

NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST

Agenda Item Cover Sheet

TITLE OF PAPER: North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board Report

DATE OF MEETING: 17th May 2010

ORGANISATION/SUB GROUP: North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board

RELATED CYPP IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY:

- 2.1 Safeguarding Children

RELATED PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S):

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAPER:

- To accept the report

IMPACT ON RESOURCES:

None

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NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

17 May 2010

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board Report

1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Children's Trust of the work of the LSCB over the last quarter.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 The last quarter has been a busy period for the Board. There have been a number of national publications including Working Together 2010, Sir Roger Singleton's First Annual Report to Parliament and Lord Laming's, One Year On review which have begun to shape the future of the Board and its relationship with the Children's Trust. It is clear from these publications that the work continues to be prescriptive and led from the centre. The overall message from Government is that the role of the LSCB is to challenge and scrutinise the work of safeguarding in the Children's Trust area. To this effect the Children's Trust and the LSCB have agreed a working protocol that will be reviewed on a regular basis to keep pace with this changing agenda.
- 2.2 The LSCB Business Plan has been updated and is now published on the new website. The old Business Plan was signed of by the Executive with any incomplete objective transferred to the new plan. This year has seen a number of objectives completed that were put into operation eighteen months ago. These include the new Child Protection Procedures, development of a new website and training data base. This year will see the introduction of lay people and schools and Further Education Colleges to the Board.

- 2.3 The performance agenda remains centre stage. Ofsted continue to have an ongoing impact on the work of the Board and its relationship with the wider safeguarding community. A further set of SCR evaluators has been published for consultation and will probably be introduced retrospectively. The national six month review of Serious Case Reviews has shown a marked decrease in those receiving an inadequate rating. However, the time limits continue to be a problem for the majority of the LSCBs including our own. There does seem to be a shift taking place in Ofsted's understanding of why some SCRs take longer than six months to complete; of the three major reasons cited in their report, two are directly due to the Court system and the Coroner. This is the first time that Ofsted have made no criticism of the failure to complete SCRs on time. This would suggest that they now accept that some SCRs can not be completed within time scales and the reason is outside of the LSCB's control.
- 2.4 Child Death Overview Panel continues to report to Government on lessons learnt through child deaths in York and North Yorkshire. One of the issues raised last year was the number of deaths due to Overlaying. Both Boards are now undertaking a campaign led by Health to inform new parents of the dangers.
- 2.5 A success of the last year has been the Integrated Data set. It is now in its sixth quarter and is beginning to come together and to provide useful material which will enable the Board to start to fulfil its role of challenge and scrutiny. As with all data collection it needed time to in-bed in order to provide useful data. This is a useful journey the Board has taken and has led to closer working relationships with partner agency performance networks.
- 2.6 The multi-agency audit group has completed the last of its commissioned audits. There will be a presentation of the full report to the Board in September. This has been a successful exercise and will be continued in its present form. A number of recommendations have been implemented and some are in the final stages and it is hoped that this will strengthen consistency of multi-agency practice across the county.

- 2.7 A new Training Brochure has been published for 2010/11. Courses continue to be oversubscribed and a £50 levy charge for those who book a place but do not attend has been introduced. The number of briefing sessions has increased in conjunction with the number of new prescriptive publications by Central Government. This year there will be Working Together, ISA, Procedures and SCR briefings. This is not exclusive as we do not know what the future holds.
- 2.8 Work has been completed on E Safety, Children who go missing from Home and Care, and children who sexually abuse other children. The second LSCB conference to be held on 13 May 2010 centres on Child Exploitation.
- 2.9 A new Business Plan for the next three years has been agreed by the Board. The Plan emphasises the change of role from provider to challenger and scrutiniser. This year the LSCB will need to provide an annual report on Safeguarding within the Trust area. The report is now a national requirement and needs to look critically at arrangements for safeguarding and how they comply with national objectives. The report is sent to the DCSF, forms part of the Ofsted, HMI and CQC inspection regimes and is published both nationally and locally. In order to help with this exercise the LSCB will be undertaking a self reporting audit and an audit of the Children's Trust arrangements. We did develop audit tools but audit tools have now been provided nationally for both exercises. An Induction Pack has been completed for all members of the Board and the Executive and our annual terms of reference have been updated. This will have a two fold effect; it will allow governance arrangements to be transparent and agencies to be clear as to obligations placed on those who represent their agency on the Board.
- 2.10 One of the challenges for the LSCB is partnership working in such a volatile environment. The agenda has been prescriptive for a number of years and this centralised way of working will not change in the near future. There is a tendency for partners to see the programme in terms of their own agency and not as part of a wider agenda that is difficult to influence. There are statutory obligations that have to be fulfilled and there is no compromise. Partners can not reframe according to their wishes. Neither can partners opt out because it does not suit their way of working. If partners have set up ways of working that negatively impact on the way

safeguarding is practised in North Yorkshire the role of the LSCB is to challenge those ways of working. A further issue is that partners can not change direction each time there is a change of personnel. That is why we have a Business Plan. The LSCB will continue to work with partners to bring about the best outcomes for Children in North Yorkshire.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 The recommendation is that the Children's Trust accepts this report.

Ann McMorris
LSCB Manager
27 April 2010