



City of York
Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report 2018/19

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1. Foreword – Independent Chair



In my first Annual Report in 2014, I said I was struck by the commitment to continuous improvement in York and that the culture here is child-centred, open and transparent. In my second report I said that partnership working was very strong in operational practice and strategic oversight. I am pleased to say that my view remains the same. Also, the Joint Targeted Area Inspection published in December 2018 confirmed the partnership demonstrates a commitment to shared learning and improvement that is characterised by robust but professional challenge.

I hope that this will be sustained as the Safeguarding Board ends and the new Safeguarding Partnership is established.

2018/19 has been a period of significant change as we developed and implemented a new partnership structure, with many membership changes. I specifically want to record thanks to Juliet Burton our Business Manager and the staff who support her for keeping a focus on improvement through a period of positive change.

I am pleased to have been appointed by City of York Council, North Yorkshire Police and the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group to continue as the Independent Advisor to the new Safeguarding Partnership for 2019/20 to assist in embedding the new safeguarding arrangements required by Government.

The continuing challenge for 2019/20 will be to embed the new safeguarding arrangements without losing sight of what matters – the safeguarding of children in York.

In 2018/19 CYSCB has heard that young people are asking for a focus on their wellbeing and on their mental health. CYSCB has challenged the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Strategic Partnership for Mental Health to address this and will be pursuing this through 2019/20.

During the year the local authority experienced a period of significant turnover in key middle and senior management posts in Children's Services and we welcomed a new Assistant Director and Director to the Board membership. The JTAI commented that significant stability has been maintained in key areas of business during this time, though the changes have meant that progress in some areas has not been as fast or scrutiny as consistent as planned.

The new Director has developed a plan for continuous improvement which will be implemented through 2019/20. To support this the CYPSP performance monitoring dashboard will be revised to ensure effective challenge of children's social care performance.

Local agencies continue to share a strong common commitment to providing services that are child focused.

Finally, I would like to thank frontline staff and managers in all agencies across York for their resilience and continued work in safeguarding children.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Westwood'.

Simon Westwood
Independent Chair

2. Introduction

For CYSCB, 2018/19 has been about keeping a focus on what matters: safeguarding children in York, while at the same time finalising and implementing the arrangements required by Government to become the new City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership (CYSCP or the 'Partnership') in line with the Children & Social Work Act 2017 and the statutory guidance in [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018](#)¹ (WT 2018). The new arrangements are initiated on 1 April 2019 so we are pleased to present this report on the activity of the final year of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) from April 2018 to March 2019.

The current version of Working Together was published in July 2018. As CYSCB remained an LSCB until April 2019, this Annual Report is written in accordance with the requirements of the previous Working Together 2015 to report on: *'the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area'*

Whilst this report cannot comment on how effective the arrangements for the new Partnership have been (as required under WT 2018) there are elements in this report which take into account the requirements of WT 2018 of a safeguarding partners' annual report.

In December 2016 the Ofsted Review of CYSCB found the Board to be only the second 'Outstanding' LSCB in the country. In September 2018 a [Joint Targeted Area Inspection \(JTAI\) \(on Sexual Abuse within the Family\)](#), described the Board to be 'effective' and influential²:

'The inspectors ... evaluated the effectiveness of the multi-agency leadership and management ..., including the role played by the local safeguarding children board (LSCB).

Local agencies share a strong common commitment to providing services that are child focused. Modelled powerfully by the effective LSCB, this approach is shared across the partnership. The partnership demonstrates a commitment to shared learning and improvement that is characterised by robust but professional challenge. Increasingly good working relationships between agencies and their staff, from the frontline to a strategic level, underpin work with children in York when it is at its best.'

CYSCB has continued to work hard with the new statutory safeguarding partners: City of York Council, North Yorkshire Police and the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group, to ensure that the new Safeguarding Partnership arrangements from April 2019 are just as effective.

In this Annual Report we have endeavoured to refer the reader to other reports and sources of safeguarding information where relevant so you will find links to these throughout.

Our website³ also contains a wealth of information and we publish a quarterly newsletter to which you can subscribe by [contacting us](#)⁴ from the website. CYSCB provides daily updates on local and national news, resources, initiatives, policy and guidance which you can find by following us on Twitter [@YorkSCP](#)⁵

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

² <https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50037488>

³ <https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/>

⁴ <https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/contact-us.htm>

⁵ <https://twitter.com/YorkSCP>

3. About York

York 2018 Facts and Figures

The total population of York 2018 was **209,893**¹



36,572 (17.4%) are children and young people aged 0 - 17 years

69 schools:

- 31 Academies
- 51 Primary Schools
- 9 Secondary Schools
- 6 Independent Schools
- 1 Pupil Referral Unit
- 2 Special Schools

74.8% of children achieved a good level of development at the end of Reception, higher than the regional average of 69.5% and the national average of 71.5% (2017-18)²



49.7% of children attained an average GCSE score of 8, compared to 45.3% regionally and 46.7% nationally (2017-18)²

3.8% of 16-17 year olds are not in education, employment or training (NEET), lower than the regional average of 5.8% and the national average of 6.0% (2017)²

3.4% infant mortality compared to 4.1% regionally and 3.9% nationally (2017)²



92.3% of 2 year olds have had their first MMR vaccine (2018)³



1.2%

of adults are claiming benefits compared to 3.1% regionally and 2.8% nationally (2019)⁴

208

children in care



0.6%

of households with dependent children or pregnant women are homeless compared to 1.0% regionally and 1.7% nationally (2018)²

7.4%

of all school children have free school meals, compared to 15.5% regionally and 13.5% nationally (2018)²

161

children on Child Protection Plans

1.9%

of school pupils with social, emotional or mental health needs (2018)²

²<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/child-health-profiles>

³<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cover-of-vaccination-evaluated-rapidly-cover-programme-2018-to-2019-quarterly-data>

⁴<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/unemployment/datasets/claimantcountbyunitaryandlocalauthorityexperimental>

⁵<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/characteristics-of-children-in-need-2017-to-2018>

4. What Children and Young People Have Told Us

The CYSCB has a specific sub-group, the Voice & Involvement Group (VOIG) comprising of managers and front line practitioners in order to pose direct challenge to agencies about what they do to hear the 'voice of the child' and to respond to it. In addition, every CYSCB sub-group is required to report in their Highlight Reports each quarter on how they have considered the 'voice of the child' in their work. And partners are held to account on their agency or organisation's approach to the voice of the child by their Single Agency Assurance reports to the Board. In this ways, CYSCB can be sure that consciousness of what children and young people are experiencing and saying (by whatever means) runs throughout the CYSCB Business Plan.

Here is some of what partners have told us in 2018/19:

- High numbers of young people (85% of children in care who were surveyed) reported knowing how to contact their social worker and an increasing number (76%) knew who to contact if their social worker was unavailable – Local Authority Children's Social Care.
- The way of working ensures that the voice of those young people whose cases move from Children's Services to Adult Services is central to any social work intervention – Local Authority Adult Services.
- The Children and Families Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) is developing a new app called 'Voice of the Child'. This has been designed for use with children in a wide range of circumstances to help them express their wishes and feelings, and will be particularly useful in cases where there are additional challenges around communicating with the child – CAFCASS.
- The National Health Service England (NHSE) has now launched 'Seen and Heard'⁶ to raise awareness with over 750,000 professionals and train them to:
 - Understand what it is like to be a young person who might have 'something to tell'
 - Be aware of what young people need so that they feel like they can talk
 - Make sure those young people are seen and heard
 - Know what to do if a young person makes a disclosure
- North Yorkshire Police (NYP) officers, staff and volunteers continue to develop a culture that ensures that children are listened to and respected as individuals. (This was confirmed by the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) in September 2018.).
- All assessments within the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are child focused – Tees and Esk Wear Valley NHS Trust.
- Following consultation with children and young people, the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has introduced health passports for all children in care and new materials to support children and young people in making informed choices regarding engagement in health assessments.
- Attention paid by York Teaching Hospital to capture the voice of the child was highlighted by inspectors during the 2018 JTAI. Children's feedback is captured in

⁶ <https://learning.seenandheard.org.uk/>

verbal and written form and suggestions clearly displayed in the Child Sexual Abuse Assessment Centre and in areas where children receive general care.

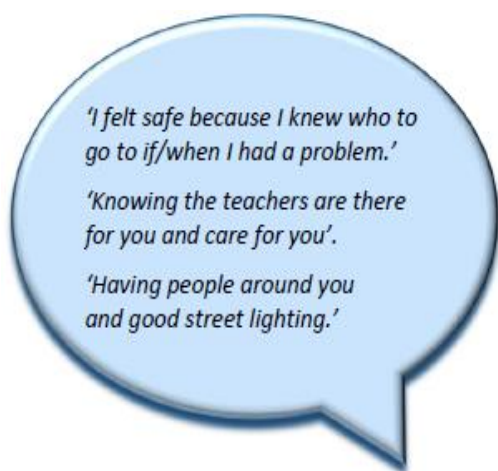
In 2018/19 CYSCB has heard from partners that young people have asked for a focus on their mental health and wellbeing. CYSCB has challenged the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Strategic Partnership for Mental Health to address this and will be pursuing this through 2019/20.

