

Safeguarding Children



News from City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership | March 2020

Welcome

After 6 years as Independent Chair this is my last foreword as the safeguarding partners have chosen to develop a new model of independent scrutiny next year.



I want to thank all the people who have contributed to safeguarding children in York during my time here.

Organisational culture guides decisions and actions in practice and has an impact on effectiveness. The role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of the multi-agency arrangements. I wish the partnership well for the future.

As an early adopter of the new safeguarding arrangements we have continued to work with the University of York St John, NSPCC and young people from York schools developing a guide on safety and social media, you will hear more of progress next year.

Always be open to learning, encourage professional curiosity and try to put the child at the centre of your work.

Simon Westwood

Independent Chair of City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership

Managing Injuries to children who are not mobile

An updated version of Practice Guidance - [Managing Injuries to non-independently mobile children](#) is now available. This guidance provides all professionals working with children and families with a knowledge base and strategy for the assessment and management of children who are not independently mobile and present with injuries or bruising.

A standalone information leaflet is also available – [Information guide for professionals to give to parents re Managing Injuries to Non-Independently Mobile Children](#) which supports practitioners in explaining to parents why the referral to CSC and the paediatric assessment is necessary.



Missing from Care

A [new leaflet](#) has been designed by children to explain the importance of an independent return interview when returning home after being missing from care. The leaflet explains the independent support available to these young people.

Keep up to date with our work at www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk and via twitter on @YorkSCP

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

Last April York's Youth Justice Service (YJS) launched a Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Service to work with young people who had been identified as presenting with HSB issues, but that had not resulted in a police investigation or prosecution.

Government findings indicate that those young people offered early intervention benefit from the child-centred approach of youth justice practitioners and their chances of rehabilitation improve. Nationally recognised identification, assessment and intervention tools e.g. Brook Traffic light tool and AIM 3 are used.

This intervention can enable young people to adopt a healthy development pathway and proceed to make healthy future relationships.

For further information, please contact: ross.holden@york.gov.uk

Learning Lessons Review

The CYSCP has arranged some multi-agency workshops sessions sharing the learning from a recent Learning Lessons Review in York on harmful sexual behaviour and learning disabilities.

The sessions are open to any practitioners and volunteers, in York, who regularly work with children and young people directly or indirectly and have particular responsibilities for safeguarding children.

Thursday	19 March	14.00-16.00
Monday	23 March	14.00-16.00
Friday	3 April	09.30-11.30
Tuesday	7 April	09.30-11.30
Thursday	16 April	09.30-11.30

Bookings can be made via the MyLO system at york.learningpool.com

All sessions will be held at West Offices, York.

New email address

The contact details for the City of York Safeguarding Children's Partnership (CYSCP) has now changed.

The email address for the CYSCP is now:

cyscp@york.gov.uk

Please update your records accordingly.

Seven Point Briefing - Learning from Practice

Multi Agency learning from the case of Baby L has now been formatted into a [Seven Point Briefing](#).

Agencies are encouraged to promote this learning within their own organisations.

Was not brought

Safeguarding partners in Nottingham have commissioned an animation to encourage practitioners to identify children as 'Was Not Brought' as opposed to 'Did Not Attend' when referring to them not being presented at medical appointments.

It is important for medical professionals to have policies and procedures in place that clarify what they should do if a child is not brought to a medical appointment.

Non-attendance should not only be coded correctly but also trigger an appropriate response, such as a follow-up phone call.

The [animation](#) is a powerful reminder that children do not take themselves to appointments; they have to be taken by parents or carers. The animation encourages practitioners to reflect on the impact that missed appointments have on a child's wellbeing.



WAS NOT BROUGHT

Make your mark

Make Your Mark is a national ballot in which young people aged 11-18 vote on the issues that matters most to them. This year, 4586 young people from across York took part.



