

Annual Report 2023/2024

City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership



■ Contents

Contents	2
Foreword from the Three Statutory Safeguarding Partners	3
Introduction	5
National Context.....	7
Local Context Geographical Footprint and Demographics.....	8
A snapshot of children and young people in York	9
A snapshot of children and young people in York	10
Vision, Values and Principles	11
Priority One: Prevention, Early Support and Early Help.....	12
Priority Two: Child Exploitation	14
Priority Three: Children Missing from Education.....	17
Priority Four: Working with Fathers and Male Carers.....	18
Priority Five: Mental Health and Wellbeing.....	19
Improving Further.....	20
Voice and Lived Experience of Child or Young Person	20
Learning and Development.....	21
Training.....	22
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training.....	22
Safeguarding in Education.....	25
Communication and Engagement.....	26
Child Death Review Panel (CDOP).....	27
Partnership Finance 2023/24.....	28

■ Foreword from the Three Statutory Safeguarding Partners

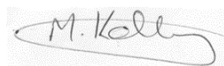
This report demonstrates the strength and depth of partnership work that has developed across the city and an unwavering commitment across all partners to safeguard children through collaborative working. The unique strength of the partnership lies in our shared commitment for continuous learning using both support and appropriate challenge between each other and with extensive reach across the very many relevant agencies.

The local authority is proud of its work over the past 12 months to develop and embed a clear vision and practice model using strengths-based approaches and are grateful to partners for the support that has been provided across the safeguarding system.

There is much to celebrate including a more settled and permanent workforce, a more robust approach to quality assurance, improved use of data to inform decision making and a renewed energy and collaboration to early help leading to a refreshed strategy. Following the publication of Working Together (2023) we have also embraced the principles of strengthening the involvement of the Education with a strategic leader working alongside us.



Martin Kelly, Director of Children's Services, City of York Council



We are pleased to present the City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report which proudly showcases the extraordinary work of people and partners to ensure children grow up feeling safe and are safeguarded. There are many things to celebrate and always further work required to strengthen our approach and reach our aspiration for children, young people and their families.

We have made progress against each of our priorities and are clear how we know we have made a difference and what we will do next. We have worked well as a partnership and have collectively approached how we will implement the new Working Together arrangements. Of particular note is the way in which we have changed our practice model and our strengths-based approaches, alongside the development of Family Hubs and our numerous campaigns throughout the year, engaging people, raising awareness and changing practice. We continue to be committed to learning when young people are harmed or lose their lives.



Michelle Carrington, Director for Quality & Nursing, Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership



This report represents the huge commitment and dedication of people working across the City of York Children’s Safeguarding Partnership. Keeping children safe, and feeling safe, is a major challenge with complex threats both in our communities and online. North Yorkshire Police recognises that we cannot face this challenge alone, and working in partnership is more important than ever; it is only together that we can understand and respond to the needs of children and young people and address underlying issues of vulnerability.

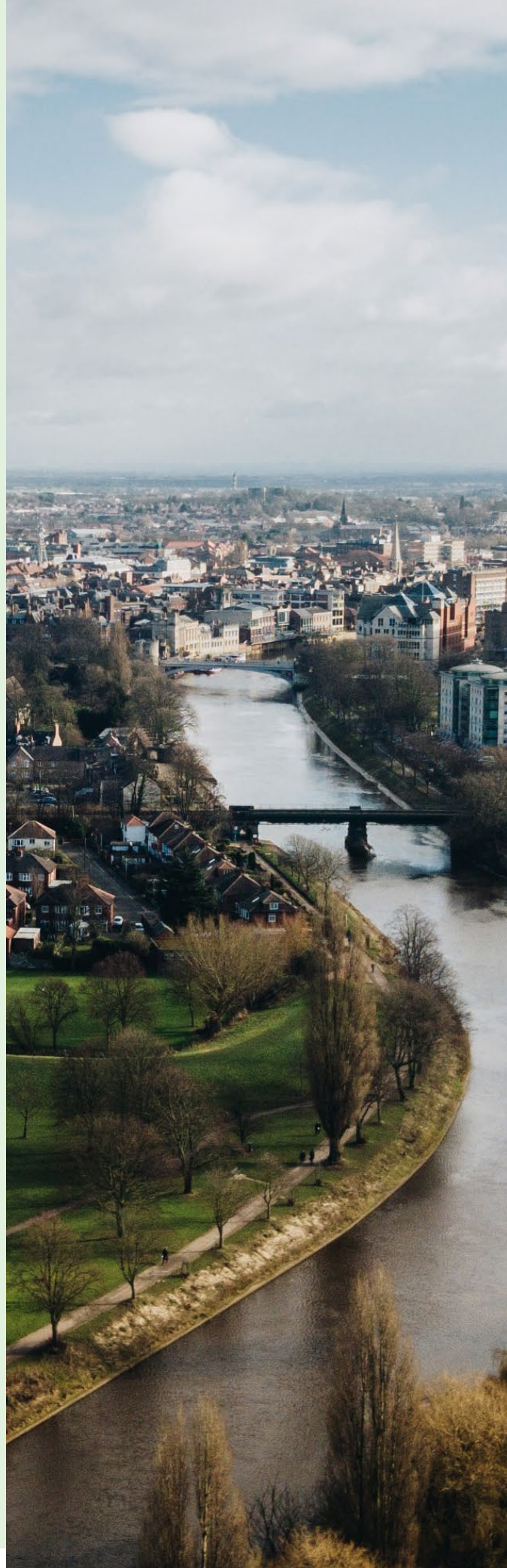
Doing this in an effective and sustainable way is vital, but a partnership of this kind is about more than necessity. As can be seen from this report, we have built upon the principles of Working Together to Safeguard Children, past improvements, and good practice from elsewhere. This has allowed us to develop innovative and collaborative ways of working that have ensured we continue to improve. We are continuing to invest time and resources into safeguarding children, and the outcomes recognised in this report give an important indication of how effective this has been.

The professional attitude and responsibility from people working in the Partnership will make sure that we are never complacent and continuously strive to improve and better meet our responsibilities, inspired by the voices of children, young people and families.



Catherine Clarke,
Assistant Chief
Constable, Local Policing
& Safeguarding, North
Yorkshire Police

C Clarke



■ Introduction

This is the City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership annual report which covers the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 and sets out the work that has been undertaken by partners and the subgroups of the partnership during that time. The focus of this report is on our priority areas:

Priority One: Prevention, Early Support and Early Help

Priority Two: Child Exploitation

Priority Three: Children Missing from Education

Priority Four: Engaging with Fathers

Priority Five: Mental Health and Wellbeing

In response to Prevention, Early Support and Early Help, the City of York received funding from the Department of Education to introduce family hubs in York.

[Raise York](#) is our family hubs model, which provides a network of people, places and online support for children and their families across the City of York. We have also worked with Lincolnshire Council regarding the development of a new Early Help Strategy which will be launched in 2024/25.