CYSCB has a direct dialogue with the [Show Me That I Matter \(SMTIM\)](https://www.showmethatimatter.com/) (Children In Care Group)⁷, the I Still Matter (Children In Care Council), the [York Youth Council](https://yorkyouthcouncil.com/)⁸ and the YOT Youth Group and has asked these young people, along with the young people in the SEND 'Action4All' group:

- What made you feel safe in 2018/19?
- What is important to help you feel safe in 2019/20?

This is just some of what they told us:

What made young people feel safe in 2018/19



'I felt safe because I knew who to go to if/when I had a problem.'

'Security of having own flat, good support network, 'pathway' support'

'Knowing the teachers are there for you and care for you'

'Having people around you and good street lighting.'

'A shared understanding of what you can and can't do which you learn at school and from people at home.'

What is important to help young people feel safe in 2019/20

'To help me feel safe the reassurance of having someone there for me and not judge me will help'.

'What everyone does already is good enough otherwise I wouldn't be there anymore.'

'It's important to make us feel safe by making it clear to us who is there for us to talk to and maybe how to deal with stuff on our own.'

'Technology is the future.'

'Knowing that the police are there to keep you safe.'

'More lessons at school about staying safe.'



⁷ <https://www.showmethatimatter.com/>

⁸ <https://yorkyouthcouncil.com/>

5. How We Are Doing As A Board/Partnership

The priorities for the Board for 2018/19 have included:

- Early help
- Neglect
- Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
- Children Missing from Home, Care and School
- Domestic Abuse

but within and in addition to these, CYSCB considers a host of issues which affect children and young people including: County Lines, Trafficking and Modern Slavery. There will be a particular focus on **Harmful Sexual Behaviour** in the year ahead. Partners are challenged to report on these issues via the sub-groups, audits and in Single Agency Assurance Reports to the Board.

This chapter outlines just some of the work of the Board and our partners during 2018/19.

Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (of any kind) has been, and continues to be, a key priority for CYSCB and for the new Partnership. The sub-group includes a focus on any form of child criminal exploitation, not just sexual exploitation.

The Partnership considers exploitation in the context of children missing from home, care and education as we are aware that this group of children and young people are particularly vulnerable to this kind of abuse.

During the year the CYSCB has:

- Continued to develop a dedicated page on our website for [CSA and CSE](#)⁹ with links to guidance (national and local) and to research.
- Published [revised guidance on CSA&E](#) and, with our colleagues in North Yorkshire, on [Children Missing from Home & Care](#)¹⁰
- Published a [CSE Screening Tool](#) which, during 2019, will be adapted and expanded to enable practitioners to make decisions about their concerns in relation to any form of child criminal exploitation.

Children's Social Care Return

Interviews: Having challenged Children's Social Care (CSC) on the low percentage of Return Interviews taking place with children and young people who have been reported as missing, CYSCB is pleased to see the increase in the offer to, and take up of, Return Interviews by



⁹ <https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/child-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation.htm>

¹⁰ <https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/missing-children.htm>

these young people. The Board appreciates that young people may sometimes decline the interview but these interviews can provide crucial information about what is going on in a young person's life and wider information about the themes and issues affecting young people. The Senior Social Work lead for Exploitation and Missing from Home reports to every CSA&E Sub-group meeting on progress with these Return Interviews. She also reports on the outcomes which are protecting vulnerable children via the additional processes in place such as Multi-Agency Child Sexual Exploitation Meetings (MACEM) and the Trusted Relationships programme (more details below).

Children Missing from School

Children Missing from School are recognised as potentially vulnerable to exploitation of all kinds and the CYSCB has been interested to see how the numbers of children missing from school has changed since new [statutory guidance](#)¹¹ was introduced in 2016/17. This guidance has resulted in an increase in schools reporting children as missing from education when confirmation of transfers to new schools was expected but had not been received on the first day of term. CYSCB has been assured that every case where there is a concern is discussed with Children's Social Care. There have been no specific concerns about any of these children in 2018/19.

Early Help

The CYSCB Early Help Partnership reports to both CYSCB and to the [YorOk \(Children's Trust\) Board](#)¹².

During 2018/19 the group has:

- Shared case studies highlighting a number of complex issues for young people to learn about how early help interventions have impacted on these young people's lives.
- Developed new Terms of Reference in response to changing need and review of ongoing Early Help Services.
- Carried out a survey of Early Help support across the city.

The increasing demand on the Children's Front Door and Children's Social Care has led to a review of early help services and the interface with Children's Social Care. 2019/20 will see a remodelling of the Children's Front Door led by a 'task and finish' group which will introduce new tools and assessment processes to ensure that children and young people receive the right service at the right level at the right time.

Key themes were identified from the Early Help Survey which the 'task and finish' group and the Early Help Partnership will be carrying forward:

- Self-reported identification of individual need appears strong. However responses suggest wider population-based needs and analysis is more limited.
- A broad range of different tools are used by agencies. A further piece of work could be considered to make more use of common tools.

¹¹<https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/2014%20YorOK%20Website/Downloads%20Old/SaferChildrenYork/Children%20Missing%20Education%20-%20statutory%20guidance.pdf>

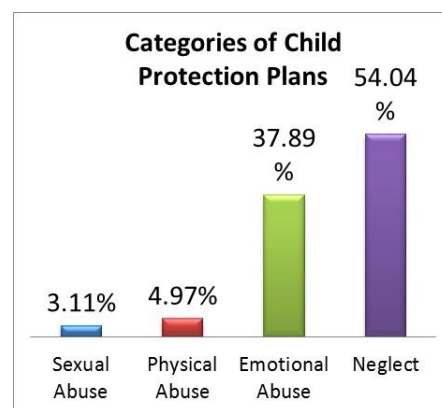
¹² <https://www.yor-ok.org.uk/workforce2014/Dream%20again%20and%20YorOK%20Board/yorok-board.htm>

- Self-reported understanding of roles within early help is encouraging but emphasises the importance of training, wider workforce engagement and understanding of wider early help provision.
- Improved information sharing across multi-agency partners is an ongoing task.

The Early Help Partnership is challenged with understanding the impact of early help and partner agencies will be asked to respond to another survey in 2019/20 on the impact of early help services from their agency's perspective.

Child and Adolescent Neglect

Child and adolescent neglect has been a significant priority for CYSCB for some time. The percentage of children on Child Protection Plans (CPPs) under the category of neglect remains the highest of all the categories. There are many different kinds of neglect associated with all kinds of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES¹³) including: domestic abuse, parental substance and alcohol misuse. The neglect category for CPPs covers all of these.



The CYSCB Neglect Sub-group has:

- Created, actioned and reviewed a Delivery Plan on the back of the Multi-agency Neglect Strategy which has been renewed for 2019-22.
- Developed a Multi-agency Neglect Screening Tool for use by all practitioners.
- Commissioned a 'deep dive' into the underlying factors in Child Protection Plans under the category of Neglect. The most prevalent factors affecting children who were deemed as at risk of neglect were Parental Mental Illness and Domestic Abuse.
- Monitored the implementation by health colleagues of 'Was Not Brought', rather than 'Did Not Attend', recorded, for all children in relation to missed health appointments. This has now rolled out to all health providers and will be embedded in the Local Authority's Healthy Child Service practice during 2019.
- Promoted attention on dental neglect and the importance of dentists recognising the signs. This has now been picked up by the Public Health Oral Health Advisory Group.
- Carried out a survey in September/October 2018 to gauge practitioner awareness of the Graded Care Profile – a neglect assessment tool. On the back of this multi-agency Neglect training has been enhanced and awareness has been raised.

CYSCB has challenged the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Strategic Partnership for Mental Health to address the impact of parental mental illness on children as a priority. During 2019, the new Safeguarding Children Partnership will, once again, promote the PAMIC tool (a tool for assessing that impact) across both children's and adults' services.

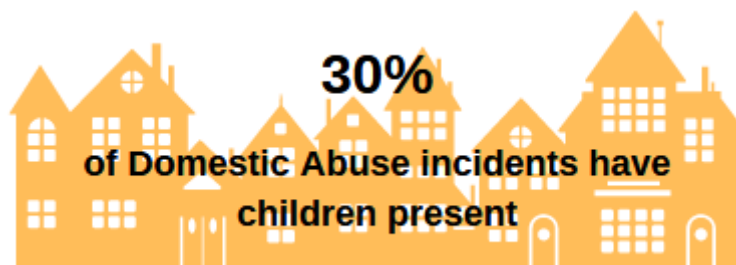
There is a dedicated [Neglect webpage](#)¹⁴ on which the Multi-agency Neglect Strategy and the [Neglect Screening Tool](#) can be found along with much more information about child and adolescent neglect.

¹³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHgLYI9KZ-A>

¹⁴ <https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/neglect.htm>

Domestic Abuse

We know that there are children present at around 30% of Domestic Abuse incidents attended by the police in York. Domestic Abuse still remains as a key factor for children subject to Child Protection Plans. The CYSCB challenged colleagues on the [Safer York Partnership](#) to recognise the impact of Domestic Abuse (DA) on children and young people and to respond with an action plan and a clear direction in the [York & North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018-22](#)¹⁵. Discussion also took place in the Inter-Board Network meetings (see below).



In October 2018 the Safer York Partnership reported to the CYSCB with their response and actions:

- Commissioning of new services is currently taking place and contracts will be for at least 49 months rather than short term as they have been previously.
- The Joint Coordination Group (JCG) for York and North Yorkshire is leading on work to improve the capture of data and information to generate a clear picture of the impact of domestic abuse and the specific needs of children and young people to develop future commissioning.
- The new Domestic Abuse Strategy contains a specific section on children and young people and the impact of domestic abuse.

