign launched and materials distributed in response to CDOP findings re: co-sleeping risk to young babies</li> <li>• Better Beginnings seminar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Government plans re: the existence and role of CDOP and respond appropriately</li> </ul>

Mission Statement	What has been done so far?	What needs to be done?
<p>implementation of a Child Death Overview Panel, jointly with North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board.</p>	<p>organised for targeted practitioners re: sudden infant deaths &amp; sleeping</p>	
<p>12. Ensure that children are safeguarded from <b>abuse perpetrated by childcare workers, foster carers and volunteers</b> through the development and implementation of processes that ensure safe working environments and effective interventions and which facilitate interagency working.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedure now complete</li> <li>• Safeguarding Advisor (Education) funded and appointed to increase capacity to respond effectively to Education allegations</li> <li>• Safer Recruitment training delivered 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor Government plans re: the allegations process, and respond appropriately</li> </ul>
<p>13. Review and where necessary amend <b>interagency guidance and procedures</b> to reflect changes contained within national guidance and legislation. Specifically to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead to a clear separation between procedure and guidance</li> <li>• Seek to work in cooperation with North Yorkshire SCB to ensure cross boundary consistency</li> <li>• Develop quality assurance standards to facilitate the measurement of compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim procedure now complete</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify, develop and implement any additional procedures, policy and practice guidance to meet Board objectives and identified local need</li> <li>• Continue to work jointly with the NYSCB to ensure cross-boundary consistency</li> </ul>
<p>14. Review and agree the <b>CYSCB financing</b> arrangements to reflect the additional requirements and responsibilities of the Board and to provide continuity of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional funding secured to appoint Safeguarding Advisor (Education)</li> <li>• Additional income generation of £5,050 raised in 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CYSCB budget is projected to go into deficit in 2011 – action is required</li> </ul>

Mission Statement	What has been done so far?	What needs to be done?
resources.		
<p>15. Ensure <b>consistency and independence of decision-making in the child protection conference process (CPC)</b>. Specifically to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit application of intervention thresholds in CPC, analysis and decision making</li> <li>• Develop strong and clear lines of accountability between conference chairs and the CYSCB</li> <li>• Ensure QA function of conference chairs</li> <li>• Develop standards and criteria to measure quality and facilitate good practice at CPCs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Practice monitoring group established</li> <li>• Standards developed in respect of child protection conferences ensuring the monitoring of quality, and regular reports to CYSCB</li> <li>• Specialist training in Contributing Effectively in Child Protection Processes developed and delivered through 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that current activity is maintained</li> </ul>
<p>16. Develop a <b>quality assurance strategy</b> to improve child-safeguarding practice by informing current and future work of the CYSCB. To include quantitative and qualitative measures, be outcome focussed, specifically monitor effectiveness of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CYSCB functions and outputs</li> <li>• The CYSCB Unit</li> <li>• Interagency safeguarding practices and arrangements</li> <li>• Agency safeguarding practice</li> <li>• Child protection conferences and reviews</li> <li>• Serious Case Review action plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Practice monitoring group established . The purpose of the group is to oversee and monitor the CP conference processes to ensure CYSCB standards are being maintained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that current activity is maintained</li> <li>• Respond to identified quality issues</li> <li>• Identify, develop and implement process to quality assure any future activities</li> </ul>