Children's Services has continued to be committed to implementing the new practice model Building Brighter Futures, which is a strengths-based approach to support families and ensures that children within the city are safe and their welfare is promoted. Partners have been brought alongside

Children's Services to support the implementation of this practice model which shares the vision and ethos of the Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) and the National Framework in the way in which we want to work with children and their families and outcomes we want to achieve.

The focus of our Child Exploitation priority has been on reviewing and developing a new Contextual Safeguarding Strategy which will be launched in 2024/25. The Child Exploitation Subgroup undertook a Harmful Sexual Behaviour Audit to identify how practice has improved following the implementation of the multi-agency Harmful Sexual Behaviour procedure.

With the Children Missing from Education priority we have focused our efforts on school attendance and how, as a partnership, we can make attendance 'everybody's business'. We continue to monitor data in relation to attendance and partners have put forward pledges as to how their organisation will support improving this. We will also be undertaking a deep dive audit in 2024/25 to consider the impact of school attendance for children.

Following the National Panel's report of the Myth of Invisible Men and through learning identified within our multi-agency audits and reviews, we want to raise awareness of the importance of building relationships with fathers, in relation to improving outcomes for children and encourage practitioners to 'think family' and consider significant others in the home when working with families. Therefore during 2024/25 we will be launching a

campaign across our partnership to raise awareness of engaging with fathers.

Young People told us at our development day and through feedback surveys that one of their main priority areas is Mental Health and Wellbeing therefore the partnership has adopted this as a priority area as we know that this is important to them. During 2023/24, we hosted a partnership session which was attended by stakeholders. Our shared ambition is to work with our key partners, stakeholders and other boards and partnerships to have a city-wide strategic ambition and plan for children and young people which can be shared more widely with partners, with the aim to enable a whole system response to support needs at the earliest stage.

Our greatest asset is our incredible safeguarding workforce, who are committed to serving our children, their families and communities in York. As a partnership, we recognise the progress that has been made during 2023/24 and we will continue to work together, build on our successes, make improvements and continue driving forward our five priority areas during 2024/25.



■ National Context

During the past year, we have seen nationally some significant changes within safeguarding policy including the Government's Strategy: Stable homes, Built on Love (2023) following Josh MacAlister's Independent review of Children's Social Care. The strategy emphasises the need for a whole system approach to reforming children's social care, requiring input from health, police, schools, family courts, youth justice, businesses and civil society alongside central government, local authorities and the workforce.

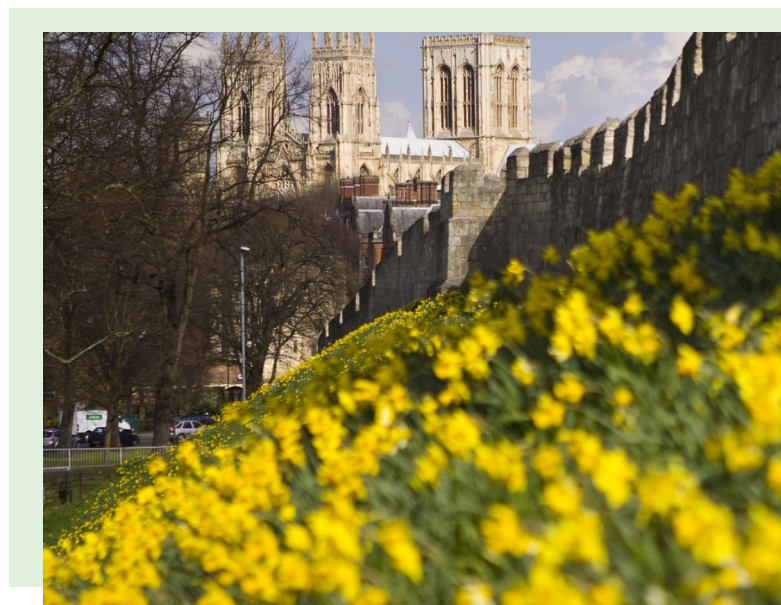
The government also published updated guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance in December 2023 which is central to delivering on the Government's Strategy: Stable homes, Built on Love (2023), which outlines the Government's commitment to support every child to grow up in a safe, stable and loving home.

[Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2023\)](#) sets out our shared responsibility which sees successful outcomes being dependent on strong multi-agency partnership working and child-centred practice which focuses on a whole family approach. It aims to strengthen our work with children and their families through keeping safeguarding at the centre of practice while working in partnership with families through embedding the principles set out within the guidance.

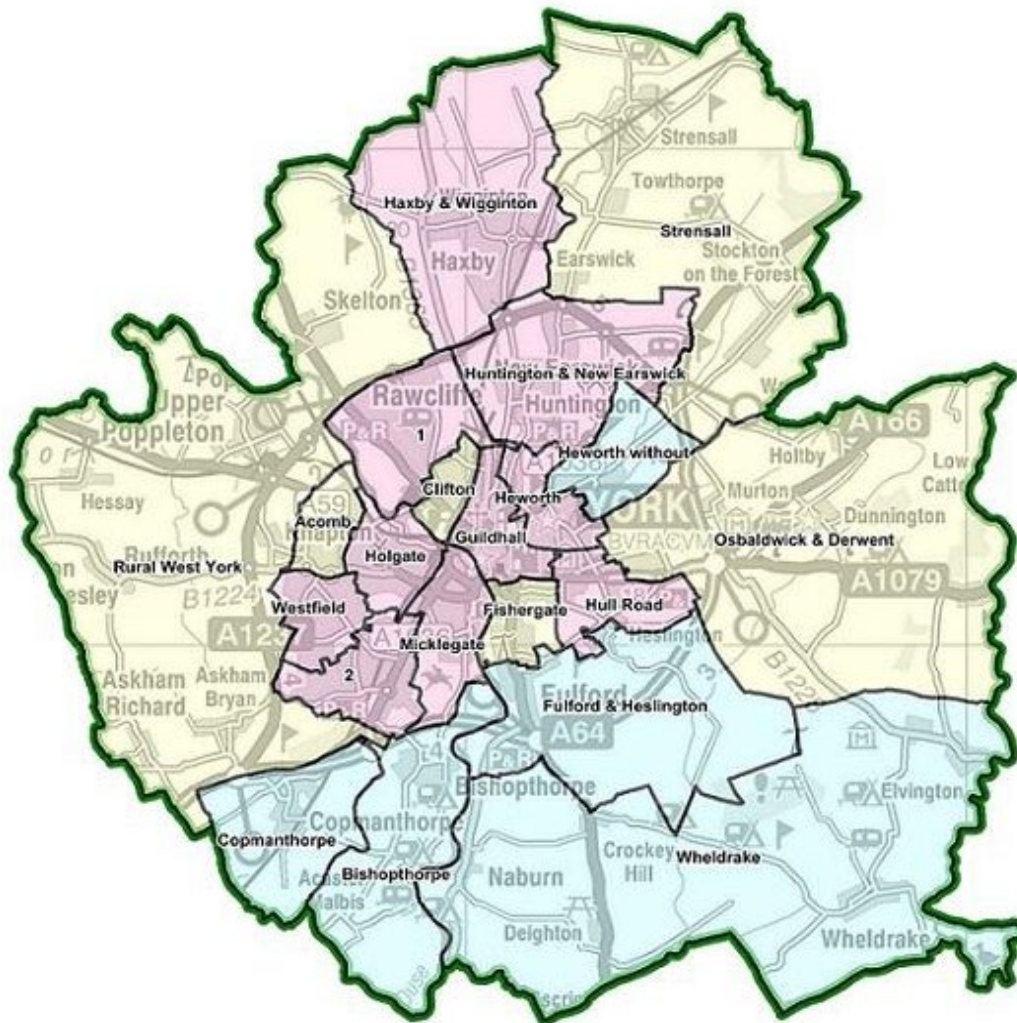
The partnership fosters a culture of continuous improvement and has continued to seek assurance from our safeguarding partners to ensure that children and young people are safe and that their welfare is promoted. We continue to monitor the implementation of the newly published Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) guidance across our partnership and updates against this will be reported in our next annual report.