The new CYSCP will continue to challenge partners and the Strategic Boards leading on Domestic Abuse to prioritise the impact on, and the needs of, children and young people. It is vital that partners and Boards recognise that being the subject of, or witness to, domestic abuse can leave children and young people vulnerable to abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Board has been pleased to see an increase of the services available for children and young people and looks forward to the JCG reporting on the outcomes and impact of these. During 2019 a full independent review of multi-agency domestic abuse processes in York and North Yorkshire has been commissioned by the JCG

County Lines, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Children and young people are increasingly recognised as being vulnerable to 'County Lines' exploitation or being used to move drugs and money across the country (sometimes this is known as 'going country'.) County Lines activity is recognised as a kind of Modern Slavery involving drugs, violence, gangs and criminal and sexual exploitation. This activity has a devastating effect on the young people, on the communities that they live in and on the communities to which they are trafficked – or from which they are trafficked (or moved.)

¹⁵ [20communities/Domestic%20abuse/YorkNYorksDAstrategy2018.pdf](#)

Together with colleagues in North Yorkshire, CYSCB has published [Practice Guidance on Criminal Exploitation and County Lines](#)¹⁶. CYSCB is aware that County Lines is an increasing problem and that York is no different from other areas. CYSCB has been working with colleagues in North Yorkshire Police and with partners across York and North Yorkshire to raise awareness of the signs and the impact of this activity. As a member of the Modern Slavery Partnership, the CYSCB is able to access the latest developments and information on County Lines, Trafficking and Modern Slavery¹⁷.

Partner's Assurance Reports to the Board have told us that:

- The Child Sexual Assault and Assessment Centre (CSAAC) at York Teaching Hospital received recognition and praise during the Joint Targeted Area Inspection - JTAI - into sexual abuse in a family environment in September 2018. The CSAAC sees any child who has been the subject of sexual abuse which includes sexual exploitation within or outside the family.
- City of York's Adult Safeguarding Service are working with a growing number of young people with learning disabilities and/or mental health issues who are at risk of exploitation. Adult services recognise the challenge of striking a proportionate balance between a young person's right to liberty, against ensuring that they are kept safe.
- The Child and Adolescent Family Court Advisory & Support Service ([CAFCASS](#))¹⁸ is continuing to develop its child exploitation strategy which incorporates sexual exploitation and radicalisation.

Services for vulnerable young people:

Through the Sub-groups and Board partners, CYSCB has learnt about the services available to young people who are vulnerable to exploitation. These include services commissioned by the [Office of the Police, Crime, Fire and Rescue Commissioner \(OPCC\)](#)¹⁹ and were referred to as one of the key strengths in the JTAI inspection. CYSCB now has a two way dialogue with the OPCC about these services.

In addition, colleagues from the Independent Domestic Abuse Service ([IDAS](#))²⁰, [NSPCC](#)²¹, [Children's Society](#)²² and other voluntary sector groups keep the Board apprised of the services they deliver. CYSCB promotes these across the workforce and encourages referrals to these services.

Multi-Agency for Child Exploitation Assessment: During 2018, CYSCB monitored and challenged the original multi-agency processes for assessment of, and interventions for, young people at risk of exploitation and felt that the processes were not achieving the interventions and outcomes needed. As a result a *new* Multi-agency Child Exploitation Meeting (MACEM) process has been created with CSC, North Yorkshire Police and colleagues from health services working together.

¹⁶ <https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/child-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation.htm>

¹⁷ <https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/bitesize-guides-menu.htm>

¹⁸ <https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/>

¹⁹ <https://www.northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk/>

²⁰ <https://www.idas.org.uk/>

²¹ <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/our-services/childrens-services/>

²² <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/>

This is to be further developed during 2019. The MACEM is accountable directly to the CYSCB Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation/Missing from Home (CSA&E/MfH) Sub-group.

Trusted Relationships funding: CYSCB, along with colleagues in North Yorkshire was successful in a bid for the [Home Office Trusted Relationships](#)²³ funding to create support for vulnerable young people. In York the [Trusted Relationships Project](#)²⁴ has resulted in setting up a mentoring service for young people and a Family Network Coordinators to link with their wider families and community. Already a number young people have been linked to mentors who will support them for as long as it takes for them to be no longer vulnerable to exploitation.

‘It’s Not Ok’: In January 2019 CYSCP worked with the NSPCC and the University of York St John, to launch new ‘It’s Not Ok’ resources for schools. The ‘It’s Not Ok’ play and workshop from the nationally acclaimed York campaign has now been turned into new [free digital resources](#) for secondary schools, community groups and practitioners²⁵. There are also [resources designed for use with children and young people with learning difficulties](#)²⁶



Working with other strategic boards

‘The relationships between the various strategic boards in York are established and well understood. This means that the partnership has a strong framework to help focus resources on shared priorities.’ (JTAI Report September 2018)

CYSCB led on the creation of an Inter-Board Protocol in 2016 and in 2018/19 this has been reviewed and refreshed. This means that we have worked with the [Safeguarding Adults Board](#)²⁷, the [Health and Wellbeing Board](#)²⁸, the [YorOk \(Children’s Trust\) Board](#)²⁹ and – new for this year – the Strategic Mental Health Partnership. Together we have been able to collaborate on:

- parental mental health (the PAMIC tool for assessing the impact of this on children will be re-issued and promoted in 2019);
- delivering multi-agency training on Modern Slavery;
- increasing services for children affected by domestic abuse;
- agreeing to work together in 2019-20 on addressing Harmful Sexual Behaviour.

Representatives from Local Authority Adults Services and from the Community Safety Team are participants on the CYSCB Sub-groups. Together with counterparts in North Yorkshire many of the Boards worked together to organise Safeguarding Week in June 2019 in York and North Yorkshire and a cross border Safeguarding Conference for practitioners.

²³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/trusted-relationships-fund-local-areas-and-project-descriptions>

²⁴ <https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/missing-children.htm>

²⁵ www.nspcc.org.uk/itsnotokay

²⁶ www.nspcc.org.uk/lovelife

²⁷ <https://www.safeguardingadultsyork.org.uk/>

²⁸ https://www.york.gov.uk/info/20139/health_and_wellbeing_partnerships/973/health_and_wellbeing_board

²⁹ <https://www.yor-ok.org.uk/workforce2014/Dream%20again%20and%20YorOK%20Board/yorok-board.htm>

Engagement with schools

The School Safeguarding Advisor

The City of York's School Safeguarding Advisor provides safeguarding support to schools and colleges on safeguarding issues. During 2018/19 she has provided training to designated safeguarding leads and school governors and has carried out bespoke training sessions with schools. More than 30 training sessions have been held during the year.

In addition, the School Safeguarding Advisor has supported schools with their safeguarding policies and procedures, to support them in being inspection-ready. All of the schools she has worked with have been judged, in formal inspections, to have effective safeguarding processes.

Early Adopters Project

In 2018, York was one of the 17 successful local authorities in an application to the Department of Education for '[Early Adopters](#)'³⁰ status. This meant that the CYSCB received funding to move to the new multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements and replace the LSCBs, before the rest of the country, and to support a specific project in relation to the new arrangements. CYSCB made the bid on the basis of using the associated funding to enhance the already strong engagement of schools, early years and colleges with the new Partnership (the CYSCP) and to strengthen the 'voice of the child'.

The project leaders (one of whom was a senior leader seconded to the project from a York Secondary School):

- set up two way feedback forums with schools (including independent schools), early years and further education providers
- engaged with children and young people's groups
- researched views from all of these on what works well and what could be better, focusing on the interface with:
 - Police
 - Health services including CAMHS
 - The Local Authority – safeguarding advice, Social Care and the Local Area Team
- fed back these views to partners so they understand what matters to schools, early years, further education establishments and to young people.

The education membership of the new Safeguarding Partnership and its sub-groups has been increased, with greater education representation on the CYSCP and its sub-groups going forward.

Safeguarding in Schools Conference

The 'Early Adopters' project culminated in a Safeguarding in Education Conference at the beginning of April 2019 with over 100 attendees from all sectors of the education community. Key note speeches focused on Harmful Sexual Behaviour; a young people-led mental health initiative; and County Lines. Delegates also attended a range of safeguarding workshops. The project leaders will report back on the impact of the conference and of the Early Adopter Project to the CYSCP later in 2019/20.

³⁰ <https://innovationcsc.co.uk/early-adopters-programme/>

Early Adopters 'Legacy' project

CYSCB and the new Partnership have decided that the project will not simply end when the new Safeguarding Partnership arrangements come in to force on 1 April 2019. There will be a 'legacy' project to involve children and young people in delivering safeguarding messages about social media. Working with the NSPCC, York St John's University, schools and young people's groups, a peer led charter on social media use will be created.

