

## Safeguarding Development Officer (SDO): Juliet Burton

### Progress report

October - December 2014

#### The brief:

To ensure that the Children's Safeguarding Board and other key partnership boards are supported through the development and delivery of an effective multi agency performance and outcomes framework, ensuring it is efficient, effective and responsive to organisational and partnership needs and underpinned by legislation, best practice and guidance.

To support the Chair of the Safeguarding Board and senior managers in implementing the new Working Together safeguarding guidance and in meeting new Ofsted safeguarding inspection standards.

#### City of York Safeguarding Children Board:

A draft **CYSCB Learning and Improvement Framework** has been created, incorporating all elements and tools of quality assurance: audits, surveys, reviews, SCRs, the CYSCB data set and other methods of assessing and evaluating impact and outcomes. This, along with an executive summary and a draft performance reporting cycle will be considered by a newly created CYSCB Performance & Learning sub-group in January. The sub-group will also finalise draft terms of reference.

**Discussions have taken place with partners** at senior level including: Health (Trust, public health and commissioners), North Yorkshire Police, voluntary sector, Children's Social Care, IROs, Integrated Family Service, Children's Centres, Youth Support, YOT, MIS, Customer Feedback Centre, etc. and agreements reached about named contacts to provide information and data on a quarterly (or annual where appropriate) basis. A monitoring score card will go out to the named contacts at the end of each quarter for data, information and analysis. Partners have also agreed to provide information to the Board on findings from relevant internal audits, surveys, inspections and reviews along with any evidence of children and young people's voices being heard. Information is also being provided from the CYSCB multi-agency case file audits and the findings from these. A full report is expected on this from the CYSCB Manager when the current theme of neglect is completed. Early findings suggest that systematic robust collaboration on assessment processes (both early help and statutory) would avoid the occurrence of duplication, overlap or even, at times, unrelated assessment of single issues, and would enhance the experience both for children and for practitioners.

The **first 'data run' in January 2014** will provide information which will be evaluated and analysed for issues, trends and exceptions, by the Safeguarding Development Officer (SDO) along with the safeguarding Unit.

In the meantime the framework and discussions have shown up **data, issues and trends in regard to:**

- children who go missing from home
- the increasing number of reports re children who witness domestic violence
- the necessity for the creation of robust data around Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- the necessity for further data and information around CIN and CP including information around health needs and the categories of referrals (e.g. domestic violence, parental substance misuse etc.)
- systems to record the 'voice of the child' and service development in response to these.

The SDO has highlighted these to the Unit and reports to the Board on the first two have been commissioned for January.

Other gaps in available data and information and areas for development will be further highlighted after the first 'data run' in January 2014 and will be followed up by the SDO.

The maintenance of these agreements from partners to keep the CYSCB informed, will be supported, challenged and monitored by the **newly established CYSCB Performance & Learning sub-group** in line with a **reporting cycle** which includes the Safeguarding Board, the Executive and the Unit. This group will be supported by the Unit and the SDO.

A Section 11 challenge event, organised by the Safeguarding Unit from CYC and NYCC, is due to take place jointly with North Yorkshire Safeguarding Board on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Section 11 audits have taken place individually on behalf of each Board and partners (many of whom service both local authorities) will meet to discuss the outcomes of this audit and to share their responses and good practice. The rationale for the joint event is in terms of the commonality of several key partners and in the spirit of cross boundary co-operation. This event will give further information in regard to partners safeguarding practice and possible areas for attention.

#### **Early Intervention:**

An **Early Intervention Outcomes Framework** has been developed which will support and complement the new Early Help Strategy. Data and information discussions in relation to the requirements of the Safeguarding Board has provided some useful data on outcomes from early help interventions and further data and outcomes information is being sought.

#### **Surveys:**

**Two 'state of the sector surveys'** have been carried out. One was with the V019CE community supported by CVS and the other with all individuals from agencies signed up with FIS and YorOk. The questions range from safeguarding policies, confidence in regard to concerns about children and confidence in regard to integrated working and the lead practitioner role. Further questions have been asked about how services evidence outcomes for their interventions and respond to the 'voice of the child'. A full analysis and report on both of these will be forthcoming in due course but in the meantime, where merited, individual responses are being followed up with the offer of training and with the request for more information on outcomes, impact and the 'voice of the child'.

#### **JSNA:**

Research and a draft report on the **Safeguarding Children Profile section of the JSNA** has been completed. Again research into this has highlighted key areas for attention such as domestic violence and children missing from home, along with correlations between areas of economic deprivation and children with a child protection plan.

#### **Challenges for 2014:**

Tasks and challenges for 2014 include (among others):

- Finalisation and adoption of Learning & Improvement Framework and reporting cycle by CYSCB.
- Full establishment of Performance & Learning sub-group, agreement on terms of reference and identification of chair of this group.
- Introduction and active support to the new chair of the CYSCB in his efforts to implement significantly enhanced levels of accountability and a change in the culture of the Board.

- Further embedding of a robust reporting cycle from all partners and reporting between the elements of the CYSCB, namely: Unit, sub-groups, Board and Executive.
- Continuing ongoing evaluation and analysis of reports, information and data from partners with trends, issues and exceptions highlighted for follow up by the Board.
- Further collection, evaluation and analysis of early help outcomes and impact data
- Readiness for possible (and inevitable) Ofsted Inspection of Children in Need of Early Help and Safeguarding (including LCSBs)
- Support and challenge to partners to enable/encourage them to report on key issues such as health and education needs of children with a CAF, CIN and CPP.
- Support to project engaging partners in the development of systems to hear the voice of children, young people and parents and to design services in response to these.
- The creation - with partners – along with support to partners in using surveys to ascertain staff and customer satisfaction with services support and supervision.
- Further case file audits both multi-agency and support to partners to carry out single agency case file audits and report on the findings.
- Broader developmental activity designed to improve the coordination and provision of support to a wider range of partnership Boards through the Children’s Trust Unit.

and support and involvement in:

- Thematic reviews, ‘deep dive’ exercises and other research and learning activities as requested.

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December 2014