

## NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

16 November 2009

**SAFEGUARDING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES****1.0 Purpose of Report**

This paper sets out the proposed safeguarding strategic priorities for the Children's Trust for the remainder of 2009/10. In so doing, the paper clarifies the respective responsibilities of the Children's Trust and the Safeguarding Children Board in respect of CYPP improvement priority 2.1: Safeguarding Children – Arrangements and Accountabilities.

**2.0 Safeguarding in the CYPP**

2.1 The Children's Act 2004, the document Working Together to Safeguard Children, and the new Ofsted statutory inspection framework all define safeguarding as needing to achieve the following things:

- Protect children and young people from maltreatment
- Prevent impairment of children and young people's health or development
- Ensure children and young people grow up in circumstances consistent with provision of safe and effective care
- Enable children and young people to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully

When applied to the CYPP, this definition produces a large number of safeguarding activities. Although there is a specific focus on safeguarding in Stay Safe, important contributions to safeguarding are dispersed throughout the Plan. This is evident in the limited edition yellow highlighted version of the CYPP produced in preparation for the recent inspection of safeguarding and services for looked after children.

**3.0 Safeguarding Priorities**

3.1 The Trust will continue to monitor all of the actions in the CYPP as part of its performance management role, to ensure we all deliver on commitments and to evaluate impact.

3.2 That will be done through established reporting arrangements, supported in future by the work of the Commissioning and Performance Sub-Group which is proposed in another report on the agenda.

3.3 It is also proposed to identify a smaller number of strategic safeguarding priorities on which the Trust Board should focus during the remainder of 2009/10. These would be work to:

- stabilise and strengthen assessment and safeguarding processes
- sustain the provision of preventative services
- recommission and strengthen NHS services for children and young people.

3.4 The specific strategic safeguarding priorities on which the Trust Board might concentrate in detail would be:

- Recommissioning of NHS Services for Children plus CYPP Be Healthy, specifically 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 (this would maintain the Trust's detailed interest in Teenage Pregnancy and Substance Misuse).

- Those allocated to the Trust in CYPP 2.1: Safeguarding Children – Arrangements and Accountabilities
- Monitoring delivery against the Post-Inspection Action Plan on Safeguarding and LAC Services (which overlap significantly with 2.1 above)
- CYPP 2.2 – 2.7 in Stay Safe, on which responsibilities would be shared with the LSCB in some instances, with complementary roles sorted out for the two Boards in the manner suggested below at 4.0. It is recognised that it would be particularly appropriate for the LSCB to take the lead role in relation to 2.4 (Tackle Domestic Abuse in North Yorkshire). The remainder would maintain the Trust’s more direct interest in safe environments (including road safety), bullying, care and the edge of care, some of which is followed through in detail via the MALAP as one of the Trust’s formal Sub-Groups
- CYPP 6: Building Capacity, especially the work on integration and prevention (which would maintain the Trust’s close interest in Integrated Locality Working, CAF, Information Sharing, LDD strategy and work with parents).
- Other CYPP Priorities:
  - youth crime and justice
  - housing and homelessness
  - worklessness, child poverty, and NEET

#### **4.0 CYPP 2.1: Safeguarding Children – Arrangements and Accountabilities**

4.1 The primary focus of safeguarding accountabilities in the CYPP is found in improvement priority 2.1, Safeguarding Children – Arrangements and Accountabilities. This section of the plan sets out strategic safeguarding activities and allocates them to either the Children’s Trust or the Safeguarding Children Board. In so doing, this section of the CYPP seeks to clarify the respective roles and accountabilities of both the Children’s Trust and the Safeguarding Children Board.

4.2 In practice, not all safeguarding activities can be apportioned solely to either the Children’s Trust or the Safeguarding Children Board. Some safeguarding activities present an essential interconnectedness between the Children’s Trust and the Safeguarding Children Board, such that each body has distinct yet complementary roles to play during the life-cycle of the work.

4.3 One way to understand this is to consider the commissioning cycle: ‘assess, plan, do, review.’ For certain safeguarding activities the Trust would lead on

- assessing the needs and improvement priorities (an explicit Trust responsibility under the National Action Plan)
- planning provision
- ensuring delivery of services
- monitoring performance (which it must continue to do if it is to further develop its performance culture and fulfil its accountabilities to service users and its constituent partner organisations)

and the LSCB would

- evaluate the impact, particularly by reference to the findings of audit work, its monitoring of the integrated data set, its work on Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Reviews, its monitoring of inter-agency procedures and its assessments of individual agencies’ performance.

- from this work both prepare its annual report on safeguarding for the Trust and identify safeguarding improvement priorities to contribute to the needs assessment for the CYPP each year.
- 4.4 If we could develop this approach, the Trust and the LSCB would both contribute to the delivery of safeguarding activity, but do so in different ways at different stages of the process. It would also give the necessary flexibility for the responsibility to drive work to move between the two Boards dependent on the issue and the point in the commissioning cycle.
- 4.5 With this in mind, it may be useful to revisit the actions outlined in CYPP 2.1 to illustrate the apportionment of roles and responsibilities between the Children's Trust and the Safeguarding Children Board done in this way. Appendix A overleaf presents the actions outlined in CYPP 2.1, clarifies the lead agency for each, and offers some explanatory notes, particularly where both bodies have an identified role.
- 4.6 A preliminary paper along these lines has been prepared for the LSCB Executive (3 November) and the full LSCB.