CYSCB presentation to the regional Department for Education Conference

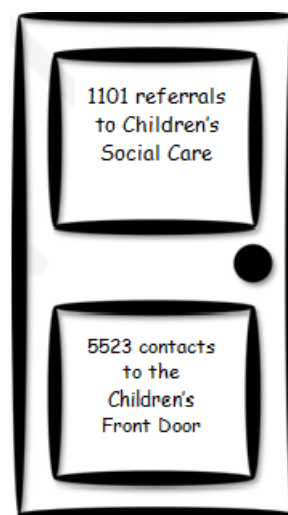
CYSCB was asked to deliver a presentation on our 'Early Adopters' project – both the planning and implementation of the new safeguarding arrangements and the specifics of the engagement of schools – to a Department for Education Conference in March 2019. The presentation was well received and since then there have been a number of enquiries, and visits, from other local authorities to hear more about the new partnership arrangements and the schools' project in York.

6. Some more CYSCB data 2018/19

Number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System is more than **20% lower** than in previous years



The rate of children in care in York for 2018/19 is **56 per 10k**



6% (10) children subject to a Child Protection Plan had been on a plan for more than 2 years.

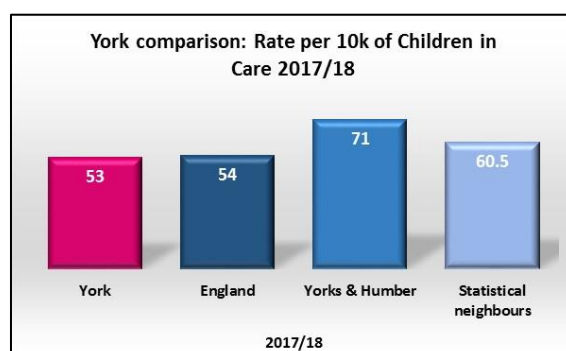
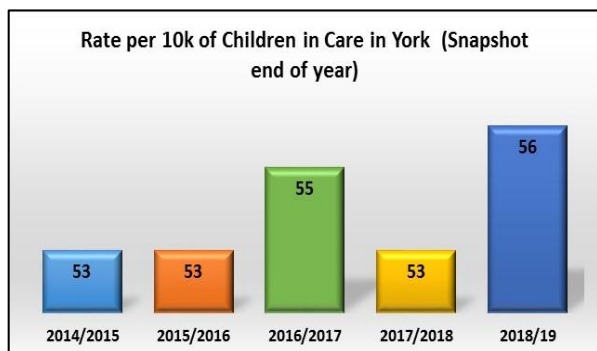


260 Family Early Help Assessments (FEHAs) were started.



What the data tells us

The rate of children in care in York (56 per 10,000 population for 2018/19) has been consistently in line with that of other local authorities e.g. the average for England, for the region and for statistical neighbours (i.e. local authorities which have the same demographics as City of York), which has been between 50 and 60 per 10,000. (National and regional data is not yet available for 2018/19.) However, nationally – with some individual exceptions – this figure is reported to be falling in 2018/19.



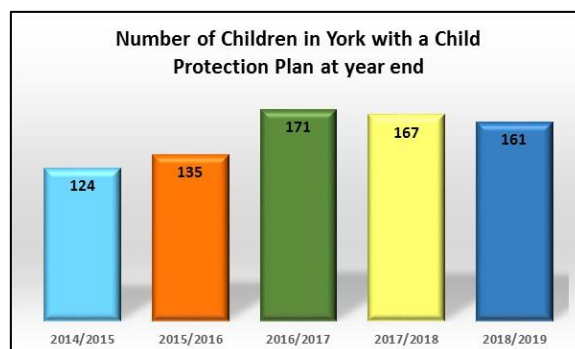
The **number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System** decreased significantly in 2018/19. The Youth Justice Service has increased the amount of preventative work it is now offering to keep children and young people out of court.

Of the 129 **children and young people who were reported as missing**, 80% were missing for a day or less. All were found. 20% of these young people were in care. Many of the children or young people reported as missing were subsequently found at a friend or relative's home. Those who go missing frequently are deemed to be vulnerable and assessed for additional support from one of the services described above.

Not all of the 5523 **contacts to the Children's Front Door** are about concerns for a child. Sometimes they are requests for information, for reports for court proceedings, requests for access to records etc. Those that are most concerning are assessed by Children's Social Care. Many of the enquiring practitioners receive advice on putting together early help support packages which may result in a Family Early Help Assessment.

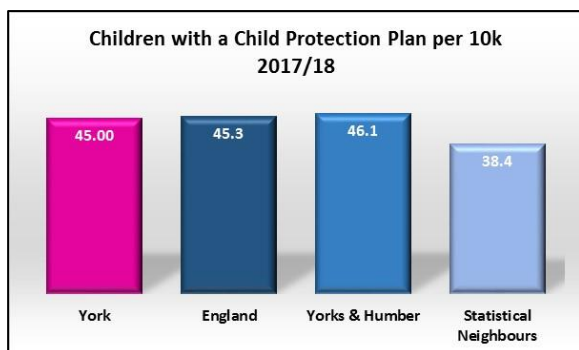
Only 20% of the **enquiries (contacts) to the Children's Front Door**³¹ in 2018/19 reached the threshold for Children's Social Care assessment or intervention. This suggests that practitioners may not be intervening early enough or are referring families to Children's Social care before a full early intervention package has been tried. In response to this, Children's Social Care, along with partners, will be remodelling the Children's Front Door in 2019 to strengthen early help services and increase practitioner confidence in managing cases at this level. A screening process will ensure that every case receives a response at the level which is right for the child.

In a snapshot at the end of 2018/19, **161 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan**



³¹ <https://www.yor-ok.org.uk/workforce2014/Concerned%20about%20a%20child/childrens-front-door.htm>

(CPP). This is slightly – but not significantly - less than in the previous two years.

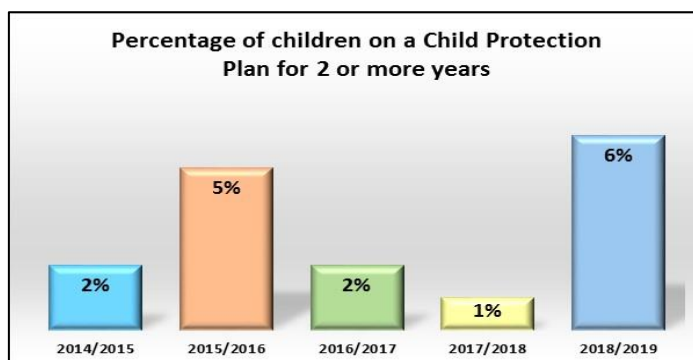


A comparison for 2017/18 with national, regional and statistical neighbour data shows that York was roughly in line with other areas but higher than their statistical neighbours (i.e. local authorities which have the same demographics as City of York). (The DfE data for 2018/19 is not yet released at the time of this report).

For children who are subject to a CPP a decision about how to prevent further harm and maintain

their safety is usually made fairly quickly. CYSCB notes, therefore, that at the end of March 2019, 6% of children (10 children) were subject to a plan for longer than two years which is a greater percentage than in previous years. Half of these children were under 5 years old. The longest any child was subject to a CPP was 2 years 8 months.

(Several of these children were placed on a CPP at the same time as these 10 children were in a very small number of families. The exact number of families is not specified in order to protect confidentiality.)



Two years is a long time for a child to be considered at risk and CYSCB would expect that agencies had addressed the issues to ensure that this was not the case far sooner. A decrease in this percentage is expected as a target for all those involved in safeguarding children in 2019/20.

Private Fostering: Anyone who looks after child under the age of 16, who is not part of their family, for more than 28 days (or who knows of someone looking after a child) is legally obliged to notify the Local Authority so that Children’s Social Care can check that the child is well cared for. This arrangement is called [Private Fostering](#)³². In 2018/19 only 4 such notifications were received by Children’s Social Care. CYSCB will support Children’s Social Care again to raise awareness about Private Fostering in 2019/20 as this number is lower than would be expected in a city with the population of York.

7. Audits and Reviews of Safeguarding Activity

JTAI

Between 24 and 28 September 2018, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), HMI Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and HMI Probation (HMIP) undertook a joint inspection of the multi-agency response to sexual abuse in the family in York. This was a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI). Inspectors also evaluated the effectiveness of the multi-agency leadership and management, including the role played by the CYSCB. The inspection was extremely thorough, with a deep dive approach into the work of the partners. Some of the inspectorates’ comments are quoted in the introduction to this report.

³² <https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/private-fostering.htm>

Among the areas for improvement identified for individual partners were issues for the partners to pick up together, specifically to take forward the work on Harmful Sexual Behaviour.

A multi-agency action plan has been developed in order to address each partner's areas for development. Partners are expected to report to the new Partnership on the progress with these actions.

Audits and outcomes

During 2018, multi-agency audit activity was carried out by the Partnership Practice Scrutiny and Review Group (PPSRG). However, in early 2019, the audit function was taken over by the Case Review and Audit Group (CRAG) in the context of the new multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC – Domestic Abuse)

The PPSRG audited the effectiveness of the MARAC process for 16- and 17-year olds and case studies were reviewed across different agencies. Group members reviewed the MARAC records but each agency also reviewed their own case records to ascertain whether the agency was aware of the domestic abuse and able to provide relevant information to the MARAC.

The **learning points** in regard to this audit were that:

- Agencies need to check the accuracy of minutes and attendance when they are circulated as there were cases where agencies believed they had been present but they did not appear on the minutes.
- MARAC must not be seen as the sole 'solution' for the child caught up in the domestic abuse when the purpose of the MARAC is to safeguard the victim from further harm.
- Many of the cases reviewed showed a history of school exclusion, abuse and neglect in the history of the child who was deemed to be the perpetrator of the domestic abuse.