Additionally, the Government also published the following documents: [Working Together Statutory Framework](#) (statute updates), the [Children's Social Care National Framework](#) and guidance on [Improving Practice with Children, Young People and Families](#).

The Children's Social Care National Framework has laid out in statutory guidance the purpose, principles for practice and expected outcomes of Children's Social Care. The guidance recognises that to achieve the right outcomes for children and young people, partnership vision and working needs to be at the centre of our work.



Local Context Geographical Footprint and Demographics



York is a cathedral city and a unitary authority area located in North Yorkshire which is the biggest geographical county in England. Located at the confluence of the Rivers Ouse and Foss, it is known for its famous historical landmarks such as York Minster and the city walls, as well as a variety of cultural and sporting activities, which makes it a popular tourist destination.

The local authority is the City of York Council and is responsible for providing all local services and facilities throughout the city. The population of the York which includes nearby villages is 211,012 residents (2021) which covers an area of 27, 194 hectares.

■ A snapshot of children and young people in York

Children and young people aged 0-18 make up 18.89% of York's population. (2021 Census).



First 1001 days

- 8.1% mothers smoking at the time of delivery (22/23)*
- 50% infants are breastfed at 6-8 weeks (Q2 23/24)
- 1.80% of total births were low birth weight recorded (under 2500g) - (≥ 37 weeks* gestational age at birth) (2021)
- 3.1 Infant mortality rate (under 1 year old), per 1,000 live births (20-22)*
- 12.09% face-to-face new birth visits undertaken by a health visitor after 14 days (Q2 23/24)



Aged 2-5

- 19.90% of reception year children recorded as being overweight (incl. obese) (22/23)*
- 95.57% of children who were at or above the expected level of development at the 2-2 1/2 year review (Q2 23/24)
- 1.4% of children attending state-funded nurseries are eligible for free school meals (23/24)
- 6.8% of children attending state-funded nurseries have an Education, Health and Care Plan (23/24)
- 24.7% of children attending state-funded nurseries receive special educational needs support (23/24)
- 126.6 Hospital admissions for dental caries (0-5 years), per 100,000 population (20/21-22/23*)

*There are no 23/24 values available yet for any of these indicators. It does take time for some of these indicators to be updated, especially the ones relating to hospital admissions as there is a lag in the data becoming available and being published. With regards to the two children's obesity/weight indicators the 23/24 National Child Measurement Programme measurement year is still taking place as it occurs throughout the academic year. The 23/24 values for these indicators will be available around November 24.

Aged 5-11

- 32.5% of year 6 children recorded as being overweight (incl. obese) (22/23)*
- 17% of children attending state-funded primary school are eligible for free school meals (23/24)
- 2.4% of children attending state-funded primary schools have an Education Health Care Plan (23/24)
- 10.7% of primary school aged children receive Special Educational Needs support (23/24)
- 10% of primary school pupils reported that they have used e-cigarettes and 6% said that they have smoked cigarettes
- 33% of primary school pupils said that they drink or have tried alcohol once or twice
- 73% of primary school children said that they brush their teeth more than once a day and just over half remembered visiting a dentist in the last year



Aged 12+

- 1.0% Teenage mothers (aged 12-17) (22/23)*
- 0.08% of 16-17 who are not in Employment, Education, or Training (Sept 2023)
- 15.2% of secondary-aged young people are eligible for free school meals (23/24)
- 2.1% of secondary school aged children have an Education, Health and Care Plan (23/24)
- 10.2% of primary school aged children receive Special Educational Needs Support (23/24)
- 90% of secondary/sixth form pupils have never smoked cigarettes and a quarter use/used e-cigarettes
- 66% of secondary/sixth form pupils said that they have tried or drink alcohol
- 13% of year 12 pupils have tried drugs
- Around a quarter of secondary/sixth form pupils reported that they have self-harmed in the past year (2023)
- 84% of secondary/sixth form pupils said that they 'brush their teeth' more than once a day' and 75% remembered visiting a dentist in the last year



*There are no 23/24 values available yet for any of these indicators. It does take time for some of these indicators to be updated, especially the ones relating to hospital admissions as there is a lag in the data becoming available and being published. With regards to the two children's obesity/weight indicators the 23/24 National Child Measurement Programme measurement year is still taking place as it occurs throughout the academic year. The 23/24 values for these indicators will be available around November 24.

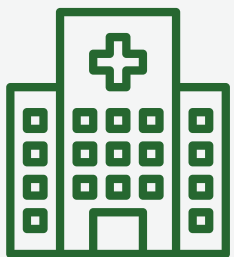


Children and Young People in York aged 0-18 are more likely to: (data taken from 2021 Census)

- Identify as male (50.59%)
- Identify as white (90.08%)
- Follow no religion (55.71%)
- Identify as being from the UK (95.08%)

More stats about children and young people:

- 6.18% are considered disabled under the Equality Act (2021 Census)
- 0.22% are Homeless (2021 Census)
- 245 are in our care (excluding short breaks) as of Q1 24/25



- 82.2 Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (aged 0-14 years per 100,000 resident population, 20/21-22/23)
- 33.0 Hospital admissions due to substance misuse (15-24 years), per 100,000 population (20/21-22/23)
- 114.4 Hospital admissions for mental health conditions (0-17 years), per 100,000 population (22/23)
- 27.30 Under 18s admitted to hospital with alcohol specific conditions per 100,000 population, (20/21-22/23)
- 254.5 Hospital admissions as a result of self harm (10-24 years), per 100,000 population (22/23)

■ Vision, Values and Principles

The Partnership has a vision at its core which is underpinned by its values and principles; these set out how the three statutory safeguarding partners work together with relevant agencies.

The overarching vision for the CYSCP is:

“For all the children of York to grow up in safety and to always feel safe”.

Values

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. Children are safeguarded by a whole system, agencies, stakeholders, families and communities.

The voice and lived experience of children and families is at the centre of everything that we do.