The top 3 topics voted for in York were:

1. Protect the environment (2719 votes)
2. Votes at 16 (580 votes)
3. Tackling hate crime (529 votes)

The top 3 voted topics for the devolved issues in York were:

1. Putting an end to knife crime (1525 votes)
2. Mental health (1214 votes)
3. Curriculum to prepare us for life (856 votes)

York Youth Council will create a campaign to help protect the environment.

Copies of the survey are available from yorkyouthcouncil@york.gov.uk



Learning from national reviews

Simon Westwood, our Independent Chair encourages you to take time to read the recently published national reports which highlight learning from case reviews the links are below:

[Briefing for Local Safeguarding Partnerships](#)

[Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel: 2018 to 2019](#)

It is important that locally the partnership reflects on how to implement the learning from these.

Keep up to date with our work at www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk and via twitter on [@YorkSCP](https://twitter.com/YorkSCP)

Prevent update

Safer York Partnership has updated the Prevent guidance for Working with Individuals Vulnerable to Extremism.

In January the [City of York Guidance](#), [Channel Referral Process](#) and [Referral form](#) were updated on the [CYSCP website](#).

If you think that a child or young person is vulnerable to extremism/ radicalisation or exhibiting behaviour or making comments that suggest he/she may be involved in activity which could be linked to terrorism, you need to follow the safeguarding guidance in regard to being concerned about a child.

Talk to your designated safeguarding lead and making an enquiry to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), formerly known as the Children's Front Door. Please note that the same contact details apply.

Refugee Action York

Refugee Action York (RAY) is a registered charity which aims to advance education and relieve financial hardship amongst migrants, those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status. It also aims to advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

Services include:

- **The Hub:** A drop-in for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants offering language classes, children's activities, an information service & shared meal
- **4Corners:** A youth group for children from these communities, offering access to sport, games and youth leadership training
- **One to one Mentoring** project for older teens
- A weekly midweek **Coffee & Conversation Morning**
- A weekly **Men's Group**, with games and social activities
- A **Welcome to Work pre-employment project**, to develop confidence and skills towards voluntary work, training and employment
- A **hardship fund**, used to support destitute service users

Further information can be found at www.refugeeactionyork.org



Mind your Language

In 2018 Show Me That I Matter (York's Children in Care Council) took part in a national campaign by TACT Fostering and Adoption to challenge the way professionals talk about children in care.

The young people explained that professionals often use language which they are unhappy with and wanted to do something to challenge this in York. They created a series of cards with the words that they would like to encourage professionals to use. The cards identify the four words they have chosen and why, these are:

- 'Child or young person in care' instead of LAC
- 'Stayover' instead of respite
- 'Seeing my family' instead of contact
- 'Home' instead of placement

The electronic cards are available for any services who work with children and young people by contacting showmethatimatter@york.gov.uk

York Young Person's Drug & Alcohol Team

The team provides support to young people to reduce the harm that drugs and alcohol can cause, at a mutually convenient place and time. The approach used is flexible and referrals can be made by the young people themselves, by family, friends and other professionals. The only requirement is that the young person is aware the referral is being made and they are willing to meet. All aspects of the service is free to access.

Support may include:

- 1:1 support for under 18s using substances or for under 18s affected by someone else's substance use
- 1:1 support for people aged 18-21 using substances to support the transition to adult services
- Drug & alcohol education to schools, colleges & universities
- Free drug & alcohol awareness training for professionals.

A referral form and poster are available [online](#).

Keep up to date with our work at www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk and via twitter on  [@YorkSCP](https://twitter.com/YorkSCP)

If you are concerned about a child:

If you think that a child or young person is being abused or neglected you must inform Children's Social Care or the police.

To report concerns to Children's Social Care you can do so:

- By phone – one phone number for all concerns and enquiries: 01904 551900
- By email – one email address: childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk
- Using a referral form available here: www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/concerned-about-a-child-or-young-person.htm
- By letter – Children's Social Care, City of York Council, West Office, York YO1 6GA
- Outside office hours, at weekends and on public holidays contact the Emergency Duty Team telephone: 01609 780780.