As a result:

- North Yorkshire Police (who lead on the MARAC process) reviewed their list of relevant agencies to be invited to contribute information to (or to attend) the MARACs to ensure that all relevant information was being received.
- Primary Care guidance (e.g. for GPs and practice nurses) on recognising young people who may have been involved in incidents of domestic abuse with other young people was provided by the Nurse Consultant Primary Care.
- Two specific referrals were made to Children's Social Care about both of the young people involved in a domestic abuse incident i.e. 'victim' and so-called 'perpetrator'.

The key finding was that:

- Many of the children who are named as the 'perpetrator' are vulnerable children themselves and need to be supported through other child safeguarding channels rather than being deemed to be an offender only.

The Independent Chair of CYSCB, with the support of Children's Social Care and North Yorkshire Police, wrote to the Chair of the Safer York Partnership to this effect. The matter was also raised at the meeting of the Inter-Board Chairs to ensure that the respective Boards share knowledge and promote joint working when addressing young people who are 'perpetrators' of domestic abuse.

The CYSCB Independent Chair has been pleased to confirm that CYSCB supports the direction of travel being taken to align safeguarding and the MARAC referral processes. As stated above, children and young people (including alleged perpetrators) are now a key focus of the most recent York & North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Private Fostering

The PPSRG looked at the issue of Private Fostering and the fact that there are low numbers of these privately fostered children referred to Children’s Social Care (CSC). (Any child under the age of 16 years who is looked after by someone who is not an immediate relative for more than 28 days must be referred to the Local Authority so that the situation can be assessed.) Although the CYSCB has previously supported CSC to promote awareness of Private Fostering, contrary to expectations, the numbers remain low and further promotion will take place in 2019.

Graded Care Profile

The Graded Care Profile (GCP) is a national [NSPCC tool](#)³³ used in York by the Healthy Child Service and Children’s Social Care to assess cases in which the primary concern is child neglect. City of York has presented nationally on the use of the tool in York and two years running, City of York has won an NSPCC award in recognition of the work undertaken in York to use the GCP.

Following an audit of cases using the GCP in early 2018, the PPSRG and the Neglect Sub-group agreed together to survey practitioners’ awareness of the use of this assessment tool. The survey found that:

- Just slightly more than half of the respondents had heard about the GCP. (Ten percent of those who responded have been involved in a case.)
- Most had heard about the GCP through CYSCP multi-agency training.
- Others referred to hearing about it from the CYSCB website and newsletters as well as meetings with colleagues.
- A good spread of agencies responded to the survey.
- It is clear that there is a demand for awareness training in the GCP. The survey showed that 75% of those who responded were interested.
- The GCP was described as “a useful evidence base for some of the decision making” which helps to establish in a clear way the family situation and to initiate conversations with families.

As GCP training is yet to be rolled out beyond CSC and the Healthy Child Service, CYSCB has promoted the use of the [Neglect Screening Tool](#) for all practitioners, and continued to raise awareness of how a referral can be made for a GCP assessment to take place should it prove appropriate.

Information about the GCP is included in the CYSCB Multi-agency Neglect training course and on the CYSCP website.

The CRAG will re-audit the use of the GCP when the tool has been in use for long enough to ascertain outcomes for children and families. A full presentation to the CYSCP, with case studies, on the use and efficacy of the GCP will take place later in 2019.

³³ <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2018/implementation-evaluation-deliver-graded-care-profile-2/>

Case Conference Planning and Attendance

In March 2019 the CRAG began an audit of the Child Protection Case Conference process. Although no particular concerns had been expressed by partners, previous audits had shown discrepancies in the agencies invited to attend or to submit information and reports, plus variations in planning and in recording outcomes.

The **findings of the audit** suggested that practice could be tightened up in terms of:

- All agencies who might hold information about the child being invited to attend, or to submit reports, whether they were currently actively involved with the child or not (e.g. GPs).
- Action planning being made more 'SMART' (Specific; Measurable; Achievable; Realistic; Timed).
- Outcomes being recorded as a separate section of each review.
- There being more focus on the 'lived experience of the child', although the reporting of the 'child's voice' was found to be an area of good practice.

As a result:

- All of the guidance and templates available on the Case Conference process is being reviewed and revised.
- The CYSCB multi-agency training includes the specific findings of the audit.
- The findings have been disseminated by each member of the CRAG to their own agency practitioners.

A further review of Core Groups (which take place in between Case Conferences to carry out the plan) will take place in 2019/20 as a continuation of the review of the Child Protection Conference process.

S11

CYSCB worked with colleagues in North Yorkshire to carry out the biennial S11 (of the Children Act 2004) audit of safeguarding practice with partner organisations. Many of our partners work across borders with North Yorkshire so it made sense to carry out a joint audit. The audit was carried out with those explicitly defined in the 2004 Children Act as having a duty to safeguard children and included:

- City of York Council Children's Services
- NHS Vale of York CCG (York)
- NHS Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- NHS England North Yorkshire & Humber
- NHS York Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- Leeds & York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- York and North Yorkshire Primary Care
- North Yorkshire Police
- City of York Council Youth Offending Team

- Probation Service - North Yorkshire Area including York
- Community Rehabilitation Company York and North Yorkshire
- City of York Council Housing Services
- City of York Council Public Health
- City of York Council Adult Services
- City of York Local Area Teams (Adult Services)

A number of **areas for further development** for partners were identified. Notably:

- Evaluation of the quality of 'voice of the child' within assessments.
- Reviewing policies and procedures to strengthen awareness of the voice of the child.
- Improving explanations of agency actions to children.
- Reviewing of induction packages to include hearing the voice of the child.
- All staff fully understand their child safeguarding responsibilities through organisations sharing the outcome of audit work or surveys with their own staff
- Looking at bite-size training packages which address specific specialised areas.

There were also several **examples of good practice** noted. Among them:

- Frequent, regular meetings with children and young people.
- Involving children and their families in designing and reviewing services.
- Using internal and external audits to translate achieved-learning into good practice.
- Awareness that, wherever possible, consent should be obtained but equally should not be a barrier to information sharing for the purpose of child protection and safeguarding.
- Awareness of relevant guidance from the CYSCP website and promoting links to CYSCP policies as part of the induction.
- Ensuring that safer recruitment and DBS checks are the norm.
- Strengthening the checking process for volunteer recruitment.
- Providing regular reflective supervision sessions.
- Designating safeguarding leads to support other practitioners and to promote safeguarding work and messages.
- Instilling a culture of everyone being listened to and respected, with safety, equality and protection being pushed to the forefront.

A full analysis report was circulated to partners and partners were asked to note the areas for development and of good practice and consider applying these practices to their own processes if not already in place. (No one agency was specifically identified to others.)

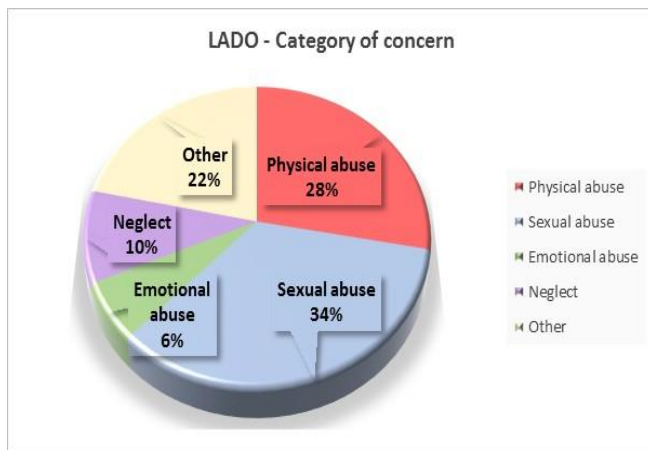
CYSCP expects updates on individual partners' areas for development via the Agency Assurance Report process and reports to sub-groups.

Allegations against professionals

Allegations against professionals who work with children and young people are coordinated by the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

By the end of 2018/19 there were two permanent LADOs in post in York, and this is seen as a positive development in terms of embedding and developing the service. Developments to the LADO workflow are in progress, which will support enhanced reporting.

There were 111 contacts/referrals to the LADO service in 2018/19 in regard to concerns about professionals. Fifty two of these led to no further action; advice was given in 32 cases but these were not taken any further; 20 cases were discussed at Allegation Management Meetings.



Categories of concern

As it was in previous years, the largest single category of concern was sexual abuse [36%] followed by physical abuse [28%]. Contrary to what we've seen in referrals to Children's Social Care and child protection plans – but unsurprisingly - neglect and emotional abuse are not significant factors in concerns about professionals. The other 22% of concerns do not fit *any specific category*.

Sources of contacts

Those contacting the LADO service included:

- Early years and education services
- Faith and voluntary sector
- Health services
- Police
- Other LADOs
- National regulators
- Social care including foster care and residential services
- Sports sector
- Transport services

Audit in 2019

The LADO procedure is in the process of being updated and an audit of LADO referrals will take place later in 2019.

Reviewing Serious Cases

Cases which merit review – either Serious Case Review (SCR) or Learning Lessons Review (LLR) - are submitted to the CYSCB Case Review Group for consideration and a dialogue with the National Panel for Serious Case Reviews. (Once the safeguarding arrangements under Working Together 2018 come into force in 2019, SCRs will be known as Child Safeguarding Practice

Reviews and national regulations and guidance for these will be the responsibility of the new [Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel](#)³⁴.)