Principles

Empowerment. We will support, respect and empower families to make their own informed decisions.

Learning. We are a partnership that reflects, learns and are committed to continuous improvement.

Prevention. We are committed to early help and early support, preventing harm from occurring.

Relational Practice. We will work in a strength-based way, in collaboration with families and with each other, to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

Key Achievements 2023/24

The Partnership have continuously worked together throughout 2023-24 and have progressed a number of key pieces of work through the Executive and Subgroups. The subgroups have also taken forward different strands of work related to our five priorities. Below outlines the work we have undertaken, how we know we are making a difference and what we will do next.



■ Priority One: Prevention, Early Support and Early Help

The partnership has received updates from the Safeguarding and Professional Practice Subgroup regarding Early Help, with work undertaken across the City of York by partners. Partners have also received updates regarding [Raise York](#), our family hubs model, which provides a network of people, places and online support for children and their families across the City of York.

The partnership has worked with Lincolnshire Council regarding the development of a new Early Help Strategy which will be launched in 2024/25.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Operational Subgroup has led on the review of the multi-agency Threshold Guidance in response to Working Together (2023) alongside the review of the multi-agency referral form, both of which will be launched during 2024/25.

Following a local multi-agency case review, the partnership has set up a multi-agency task and finish group regarding engagement with the travelling community. The work of the multi-agency task and finish group continues and focuses on developing practice guidance with the intention to build in cultural awareness training and exploring more creative ways of supporting children in education considering the over-representation of traveller community in low school attendance figures.

The Partnership has remained committed to working together to share important information between partners regarding safeguarding children and young people and ensuring that all the right information is available to make the right decisions for families in terms of level of intervention

and support. There can be barriers relating to this at times, including consent to share information and we continue to explore how to overcome these as a partnership without breaking any confidentiality unnecessarily and build trusting relationships with families.

How do we know we are making a difference?

Schools are generally well placed to capture the child's voice and their lived experience due to regularity of contact with both the children and their families. School records from recent reviews have shown good examples of the recording of the child's voice. Safeguarding reviews have shown that pupil voice work is also used widely to ascertain children's views and ensure that they are aware of who they can talk to in school if they have any worries. We know that our schools at both primary and secondary level continue to support children, young people and their families through providing support at a preventative level and lead on the majority of our multi-agency assessments across the partnership.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub are undertaking multi-agency audits within the team which is providing oversight about the quality of referrals and the work of the wider safeguarding system ensuring the 'right service at the right time' is being offered to families.

Children's Services are continuing implementing their new practice model Building Brighter Futures across the City of York. Through discussions with partners at the Safeguarding Professional Practice Subgroup and through audits, it is evident that partners are working alongside

Children's Services in a strength-based way to provide a consistent approach to all of our children and families. The use of the Signs of Safety approach is continuing to support decision making with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and at the point of stepping up/stepping down from Child Protection to Child in Need which means children and young people are getting the right support at the right time.

Earlier interventions with families are reducing the number of children being made subject to child protection plans and this is allowing stronger and more positive relationships with families. Agencies are working together to develop plans which means families are made aware of all the support available aimed to help make meaningful change and improve outcomes for children.

Practitioners working with children, young people and their families seek their views through planning, assessments and interventions. The Building Brighter Futures practice model has ensured that the voice of the child is considered and used in practice when developing plans and safety for children.

Within North Yorkshire Police a considerable amount of training has been undertaken with front line police officers to promote the capturing of child voice and lived experience including the promotion of the AWARE document, which is a guide to use when observing children at incidents and to support officers in what should be recorded. Members of the subgroup are also aware through reviews that North Yorkshire Police are capturing voice within Public Protection Notices' (PPN's) and have heard positive feedback about how this has helped in decision-making within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.

What we will do next

We will launch our Early Help Strategy across the partnership which will promote our shared vision about how we can support children and their families at the earliest opportunity. We know that more work needs to be undertaken with our safeguarding partnership to demonstrate what early help support has been offered and undertaken with families prior to a referral being made. This is to ensure we offer help early to prevent statutory involvement wherever possible and focus more on supporting vulnerable families, developing networks and involving those partners involved with the family to look at long-term help.

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Operational Subgroup will continue to review data and undertake dip samples to understand the impact of implementing and embedding the updated threshold guidance in 2024/25. We are building better relationships with the travelling community so that we can achieve more resilient and long-lasting safety plans.

The partnership will continue to support the development of a multi-agency data set regarding Early Help and Prevention which will support partners understanding of early help across the City of York.



■ Priority Two: Child Exploitation

The current partnership Adolescent Strategy is under review and it was agreed by partners to create a new partnership Contextual Safeguarding Strategy. A Task and Finish Group was established in December 2023 to take this work forward. As part of the development work, partners came together to reflect on the Tackling Child Exploitation practice principles and consider how these are reflected within our multiagency responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm.

We have continued to develop and enhance the Multi-Agency Missing, Vulnerable to Exploitation and Harmful Sexual Behaviour Data Set to include analysis. The data set now includes a data headlines section that includes emerging trends and themes. This data set is used as part of discussions as well as identifying any actions partners are taking/can take.

We receive updates against the National Referral Mechanism 'Home Office' Pilot from the NRM Panel meeting and to seek assurance that the implementation of this pilot is effective.

In June 2023, a multi-agency audit was undertaken regarding Harmful Sexual Behaviour to identify how practice has improved following the implementation of the multi-agency Harmful Sexual Behaviour procedure. The focus of the audit included: Prevention, Initial response, Assessment and Impact on the child. A 7-point briefing on the audit outcomes was developed and disseminated across the partnership and an action plan was developed by partners which is being monitored by the Learning, Development and Performance Subgroup.

To measure the impact of partner agencies understanding of Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) across the City of York following the implementation of the new procedure and roll out of multi-agency training, the partnership developed a survey which was disseminated to partners to measure the impact of the implementation of the procedure.

We implemented 'Operation Endeavour' across the City of York. This is an initiative which aims to support children and young people who go missing from home by sharing of information between our partners with schools.

We developed a partnership campaign regarding Online Safety alongside the NSPCC, following this area being identified by the partnership as an area of importance. A Task and Finish group was established and took forward work in relation to an awareness raising campaign focused on primary aged children and parents/carers of primary aged children, with the general public being the secondary audience. New online safety web pages were created and hosted on the partnership website, highlighting both local and national resources and services available to parents/carers and those working with children and families. In addition, the partnership hosted a theatre production and workshop regarding online safety which was delivered to 1200 children to children in Years 5 and 6 (9-11 years).

How do we know we are making a difference?