#### 5.0 Recommendations

That the Trust Board agrees:

- i) the strategic priorities for safeguarding on which it will focus during 2009/10;
- ii) the approach to coordinating work with the LSCB proposed in section 4.0.

CYNTHIA WELBOURN  
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**APPENDIX A**

CYPP 2.1: Safeguarding Children – Arrangements and Accountabilities		Responsible	Comment
1	Ensure the CYPP reflects assessed need and known performance in the priorities and targets set to maintain and improve safeguarding locally. (We will review arrangements and targets as necessary when Working Together revisions are published. National Action Plan (NAP) Recommendation 9.)	Shared	Trust to action the needs assessment, CYPP development, and performance manage CYPP delivery, LSCB to monitor and quality assure these.
2	<p>Publish a Safeguarding Strategy with the LSCB which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• brings together the priorities agreed in the CYPP, and supporting plans, which relate to Safeguarding to ensure there is a broadly-based and integrated approach to safeguarding across the spectrum of need</li> <li>• addresses child protection and preventative work distinctly to ensure detailed attention to both and appropriate links between them</li> <li>• ensures the joint and separate accountabilities of single agencies, the Children’s Trust and the LSCB are clear and complementary.</li> </ul>	Shared	
3	Ensure that objectives agreed in the CYPP and Safeguarding Strategy are monitored systematically to account for delivery and impact	LSCB	LSCB to quality assure the Trust’s monitoring arrangements
4	Monitor the LSCB Integrated Dataset to inform performance management of CYPP objectives	Trust	Trust to use the integrated dataset in its planning and evaluation activities
5	Assess workforce development needs under any changed requirements arising from revisions to Working Together (NAP recommendations 29 and 30).	Shared	Trust to assess and action workforce development needs. LSCB to provide multi-agency training and quality assure single agency training

CYPP 2.1: Safeguarding Children – Arrangements and Accountabilities		Responsible	Comment
6	<p>Devise, consult about and agree arrangements for monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• initial referral, contact and assessment arrangements across agencies, subject to publication of revised Working Together (NAP Recommendation 6).</li> <li>▪ Information sharing practice across agencies, subject to publication of revised Working Together (NAP Recommendation 23)</li> </ul>	Shared	Trust to progress the activities. LSCB to monitor and quality assure
7	Analyse potential for increased co-location for key frontline staff (NAP Recommendation 25) see also Capacity Building 6.1	Shared	Trust to progress co-location. LSCB to monitor impact and quality assure
8	Assess implications of any national benchmarking of workforce capacity and caseload data for Local Authorities, NHS and Police staff to inform future resource prioritisation, planning, targeting and joint commissioning (NAP Recommendation 24; subject to Social Work Task Force recommendations and DCSF response)	Shared	Trust to progress workforce capacity and caseload issues. LSCB to monitor and quality assure
9	Analyse performance data to inform planning and evaluation	Shared	LSCB Performance sub-group Trust Performance and Commissioning sub-group
10	Review its membership, Business Plan and funding and make recommendations where necessary	LSCB	
11	Continue Phase 2 of the Audit on referral and assessment, incorporating the audit of Initial Assessments within a 7 day period	LSCB	
12	Review the application of the Allegation Management Database and LADO policy	LSCB	
13	Implement the revised multi-agency child protection procedures based on good practice and undertake further revision as required when Working Together is amended (NAP Recommendation )	LSCB	
14	Develop the Child Protection audit to improve outcomes for North Yorkshire children and publish its audit timetable	LSCB	

CYPP 2.1: Safeguarding Children – Arrangements and Accountabilities		Responsible	Comment
15	Develop Serious Case Review and Serious Incident protocols with partners	LSCB	
16	Evaluate the Child Death Overview Panel	LSCB	
17	Prepare its first Annual Report on Safeguarding for the Children's Trust, subject to guidance in the revised Working Together (NAP Recommendation 53)	Shared	Actioned by the Trust Monitored by the LSCB
18	North Yorkshire and York PCT will complete its audit of safeguarding within the NHS to inform priority setting in training, resource planning, commissioning and joint commissioning	Shared	Actioned by the Trust (via the PCT) Monitored by the LSCB
19	North Yorkshire Police will implement and monitor introduction of its Vulnerable People's team to assess impact on safeguarding practice and outcomes.	Shared	Actioned by the Trust (via the police) Monitored by the LSCB
20	recruit 23 additional Social Care staff for Safeguarding and Assessment, Fostering, Domestic Abuse, Family Support Work and Policy support (within existing resources)	Shared	Actioned by the Trust (via CYPS) Monitored by the LSCB
	recruit 19 additional Parent Support Advisers for early identification and support to vulnerable children and their families (within specific grant)	Shared	Actioned by the Trust (via CYPS) Monitored by the LSCB
21	implement the ICS/Protocol recovery programme to deliver improvements in timeliness of assessments, recover Social Work time for frontline work and restore robust performance management data (see Capacity Building 6.7)	Shared	Actioned by the Trust (via CYPS) Monitored by the LSCB