Serious Incident Investigation

In 2017 following the death of a young child in York, CYSCB became a stakeholder in a Serious Incident Investigation (SII) carried out by NHS England. This SII was into the events surrounding the death. (The decision, endorsed by the then National Panel for Serious Case Reviews, was that the case did not meet the criteria for a Serious Case Review which would, anyway, be an unnecessary duplication.) There has been some delay in the progress of this investigation and the CYSCB and Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group continue to work with the other stakeholders with the aim of concluding the investigation, establishing learning and implementing recommendations.

Learning Lessons Review

This Learning Lessons Review (agreed by the National Panel) was commissioned by CYSCB in July 2018. It involves a case of significant sexual assault by an older child on a much younger child. This review is now concluded with the final report and action plan due for submission to the new partnership in April 2019. Key areas of learning are in relation to the management of harmful sexual behaviours in children and will contribute significantly to the overall Harmful Sexual Abuse Action Plan in 2019/20.

Child Deaths

The York and North Yorkshire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviews the death of every child under the age of 18 years. Fortunately there are very few of these but every death is a tragedy. The panel is made up of professional experts from different local organisations. The aim of the CDOP is to identify anything which might prevent something similar happening in the future.

You will find full details of figures and actions for the last year in the York and North Yorkshire [CDOP Annual Report 2018/19](#)³⁵ which also includes the priorities for CDOP for 2019/20.

The new Child Death Review arrangements in 2019

The statutory guidance in Working Together 2018 means that the processes for reviewing child deaths will change in 2019. These new processes will be led by the Child Death Review Partners: the Local Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group. In York and North Yorkshire the Child Death Review process will still be administered by the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Board, on behalf of both York and North Yorkshire, and the Review Panel will report to the Safeguarding Partnerships in York and in North Yorkshire. York and North Yorkshire will work closely with regional colleagues to ensure that lessons can be learned from any themes emerging across the region.

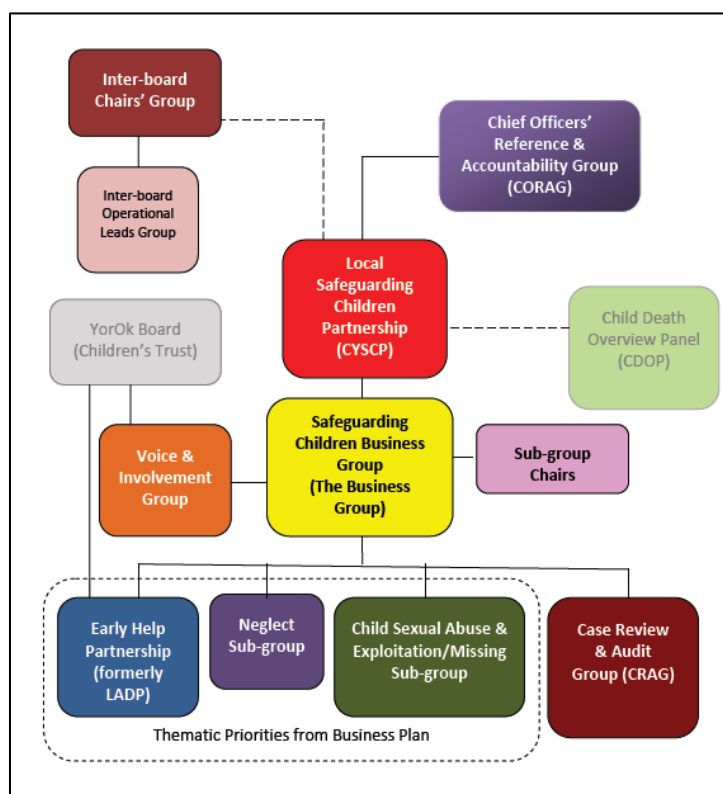
³⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel>

³⁵ <https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/CDOP-annual-reports.htm>

8. Structure, Governance and Quality Assurance Processes of the Board

As an Early Adopter, CYSCB moved to become the City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership (CYSCP) on 1 April 2019. [Full details of the new arrangements](#) were published on the [Department for Education's Multi-agency Safeguarding Reform website](#)³⁶ and on the Board's own website³⁷, at the beginning of February, having been checked and endorsed by the Department for Education.

Structure of the new Safeguarding Children Partnership



Given the strong endorsement by Ofsted in December 2016 which found the CYSCB to be 'Outstanding' and further endorsement of the functioning of the Board by the inspectorates in September 2018, the decision was taken by the safeguarding partners to make no changes simply for change's sake. Instead, the partners agreed to take the opportunity to refresh and re-energise the strong partnership arrangements and to maximise the effectiveness of the Partnership's role in scrutinising, supporting and challenging multi-agency safeguarding practice across the city.

The new structure reflects the priorities of the CYSCB in terms of the focus of the sub-groups and the work of the CYSCP Business Plan going forward.

³⁶ <https://innovationcsc.co.uk/multi-agency-safeguarding-reform/>

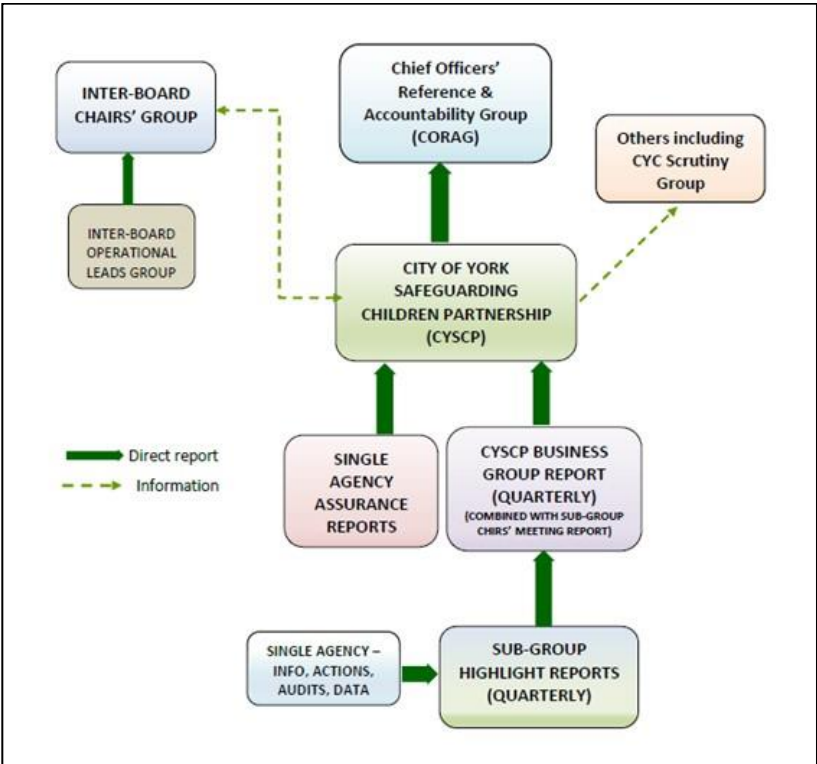
³⁷

<https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/Downloads/NEW%20City%20of%20York%20Safeguarding%20Children%20Partnership%20CYSCP%20Arrangements.pdf>

Quality Assurance

A system of sub-group Highlight Reports from Sub-groups and a composite report on sub-group scrutiny of partner arrangements actions, plus a priority based dataset ensures that the CYSCB is aware of the activity taking place. Separately key partners are required to submit Single Agency Assurance Reports to the Board detailing all of their safeguarding activity including how they are hearing the ‘voice of the child’.

CYSCB/P Quality Assurance Process



Governance

The system of governance means that the CYSCB (CYSCP from April 2019) reports directly to the Chief Officers Reference and Accountability Group (CORAG) which comprises of Chief Officers for the key safeguarding partners. These are those partners who have now been defined by Working Together 2018 as statutory: the Chief Executive of the Local Authority; the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police and the Chief Accountable Officer of the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group, plus others such as the York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

In addition CYSCB – and the new CYSCP - has collaborative relationships (as described in previous chapters) with other strategic boards in York. The CYSCB/P provides an update report at regular intervals to the City of York Children, Education & Communities Policy & Scrutiny Committee and to the Health & Wellbeing Board, in order to keep elected members apprised of the work of the partnership. Close relations are maintained with counterparts in North Yorkshire via the York & North Yorkshire Safeguarding Systems Leadership Group and other cross-border forums.

9. Learning and Development

Delivery of Multi-Agency Training and Learning courses

Online training

The Board provided an Online Basic Awareness course for any practitioners and volunteers in York. During 2018/19 5,122 York practitioners and volunteers passed the e-learning course.

During 2018/19 work has taken place to completely rewrite the course and the new package provides a much enhanced learner experience. The new [City of York Safeguarding Children Awareness](#)³⁸ course is fully bespoke to York and will continue to be updated and refreshed on an ongoing basis.



Face to Face training

There was a focused range of training courses on offer in 2018/19 as a result of the learning needs analysis work completed prior to commissioning. In total there were 483 attendances at 26 courses throughout the year.

Within the 2017/18 learning needs analysis work, Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) was identified within the training plan. A course will be commissioned for this subject in 2019/20 as the Partnership continues work to devise a framework, policies and procedures on HSB. In the meantime HSB is covered within some of the other training courses.

