



NORTH YORKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

LSCB Manager's Report to North Yorkshire Children's Trust

September 2009

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Purpose of the report

The purpose of the report is to update the Children Trust around the progress being made by the LSCB towards its Business Plan objectives.

Independent Chair

The LSCB appointed an Independent Chair in March of this year. Nancy Palmer comes to the Board with significant experience of both Safeguarding and strategic planning. Nancy chaired her first Board meeting in September and will attend the Children Trust as the LSCB representative.

LSCB Executive

The LSCB Executive is formed from the three major fund holding partners, Police, PCT, and Children's Services; Probation and the NSPCC are the remaining partners. It meets once a quarter prior to the meeting of the main Board. A number of issues were discussed at this meeting including the Budget position for 2009/10. The LSCB will move into an overspend before the end of the financial year. The three main funding partners agreed a small in-year increase to cover the overspend. It has been agreed that a new budgetary formula needs to be agreed for future years. All major partners were supportive of the work of the Board and recognised its legislative and practical significance in meeting the safeguarding agenda. This work will take place initially with the three main funders. However, the expectation from Central Government is that all agencies that have a place on the LSCB should contribute to the financial running of the Board.

LSCB

The Board meets once a quarter to address the Safeguarding agenda as required under its terms of reference. At the last Executive it was agreed to review the membership of the main Board. This is due to a number of problems associated with the present membership. Firstly, we do not have a stable group. Secondly, the degree of seniority varies and with it the decision making responsibility. Thirdly, due to the unstable membership members are not cascading information throughout their own agency. This work will start towards the end of September and will be completed after the publication of Working Together.

Sub Groups

The LSCB is supported in its work by three Sub Groups, all of which are meeting their Business Plan objectives.

Training

Work has commenced on the Training Plan for 2010/11. The "Needs" analysis and Mapping exercise have been completed. A draft training plan has been agreed by the Training Sub Group. A partial review of the Training Strategy will take place in October. Six of the eight priorities in last year's strategy have been met. The two outstanding priorities will be met by March 2010. However, new Core Competencies are to be published in March 2010. Therefore a decision has been taken to have a major strategic review in March 2010 to meet the new Competencies.

The Trainer's Panel have been working closely with the Police who are a nationally recognised centre for Accredited Trainers. The aim for 2010/11 is that all second level courses will have at least one accredited trainer. All second and third level courses are oversubscribed. Some have long waiting lists.

A very successful LSCB conference was held in May on Serious Case Reviews. We had four internationally known speakers, two of which will be returning in September to run a practice based conference in conjunction with Government Office, Yorkshire and Humberside on the new Systems Approach for Serious Case Reviews.

The Sub Group also has a timetable of briefing sessions which include:

- Serious Case Reviews
- Child Death Overview Panels and the lessons learnt from the first year
- Rapid Response, in relation to Child Deaths
- Safeguarding Responsibilities for County and District Councillors
- Laming and the National Action Plan
- New Child Protection Procedures
- Working Together (when published).

Performance Sub Group

In the last year the Performance Sub Group have been developing an Integrated Data Set. The first data set was presented to the Executive in August. This is a work in progress and we would like to thank the Performance and Outcomes Team for all their help especially as large parts of the data had not been collected previously in the required format. This data set will help the Board measure performance and identify issues for concern.

In September of last year a large Child Protection Audit was undertaken. Part one has already reported with recommendations. Part two is underway and it is hoped that it will report in late December/early January. A full report will be available in March of next year. This audit has allowed us to identify issues of concern throughout the multi-agency group.

Operational Practice Sub Group

This group is made up of a number of Task Groups. These are making progress towards their Business Plan objectives. E-safety have published their strategy and are moving forward with their work plan. Private Fostering also have published their strategy. A report is routinely provided to the Board by David Molesworth, and work is continuing to identify private fostering arrangements in North Yorkshire. The Communications Group have published their strategy. One of their aims is to increase participation in the work of the Board by young people.

Procedures

The new Safeguarding procedures were launched in early September. They will be available on the web site by the end of September. Seven Briefing sessions have been arranged, courtesy of the District Councils. Once the Briefing sessions are complete the procedures will go live. The date will be widely circulated.

Serious Case Reviews

At the time of writing this report we have no SCRs. We completed three last year. One of the issues raised by Ofsted was the quality of some of the Individual Management Reports. Training has been offered to Senior Managers who would undertake this task and a further training session has been agreed for October, courtesy of the NSPCC.

Child Death Overview Panel

The first Annual Report to DCSF and DOH is now available. The panel reviewed 56 deaths last year, 50 from North Yorkshire and 6 from the City of York. Four major themes were identified and these will be followed up by the CDOP Manager with the responsible agencies. A designated Doctor has been appointed by the PCT which means that Rapid Response can now be fully introduced into York and North Yorkshire.

ContactPoint

The LSCB is responsible for the Shielding part of ContactPoint. This will begin in earnest in September.

Recommendation

The Children's Trust notes this report for information purposes.

Ann McMorris
LSCB Manager
September 2009