The partnership undertook a Harmful Sexual Behaviour Survey to understand whether professionals working within the City of York had a greater understanding of Harmful Sexual Behaviour, including the protocol and pathways for referral. The survey was disseminated across the partnership in June 2023 and the survey contained the same questions to benchmark against the previous survey carried out in February 2022 and establish any improvements. Headline data included:

- 95% of respondents felt they had a shared understanding of what Harmful Sexual Behaviour is and what constitutes it. This has improved slightly since February 2022, when 91% of respondents felt they had a shared understanding of what HSB is and what constitutes HSB.
- Many practitioners were aware of the Hackett model adopted by the partnership but there were still 36% of respondents who did not know this in June 2023.
- 98% of respondents have a procedure for responding to incidents of Harmful Sexual Behaviour and this has not changed since the subsequent survey.
- 78% of respondents felt they were trained to identify Harmful Sexual Behaviour and knew how to respond or who to go to within their agency
- 84% of respondents were aware of where to go for support around responding to incidents of HSB. This increased slightly from 82%.
- 21% of respondents had delivered any HSB interventions and 65% of respondents felt they knew where to go to access HSB interventions.

Through our multi-agency audit on Harmful Sexual Behaviour we know that there were many areas of good practice and communication between services. It was evident that the service provision for young people displaying Harmful Sexual Behaviour has improved within the City of York. There was clear evidence that preventative work is being undertaken through referrals to the Youth Justice Service and other agencies to complete intervention once concerns were raised by professionals.

The audit evidenced there was a high level of support for parents for all the children being considered by different services. Where appropriate, interventions were offered and delivered to parents. When considering the support for families, it was apparent that agencies work well together, which is evidenced in case records and shows clear communication with the families throughout.

Since the launch of flagging children as high or medium risk of exploitation on health systems the partnership has received feedback that the process is effective and robust. Anecdotal evidence suggests that on seeing these flags health practitioners have reflected on what this means in practice and if they need to act on this. At present, the impact of the process of flagging of health records is being further explored.

We know that the voice of the child/young people is included in Child Exploitation risk assessments and within National Referral Mechanism Referrals which is important to understand their lived experience. Feedback from the Home Office continues to be positive in respect of the National Referral Mechanism Pilot. The pilot has shortened decision time to

an average of 45 days (previously it was taking the Home Office up to two years to decide). The pilot continues to make a difference for children by making children the centre of decision-making. In addition, the Home Office has agreed to extend the pilot.

What we will do next

We will continue to monitor any trends within the data set and record actions partners are taking to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

We will continue to include a “spotlight topic” at each meeting in response with any emerging trends and themes identified within the data set.

Following a Rapid Review, one of the recommendations highlighted was to review the Child Exploitation operational meetings/processes to ensure that these align to statutory processes.

During 2024/25, we will launch our new Contextual Safeguarding Strategy

We will continue to review any national, regional or local learning and develop learning resources such as briefings, one-minute guides and reports which can be disseminated to front line professionals, partners and stakeholders in respect of Child Exploitation.



■ Priority Three: Children Missing from Education

The focus of this priority has been on school attendance given this is a significant national challenge since the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated school closures. Attendance for both primary and secondary school children remain a concern and this is the case in York too, particularly for students with additional vulnerabilities.

The Partnership have created a multi-agency task and finish subgroup which develops ways in which school attendance across York is seen as 'Everybody's Business' and school attendance across the City of York is improving. Partners have developed a multi-agency attendance pledge which outlines what their service/organisation will do about ensuring that attendance is everybody's business.

Partners and schools were invited to an attendance summit which was hosted by our Education colleagues in September 2023.

Regular data has been shared and reviewed by partners at multi-agency task group meeting to understand the trends/patterns. We know that those with additional needs such as Special Educational Need/Disability and free school meal children have low attendance across the City of York.

We have also received updates from the Education Service at both the Safeguarding Professional Practice Subgroup and the Executive in relation to the attendance picture across the City of York.

How do we know we are making a difference?

We know that 93% of children's case records (quarter 2 quality assurance report) within children's social care included consideration of school attendance in the assessment/intervention and work is now being undertaken to ensure that it is clear who is working with school by a health partner to ensure that those children who are persistently absent due to sickness are supported.

What we will do next

As a partnership we need to understand and address the barriers/challenges which prevent children going to school. Therefore the Learning Development and Performance Subgroup has commissioned a multi-agency audit regarding those children with poor attendance.

We will gain assurance from our partners regarding what they have pledged to do in response to attendance.

We will continue to review data to understand the overall attendance picture in York and to see what difference our work as a partnership has made.



■ Priority Four: Working with Fathers and Male Carers

Engaging with fathers has been identified as a priority area in relation to professionals actively working to build and form relationships with fathers and male carers. It has been regularly highlighted both within learning from local reviews and within multi-agency audits the difficulties professionals have in building relationships with fathers and male carers when working with families, recognising that often the focus is usually around mothers. This theme has also been highlighted with the [National Panel's report of the Myth of Invisible Men](#).

The partnership agreed to undertake the following actions in response to practice:

- raise awareness of the importance of building relationships with fathers in relation to improving outcomes for children and encourage practitioners to 'think family' and consider significant others in the home when working with families
- build a repository of resources for professionals to support effective engagement and work with fathers
- raise awareness from a safeguarding perspective with regards to the risks associated with non-engagement with fathers and the impact of this on safeguarding assessments and the welfare of children
- celebrate effective working relationships with fathers and share learning
- encourage and understand fathers' voices regarding what they would like from practitioners
- ensure fathers feel welcome in our services and feel part of all family assessments

The partnership has updated and re-circulated the 'Engaging with Fathers' blog, to ensure that our work with families includes consideration of a child's wider network including the importance of fathers and male carers.

What we will do next

We have agreed to launch a campaign alongside the Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership and Hull Safeguarding Children Partnership to help raise awareness regarding the importance of building relationships and connecting with fathers. The partnership will create a new webpage on the partnership website which pulls together useful resources and links for professionals working with fathers and male carers. A briefing session during Safeguarding Week will take place regarding the importance of engaging with fathers and we will promote across our front-line professionals the importance of included fathers within our work.

We will be undertaking an impact survey during 2024/25 across our partnership to understand what difference our work has made in relation to this priority area.



■ Priority Five: Mental Health and Wellbeing

What we have done

Young People told us at our development day and through feedback surveys that one of their main priority areas is Mental Health and Wellbeing and in response the partnership has adopted this as a priority area as we hear about how important this is to them. As part of this priority area, the Voice and Involvement Subgroup have been seeking assurance from partners agencies as to how they involve young people in accessing support in relation to Mental Health and Wellbeing. Our partners came together for an in-person workshop session which included a presentation from the ICB co-production lead and a young person from the young person advisory group 'Nothing About us Without Us' to consider the following:

- What are children and young people telling us about mental health?
- What are the key things young people in the city are asking for and what action should be taken?
- What we as a voice and involvement group should do?
- What we as a voice and involvement group should be asking of partners?

Actions by individual agencies were identified and a summary report of the learning from this session was shared with Executive.

Representation on the Voice and Involvement subgroup now includes a young person volunteer on Young People's Mental Health Advisory Group.

What we will do next

Our ambition is to work with our key partners, stakeholders and other boards and partnership to have a city-wide strategic ambition and plan for children and young people's wellbeing and mental health, which can be shared more widely with partners with the aim to enable a whole system response to support needs at the earliest stage. We would support the drive for the development of mapping need and provision against the iThrive model.