In addition to the Board's commissioned courses, through the membership of the Yorkshire and Humber Multi-Agency Safeguarding Trainers Network (YHMAST) CYSCB partners were able to take up places at the YHMAST regional conference on Safeguarding Children in a Digital World, which covered pornography, gaming disorder, cyberbullying, online vulnerability and risk.

Quality Assurance of training, learning and development

Observations

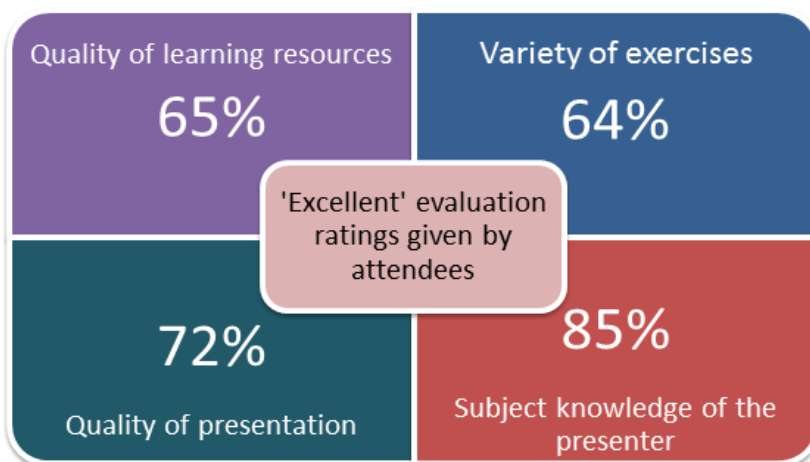
During 2018/19, a programme of observation of training courses, by subject matters experts from CYSCB partners, was developed. The results confirmed that training was meeting the training standards and expectations which CYSCB had set, and trainers also found it useful to receive feedback on how they could develop their courses further.

Volunteers from police, health, voluntary sector, and social care partners undertook **quality assurance observations** on CYSCB courses, evidencing that training standards were being met.

³⁸ <https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/safeguarding-online.htm>

Delegate evaluations

Evaluation returns show that the majority of attendees rate the quality of various course aspects highly.



Impact of training, learning and development

CYSCB uses short surveys 3 to 6 months after the course has taken place to capture examples from attendees about the impact of training on their working practices.

Eighty-five percent of course attendees stated at the end of the course that they were 'likely' or 'very likely' to change the way they do things in the future.

In 2018/19, on average 58% of survey respondents stated that they have changed something.

Where respondents stated that training hadn't impacted on working practice this centred on three main themes. These were that:

- the training had been a refresher of knowledge they already had;
- the training had affirmed that their working practices were up to date
- opportunities had not yet arisen to apply what they had learnt.

Practitioners were also asked to provide examples of where their learning had directly and positively impacted on a child or young person. Some practitioners could identify particular examples where they had taken action about a child as a result of the training they had received, including making referrals, information sharing, completing risk assessments and putting support services in place.

85% of learners were "likely" to "very likely":
to change the way they do things in the future as a result of the training commissioned by the Board.

10. The Priorities and Challenges for 2019/20

New partnership arrangements

This is the last Annual Report of the City of York Safeguarding Children Board. As an Early Adopter, we will become the City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership (CYSCP) from 1 April 2019. The structure, membership and functioning of the Board has been reviewed and proposals for the new arrangements were presented to the LSCB on three subsequent occasions by lead officers from the three statutory Safeguarding Partners (the Local Authority, North Yorkshire Police and Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group). Following agreement by the members of the Board, the arrangements have been signed off by the Chief Officers of the three organisations and have now been endorsed and published by the Department for Education.

As a Partnership we are adhering to our principles and aims:

- for clear accountability;
- for clear and demonstrable influence;
- and for equitable and fair contributions from all partners.

CYSCP will be continuing to make sure that effective systems are in place to protect children from abuse and to prevent impairment to children's health and development. We want to be sure that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

Priorities

The key priorities for the CYSCB will be carried over into the new CYSCP. These will be the issues in relation to:

- Early help
- Neglect
- Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
- Children Missing from Home, Care and School
- Domestic Abuse

As this report shows, the work in these areas is still a significant challenge for partners working with children and families. CYSCP will continue to push for prevention and intervention into the impact on children and young people of all forms of exploitation; of domestic abuse and of neglect and its many factors. Children who are particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation such as those missing from home, care and education must be identified and protected.

In 2018/19 CYSCB heard that young people were asking for a focus on their wellbeing and on their mental health. CYSCB has challenged the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Strategic Partnership for Mental Health to address this and will be pursuing this through 2019/20.

New in 2019 will be a particular focus on Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) between children and young people. With the support of the NSPCC, the partners will be working together to undertake a full audit of the understanding of, and services available, to address HSB. Specific multi-agency training will take place (in addition to that already delivered in the context of safeguarding training) including workshops to disseminate the findings and lessons learned from the Learning Lessons Review referred to in Chapter 5 of this report.

In addition, CYSCP is aware that issues such as County Lines, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking are increasing across the country and that the City of York is no exception. CYSCP is an active participant in the York and North Yorkshire Modern Slavery Network and is in close communication with North Yorkshire Police and regional colleagues. The Partnership will, therefore, continue to be fully informed about the figures in York and the processes for addressing these, whilst challenging partners and the public to keep themselves aware, informed and actively to take action such as reporting concerns. (A new [Child Exploitation Screening Tool](#)³⁹ to be published in July 2019, will enable all practitioners to consider the level of their concerns.)

As a continuation of the Early Adopters' project, CYSCP will be working with the NSPCC and with young people themselves to address safety for young people when they are using social media.

A new CYSCP Business Plan will be developed for 2019-2022 which incorporates all of the CYSCP priorities. A new Quality Assurance, Learning & Improvement Framework is in development for 2019, and will outline all of the processes that CYSCP and CYSCP partners use to demonstrate the *'commitment to shared learning and improvement that is characterised by robust but professional challenge'* as described in the [JTAI report](#).⁴⁰

Monitoring, scrutiny and challenge

CYSCP is monitoring the Action Plan which resulted from the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) in 2018 and asking what individual agencies are doing to meet their requirements within this plan.

CYSCP will be interested in the development of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub which is to replace the current arrangements in the Children's Front Door later in 2019 and will be looking for evidence and assurance that children and young people are better served and better protected in the face of all adverse childhood experiences.

Independent scrutiny of safeguarding practice will be provided by CYSCP partners working together to require and to challenge updates and Assurance Reports presented to the CYSCP sub-groups and the Partnership itself. In addition, the role of the Independent Chair of CYSCP will be to provide external and independent scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements. The presence of, at least, one lay member on the Partnership will provide a perspective on safeguarding arrangements from a position of having no personal or organisational investment in the processes and outcomes.

CYSCP will continue to enhance the Partnership's connection with communities via sub-group members and a close connection with the voluntary sector.

The voice and views of children and young people remains paramount, either via individual agency and assessment process, or in direct dialogue with young people's groups.

³⁹ <https://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/Downloads/CYSCP%20CE%20Screening%20Tool.docx>

⁴⁰ <https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50037488>

11. Key Messages for Readers

For children and young people

- What makes you feel safe is important to us.
- We ask our partners to tell us what they are doing to hear you and what they are doing as a result of what you say.
- We want York to be a safe and happy place for you to grow up in.

For the community

- You see what is happening in your community.
- If you are worried about a child or a young person, contact the Children's Front Door (contact details below) with as many details as you can.
- If your concern is about someone being at immediate risk of harm, contact the police.

For City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership organisations

- Listen to what children and young people are saying and shape your services in response.
- Children communicate in all sorts of different ways. Make it possible for them to tell you what they need to including pre-verbal and non-verbal children.
- CYSCP wants to know what you are doing to keep children safe. You can tell us in a variety of ways – assurance reports, audits, updates to sub-groups.
- As a representative on CYSCP you are also representing the frontline practitioners in your organisation. Tell CYSCP what they are saying.
- Multi-agency training is not just about hearing about an issue, it is also about understanding the challenges from the perspective of other agencies and about agencies working together. Encourage your workforce to attend training courses and learning events.

For schools:

- You are an important partner in the safeguarding agenda. CYSCP wants to engage with you and what you do to safeguard children and young people.
- Tell us what we can do to support you.
- Be aware of guidance for schools on safeguarding children and alert to any changes or updates.
- Take advantage of the safeguarding training which is on offer to your designated leads and to others.

For practitioners:

- If you are concerned that the professional decision which has been made about a child is not the right one, raise your concern, firstly with your line manager or safeguarding lead, and follow the CYSCP Resolution of Disputes and Escalation of Concerns⁴¹ process.
- Be aware of how CYSCP communicates: newsletters, website (news, guidance, policy and procedures), regular Twitter feeds, training online and face to face.
- Do you know who represents your organisation on the CYSCP? Are you getting information from them on CYSCP activity? (Membership details at [Appendix A](#) or contact details below.)
- Listen to the voices of children and young people in your assessments and be aware that some of the most vulnerable children – very young, disabled etc. – can be at higher risk of abuse than others but may find it more difficult to communicate.
- Be aware that Child Exploitation, County Lines, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and FGM do happen in York. Look out for the signs.
- Be aware that domestic abuse, neglect, inter-familial sexual abuse and emotional abuse are still happening.
- Access the multi-agency safeguarding training which is offered by CYSCP here: <http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/learning-and-development.htm>
- Use the CYSCP website and twitter feed for information, guidance, tools and links to safeguarding information.

For everyone:

Remember that:

‘Safeguarding is everybody’s business’

Appendices:

- A. Membership of the new CYSCP - 1 April 2019
- B. The Board's Finances
- C. CYSCP Business cycle

⁴¹ <https://www.yor-ok.org.uk/Safer%20Children%20York%202014/resolution-of-disputes.htm>

Appendix A - CYSCP membership from 1 April 2019

Representing	Name
The Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group	Michelle Carrington, Chief Nurse
North Yorkshire Police	Phil Cain, Deputy Chief Constable (Annette Anderson, Assistant Chief Constable from July 2019)
The Local Authority Children's Services	Amanda Hatton, Corporate Director Children Schools and Communities
Designated Professionals, CCG	Karen Hedgley, Designated Professional Safeguarding , CCG
York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Fiona Mockford, Head of Safeguarding (Rachel Stanton from June 2019)
Tees & Esk Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust	Karen Agar, Associate Director of Nursing
Voluntary Sector – CVS	Alison Semmence, CEO
Voluntary Sector - NSPCC	Debra Radford, Service Manager
CAFCASS	Kim McDonnell, Service Manager
Education	Maxine Squire, AD Education & Skills
Public Health	Sharon Stoltz, Director of Public Health
The Lead Member for Education, Children & Young People (Participant Observer)	Cllr Keith Myers
Lay member	Barry Thomas
The Chair of the Business Group (by rotation - to report to each meeting of the CYSCP on the activities of the sub-groups.)	Karen Hedgley, Designated Professional CCG, Spt. Allan Harder, NYP or Sophie Wales, AD Children's Specialist Services
CYSCP Business Manager	Juliet Burton, CYSCP Business & Performance Manager
CYSCP Business Unit <i>as required</i> (e.g. Performance Report or L&D report)	Cathy Brown, Performance & Governance Officer Laura Davis, Workforce Development Adviser
Business Support	Marie Pearson

The Partnership will include a 'virtual membership' of partners:

- who receive all papers;
- who are invited to participate with comment and feedback

but who do not necessarily attend every face-to face meeting.

These members, along with other officers, are invited to attend in person as and when necessary, for example: to provide information and updates on actions, initiatives and inspection and to provide assurance on safeguarding activity using the *CYSCP Agency Assurance Report* template

Representing	Name
Probation Services	Louise Johnson, NPS Head of Area - North Yorkshire, Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS)
CRC	Sandra Chatters, Community Director (North Yorkshire), The Humberside, Lincolnshire & North Yorkshire CRC Ltd
YOT	Sara Orton, Service Manager YOT
CYC Housing Services	Tom Brittain, Assistant Director of Housing and Community Safety
Designated Doctor	Sarah Snowden, Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children
NHS England	Chloe Haigh, Senior Nurse NHS England
Leeds & York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	Lindsay Britton-Robertson, Head of Safeguarding
CYC Adult Services	Sharon Houlden, Corporate Director Health, Housing and Adults Social Care
Changing Lives	Phil Elliot, Service Manager
HMP Askham Grange	Paul Mahoney, Head of Offender Management
Chair of Business Group (attendance by rotation)	Karen Hedgley, Des. Professional, CCG/ Spt. Allan Harder, NYP/ Sophie Wales, AD Children's Specialist Services
Chair of Safeguarding Adults Board	Tim Madgwick
LA Legal Services Manager (People)	Melanie Perara
Communications Officer	Claire Duggleby
Corporate Strategy and City Partnerships	Will Boardman, Head of Corporate Strategy and City Partnerships
Members of CYSCP Business Unit (attendance to deliver reports)	Cathy Brown, Performance & Governance Officer; Laura Davis, Workforce Development Adviser; Caroline Wood, School Safeguarding Advisor

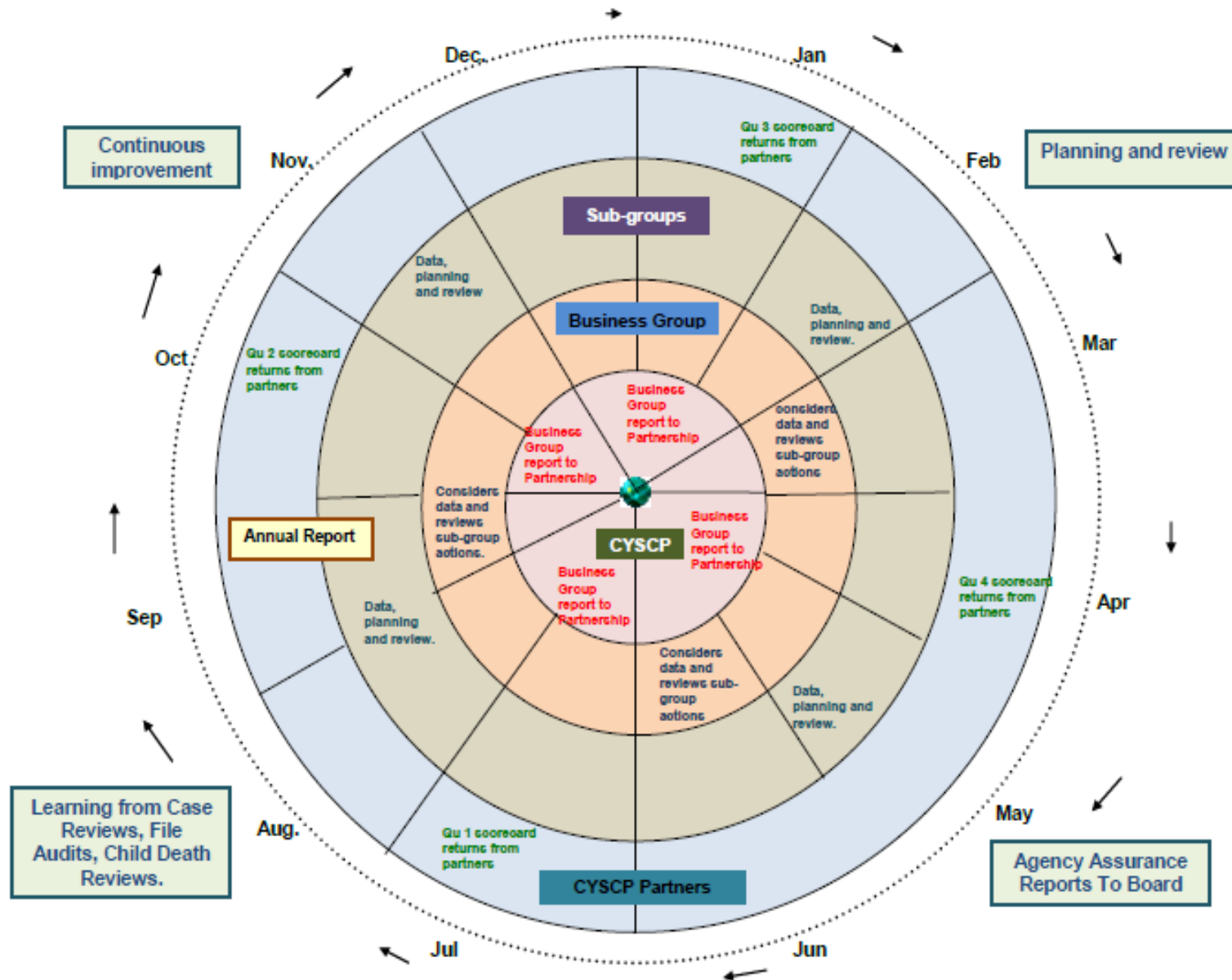
Appendix B – CYSCB Finances 2018/19

Budget

Expenditure (£)	2018/19	Income (£)	2018/19
		Balance B/fwd from 2017-18	£(3,999)
Staffing	£136,451	CYC Children's Services	£(68,738)
Training Budget	£12,411	Vale of York CCG	£(78,991)
Other	£8,898	Police: North Yorkshire Police	£(33,011)
Recharges	£18,840	CYC Education and Skills	
Child Death Review Grant	£24,000	NPS North Yorkshire and CRC	£(2,211)
Serious Case/Learning Lessons Reviews	£3,335	Schools	£(50,000)
Independent Chair	£18,100	CAFCASS	£(550)
		Others	£(420)
		Child Death Review Grant	£(12,000)
		Serious Case Review	
Total Costs	£222,035	Total Income	£(249,920)
		C/fwd to 2019/20	£(27,885)

The Chief Officers Reference and Accountability Group (CORAG) discusses current and future funding arrangements and agrees the budget each year.

Appendix C – CYSCP Business Cycle 2019/20



Contact Details If You Are Concerned About A Child

If you have a concern that a child is vulnerable or at risk of significant harm please contact the Children's Front Door/Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH):

Phone: 01904 551900

and/or, using a referral form:

Email: childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk

Post: The Children's Front Door, West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA

Out of hours please contact the Emergency Duty team on: 01609 780780

More information and a referral form are available at:

<http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/concerned-about-a-child-or-young-person.htm>

Contact Details For The Board/Partnership.

CYSCB/P website

<http://www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/>

Twitter: [@YorkSCP](https://twitter.com/YorkSCP)

Email: cyscb@york.gov.uk

CYSCB/P Independent Chair: Simon Westwood

CYSCB/P Business Manager: Juliet Burton