The Voice and Involvement Subgroup will continue to meet to continue to do some collective planning and evaluation.

We will include data regarding mental health and wellbeing within our partnership wide data set.

We will support and promote the Trusted Adults campaign which has been developed by the Humber and North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Mental Health Programme in collaboration with the Nothing About Us Without Us young people's advisory group, and the training and resources developed as part of this campaign.



■ Improving Further

There is still further work to be done regarding the development of a wider partnership data set which will enable patterns and trends to be identified and examined, leading to the partnership developing a clearer understanding about areas of strong multi-agency practice and those areas about which the partnership wants to learn more. The subgroup will be able to use this information to better understand performance across partners and to identify any patterns/trends the partnership wishes to seek clarity on or to undertake a partnership deep dive/audit.

■ Voice and Lived Experience of Child or Young Person

The voice of the child and their family is a golden thread within all our work and this helps us to better understand how as a partnership we worked well together and how we can work even better together in the future to improve outcomes for children and young people.

We have continued to promote our voice pledge and reviewed our voice webpages to support professionals in understanding the voice of children across our partnership.

All thematic, multi-agency and single-agency audits include the voice of the child and their lived experience which is integral to informing all recommendations and actions.

Within multi-agency reviews we have seen good practice examples of where the child/young person's view and their lived experience was excellently articulated. On review of records it was evident that the Signs of Safety approach is being embedded

across Children's Services and language is simple, easily understood and is written directly to the child or young person

Following a multi-agency audit of pre-verbal voice, the partnership has promoted and embedded the PRESENT Tool and PRESENT Practice Guidance which supports practitioners to capture the voice and lived experience of pre-verbal children. This was launched during Safeguarding Week 2023 and a narrated power point training now available on the partnership website.

The group explored with North Yorkshire Police colleagues Quality Assurance activity to investigate the quality and accuracy of children's voice. The overall findings were of significant improvement in this area since the previous audit.

We continue to maintain links with our Corporate Parenting Board partners who provide regular updates to our Voice and Involvement Subgroup. The Corporate Parenting Board continues to involve our care experienced children and young people to get their views around services being offered through City of York Council, education and health. The City of York's local offer to support care leavers has been launched and has had contribution from those children and young people involved in the Children in Care Council.

The partnership has supported North Yorkshire Police's campaign regarding [Tilly's story](#). North Yorkshire Police have worked with a young person to develop a video called Tilly's Story. This is a poem written by Tilly, who was sexually assaulted by a trusted adult, which has been made into a campaign video. The video places Tilly's own story and words at the heart of the campaign. The video is being shared with schools, other local authorities, and on social media.

■ Learning and Development

The partnership carries out the functions of improving child protection and safeguarding practice as described in [Chapter 5 of Working Together to Safeguarding Children \(2023\)](#) through the Case Review Subgroup.

Data and Themes

During the period of 2023-24:

- Number of notifications made to the National Panel: 3
- Number of Rapid Reviews undertaken by the partnership: 2¹
- Number of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews: 0²
- Number of Local multi-agency case reviews: 1
- Number of Multi-Agency Audits: 3³

Throughout all of our reviews professionals involved ensure that the child or young person's voice and or lived experience is at the forefront of all our conversations. As a partnership we obtain this either through direct communication with family or through practitioners who know or have supported them.



¹ In relation to one of the children there were no concerns regarding known or suspected neglect or abuse and therefore agreed that a submission of a Rapid Review was not required.

² Due to the Rapid Review being comprehensive and learning identified the National Panel agreed with the decision not to initiate a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review.

³ Non-Verbal Babies and Infants Audit, Harmful Sexual Behaviour, Section

The themes from the multi-agency reviews undertaken during 2023/24 have included:

- Impact of Bereavement/Family Relationships
- Housing
- Exploitation
- Child in Need and Interventions
- Drugs and Alcohol Misuse
- Engagement of Fathers
- Managing Allegations Against Professionals/People in Positions of Trust
- Parental Mental Health
- Escalating risks and responses
- Safety plans – parental understanding
- Knives
- Child/young person Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Non-accidental injury to an infant
- Domestic Abuse
- Response to a previous 999 call and attendance at A&E

For each Rapid Review, Local Safeguarding Child Practice Review or multi-agency review detailed action plans outlining learning have been created and actions are progressed. (To note that these actions plans are available but not normally published).



The Case Review Subgroup ensure that following a review of cases, actions are progressed and monitored by the subgroup. All of the action plans are monitored quarterly by the Case Review Subgroup and regular assurance reporting on progress are provided to the Executive by the Chair of the Subgroup.

Following the launch of our new website in 2023/24 we have developed a Learning

and Development webpage which includes information regarding: Legislation, National Learning, Regional Learning, 7 point-briefings, Learning Masterclasses, and Action Plans. Learning from all cases is disseminated by the partnership to ensure that front-line professionals are aware of any local practice updates. Members of this subgroup also support with the dissemination of learning via their agencies.

■ Training

E-Learning

The partnership e-learning platform was launched in May 2022. Initially, it only hosted the Safeguarding Children Awareness E-learning course however, subsequently the following free narrated PowerPoint presentations have also been added:

- Private Fostering
- PRESENT Guidance and Tool
- PAMIC Tool

Between 2023/24, 681 learners completed the Safeguarding Children Awareness E-learning course.

■ Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training

Number of Multi-Agency Training Sessions delivered and attendees 2023/2024		
CYSCP Multi-Agency courses delivered in 2021/22	Sessions	Total attendees
Safeguarding Children: Working Together A 2022/23	8	160
Safeguarding Children: Shared Responsibilities and Procedures - Working Together B 2022/23	8	159
Developing an Understanding of Harmful Sexual Behaviour	10	63
The Child Death Review: Advanced Training for Professionals	3	28
Total	29	410

The number of 'no shows' for Safeguarding A and B training has reduced during 2023/2024 as this training now is being delivered face-to-face where previously this was delivered virtually. The number of professionals attending multi-agency training has remained at a consistent level.

Evaluation of feedback

At the end of each, a link is sent to participants to an online feedback form. Between September 2023 and March 2024 62 responses have been received. Feedback also includes asking: 'Did you find the session helpful in updating and improving your knowledge. With 94% scaling between 10-8 and the Safeguarding A training and 100% scaling between 10-8 Safeguarding B Training.

The Youth Justice Service continues to deliver Harmful Sexual Behaviour training on behalf of the partnership and provide support and advice to partners when required. Overwhelmingly, training has been received well. Delegates who attended were asked eight evaluation questions in total. When asked how the course has made a difference to their practice? Delegates were able to demonstrate a better understanding of Harmful Sexual Behaviour, the multi-agency protocol and where to seek further support.

Priorities for 2024/25

The Safeguarding A and B Training is currently being observed by multi-agency partners to review the quality of our partnership training. An impact evaluation survey has been produced this will be circulated to all attendees of both Safeguarding A and B training and Harmful Sexual Behaviour training approximately 6 months after completing training to gather impact data. This will be reported within the next annual report.

Yorkshire and Humber Multi-Agency Training Meeting (YHMAST)

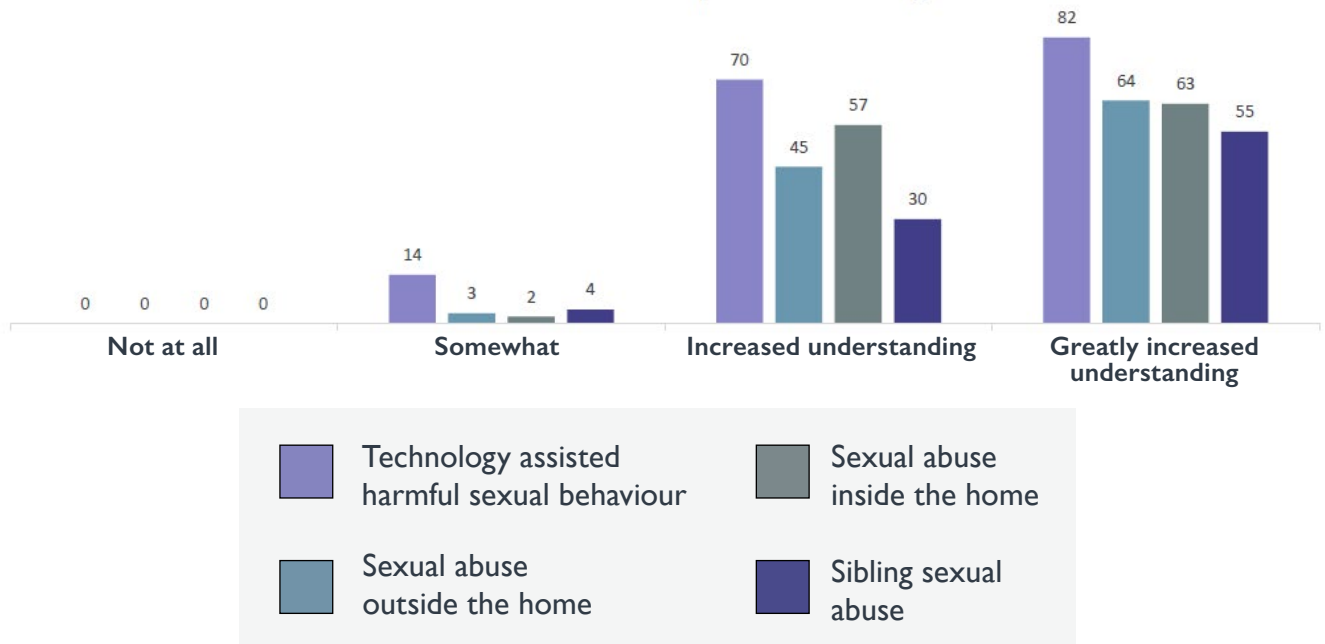
The partnership continues to be a member of the regional Yorkshire and Humber Multi-Agency Training Meeting (YHMAST). During 2023/24 the group hosted a series of webinars on the theme of child sexual abuse across the Yorkshire and Humber region for stakeholders.

- The webinars were delivered by experts from The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA Centre) and covered the following topical areas:
- Technology-Assisted Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Sexual Abuse Outside the Home
- Sexual Abuse Inside the Home (Intra-Familial)
- Sibling Sexual Abuse

Across the four sessions, over 937 professionals attended. After the event, an electronic feedback survey was distributed to those who attend. Of the 937 attendees 489 responses were received. In summary, the feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive and professionals indicated that they would like to attend future events such as this.

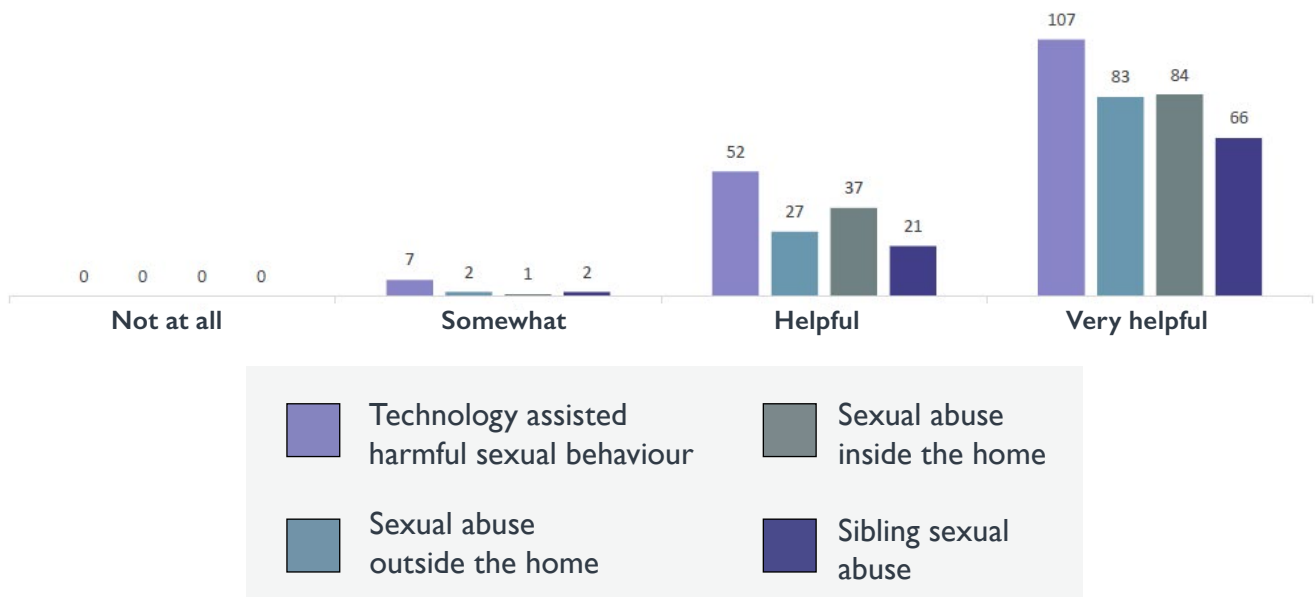
Attendees were asked to rate to what extent the webinars have increased their understanding of child sexual abuse. Responses were rated from 1 being 'not at all' to 4 being 'greatly increased understanding'. Overall, the vast majority of staff who provided feedback indicated that the webinar increased or greatly increased their understanding of the topic.

To what extent has this webinar increased your understanding of child sexual abuse?



Attendees were asked to rate whether the knowledge gained in the session will be helpful for their professional development. Responses were rated from 1 being 'not at all helpful' to 4 being 'very helpful'. The chart below shows the number of responses received for each rating. Those who selected 'somewhat' explained in the comments that this was due to their individual job role and not due to the content of the session.

Please rate whether the knowledge gained in this session will be helpful for your professional development?



Due to the success of this it has been agreed by the YHMAST meeting to put further mini conferences on identified shared themes across the region throughout 2024/25.

■ Safeguarding in Education

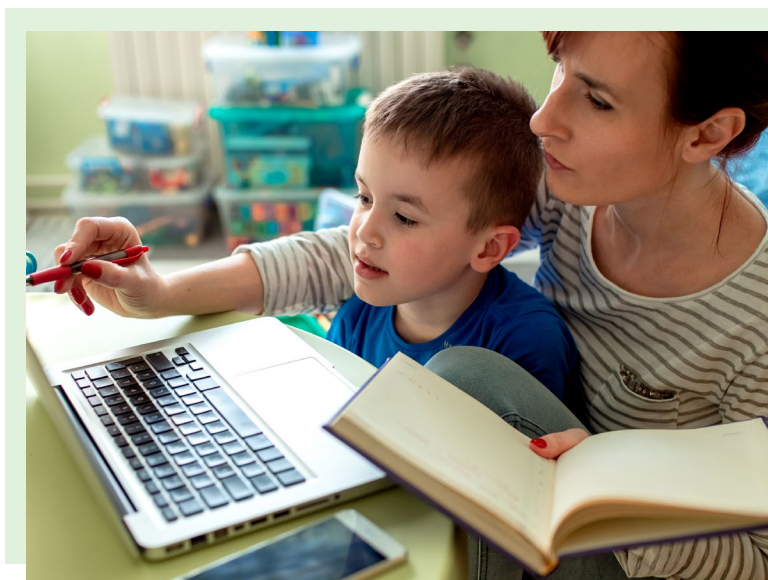
The CYSCP has adopted a procedure which outlines the School Audit (Section 157 and 175, Education Act 2002) and assurance arrangements to the CYSCP Executive around safeguarding practice within the city's schools. The procedure sets out the audit and assurance arrangements function in respect of schools within the City of York.

The City of York Education Service has a Schools Safeguarding Advisor who provides safeguarding advice and supports all schools and colleges in the city. As part of their role, the School Safeguarding Advisor provides annual assurance updates to the Executive regarding safeguarding in schools, which summarises safeguarding activity undertaken in schools and identifies themes and specific safeguarding concerns raised through audit and by colleagues in schools.

During 2023/2024 the Schools Safeguarding Advisor has provided training to designated safeguarding leads, school governors and Early Years and has carried out bespoke training sessions in schools. In addition, the School Safeguarding Advisor has continued to work directly with schools in the city to support strong safeguarding arrangements, by undertaking safeguarding reviews and providing an important link to the assurance function of the partnership.

The School Safeguarding Advisor and colleagues from schools have continued to work in partnership with, and have actively contributed to, a number of multi-agency activities undertaken by the partnership over the period, including:

- Ongoing continuous development of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and contribution to multi-agency audits
- Support prevention of Child Exploitation by attending the MACEM meetings and regular risk assessment meetings with partners
- Ongoing support of partner led Early Help processes
- Multi-agency learning reviews and audits
- Ongoing development of the CYSCP learning strategy and training
- Ongoing involvement at the CYSCP Subgroups as an Education representative
- Strengthening the involvement of Education as a partner within the CYSCP in response to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023



■ Communication and Engagement

Social Media

The partnership regularly communicates with partners to provide important information such as changes to policies and procedures as well as links to information and resources. It also promotes campaigns, various safeguarding themes and activities of partners and other safeguarding organisations. We use a variety of communication and engagement methods. We also send out regular monthly newsletters to professionals and during 2023/24 our website was refreshed and launched.

Statistics

X (formerly Twitter)

1,150 followers

E-Newsletter

883 individuals have now signed up to receive this

Website

2500 hits per month

Campaigns

During 2023/24, the partnership has also continued to support a number of both local and national campaigns. Some of these included:

- Childline ‘Day in the Lonely’ campaign
- CYSCP Online Safety Campaign
- North Yorkshire and City of York Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (SUDI) “Day or Night, Sleep Right” Campaign
- NHS Campaign to help parents with introducing babies to solid food
- Safeguarding Week 2023
- Water Safety Campaign
- #LookCloser Campaign
- Anti-Slavery Day
- National Adoption Week
- National Hate Crime Week
- Anti-Bullying Week
- Children’s Mental Health Week
- Police Fire and Crime Commissioner’s Just a kiss campaign
- Safer Internet Day
- Sexual Abuse & Sexual Violence Week

Following some of these campaigns, evaluation reports are shared with the partnership via the subgroups. The outcome of these to help inform, future campaigns, if further signposting is required or if further work needs to be undertaken by the partnership to promote specific safeguarding themes.



■ Child Death Review Panel (CDOP)

One of the most devastating things for a family to experience is the death of a child and it is recognised that this will have a profound and long-lasting impact on everyone involved in that child's life. All deaths of children up to the age of 18 years, excluding stillbirths and planned terminations have been reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) since April 2008. The Child Death Review process is undertaken in accordance with national guidance and statutory guidance set out in *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023*. The Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance 2018 builds on the requirements set out in Chapter 6 of *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023*.

The purpose of the Child Death Review Process is to try to ascertain why children die and put in place interventions to protect other children and prevent future deaths wherever possible. The process intends to:

- Document, analyse and review information in relation to each child that dies in order to confirm the cause of death, determine any contributing factors and to identify learning arising from the process that may prevent future child deaths
- To make recommendations to all relevant organisations where actions have been identified which may prevent future deaths or promote the health, safety and wellbeing of children
- To produce an annual report on local patterns and trends in child death, any lessons learnt and actions taken, and the effectiveness of the wider Child Death Review Process

- To contribute to local, regional and national initiatives to improve learning from Child Death Reviews

Child Death Review partners; the Local Authorities and Integrated Care Boards for North Yorkshire and City of York have a responsibility to undertake the Child Death Review Process as set out in the Children Act 2004, and as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. North Yorkshire and the City of York have a joint Child Death Overview Panel which is a multi-agency panel with differing areas of professional expertise with the child death review process being undertaken locally for all children who are normally resident within North Yorkshire and City of York. The Child Death Review Panel produce an annual report each year which outline their findings and highlight their priorities. A copy of the annual report can be found [here](#). The Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report 2022/23 can be found [here](#).




■ Partnership Finance 2023/24

The Partnership budget is derived from contributions from the three statutory partners. As well as direct funding the Partnership is also provided with services in kind by a number of agencies. Further discussions regarding the budget will be undertaken by the Executive following the publication of Working Together (2023) and in supporting the implementation of Working Together (2023) the Partnership also received a one off grant from the Government of £47,500.

Income	2021/2022 £
CYC Children's Services including training income	£(49,520)
NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board	£(78,991)
North Yorkshire Police	£(33,011)
Total Income	£(161,522)



If you would like this document in an alternative format, please contact:

 (01904) 551550

 ycc@york.gov.uk

 @CityofYork

 @cityofyork

It is available in the following languages:

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

Publication date: December 2024

For further information: West Offices, Station Rise, York YO1 6GA