



Report Reference Number: S/20/10

To: Scrutiny Committee
Date: 24 September 2020
Ward(s) Affected: All
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Title: North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Reports 2018-2019

Summary:

This report accompanies the above-named annual reports. Below offers a short summary of the documents and an insight into Selby District Council's current position in relation to ensuring effective safeguarding practices.

Recommendations:

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the content of the attached annual reports for the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adult's Boards.

Reasons for recommendation

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults is a statutory duty for the District Council.

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Boards have a statutory duty to publish annual reports, accounting for the activities of the Board for the previous year. These reports cover 2018/19 activity and provide evidence of the key areas of focus for the current year.
- 1.2 Both reports discuss the governance arrangements across North Yorkshire, the work of the sub-groups and outline the activity and partnership working in the Selby District.
- 1.3 The reports highlight the governance changes agreed in 2018, and the timeframe for which they would be enacted.
- 1.4 The changes include:

Adults: New Multi-Agency Protocols (i.e A reduction of the number of stages in the process, and shifting the focus to be person-centred, to 'Make Safeguarding Personal').

Children: Following the changes in legislation, the Board would be revised and replaced by an Executive function by September 2019, with the co-ordination of children's safeguarding undertaken by all organisations that feature in the report.

2. North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board Report 2018-19

The report notes that the vision and priorities for the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board (NYSCB) remain the same as the previous year, namely:

Vision:

"We will listen to the views of children and young people and work together to ensure they feel safe and North Yorkshire is a happy place to live."

Priorities:

"To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposed of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area."

"To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each person or body for those purposes."

2.1. The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board (NYSCB) report outlines in 2018-19 data that the overall demand for child protection services remained high, although there are some signs of demand reaching a plateau, with a 7.3% decrease across the County in referrals to Children's Social Care compared to 2017-18. Although the rate of repeat referrals had increased to 18.2% in 2018-19 compared to 15.8% in 2017-18, North Yorkshire referrals remain lower than across England (21.9%).

2.2. The report outlines that the 2018-19 audits highlighted the following issues for practitioners across North Yorkshire:

- Awareness of internal policies and procedures, as well as the multi-agency procedures when recognising and reporting children safeguarding concerns to avoid delays in addressing those concerns should safeguarding leads be unavailable.
- Absence of Multi-Agency Challenge Events resulted in a lack of peer cross examination of agencies safeguarding arrangements.

It has been agreed that the next Section 11¹ audit will continue to be conducted on a biennial basis, with the next audit commencing in November 2020.

2.4. Selby District Council's involvement is included within Chapters 6 and 7 of the NYSCB report. It explains that there is crossover between Safeguarding

¹ S11 of the Children's Act 2004 – ensuring arrangements are in place to discharge functions having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

and Community Safety work, and Selby District Council carries out activity in both realms. Specifically, at the local level, Selby District Council sits on the Selby Children's Safeguarding Strategy Group which focused on e-safety as a priority theme for 2018-19, along with reducing teenage pregnancy.

- 2.5. North Yorkshire Safeguarding Week ran from 25-29 June 2018 and was supported across the county by our five Children's Strategy and Safeguarding Groups (CSSG) including Selby CSSG. Selby looked at the impact of drugs and alcohol misuse and how this can lead to safeguarding concerns; as well as placing an emphasis throughout the week on 'elder abuse'

3. North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Report 2018-19

The report notes that the vision and priorities for the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB) remain the same as the previous year, namely:

Vision:

"We will provide leadership, challenge and direction to ensure that the partner agencies improve outcomes for adults at risk of harm or abuse. We will promote values of openness, trust, respect and learning".

Priorities:

- Awareness and Empowerment
- Prevention
- Protection and Proportionality
- Partnership Effectiveness and Accountability

- 3.1 During 2018-19, NYSAB received 5514 Safeguarding concerns - a decrease of 9% on 2017-18.

- 3.2. The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB) report informs of a development day at which the 2019-20 priorities were discussed. The priorities were agreed as:

- Work more closely with communities in North Yorkshire to develop strategies that reduce the risk of abuse, and help improve services;
- Implement and embed the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policies, in line with national guidance and best practice around Making Safeguarding Personal;
- Develop a whole community approach to the prevention of abuse;
- Ensure the accountability of all partners working with adults at risk of abuse;
- Develop North Yorkshire's response to National Priorities;
- Understand and assess the impact of changes in the strategic context within which the Board operates.

- 3.3. NYSAB has focused on the following sub-groups:

- Trading Standards will become a member of the Board
- A new Policies, Practice and Legislation sub-group
- A more integrated data set has been developed
- Benchmarking ourselves against other Safeguarding Adults Boards and learning from good practice
- A new subgroup - 'Communications and Engagement'

3.4. The work the Board has carried out and are looking to carry out in the future include:

- New Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policy and Procedures
- Mental Capacity Act (MCA) Engagement
- Carers Updates

4. Local Delivery

In October 2019 the Children's Safeguarding Strategy Groups, Local Safeguarding Adult Groups and the Community Safety Local Delivery Teams were merged to create Local Safeguarding Partnerships (LSP's). The LSP aims to:

- Raise awareness of local safeguarding issues in the locality
- Respond to local needs
- Identify learning needs
- Share good practice
- Deliver the local priorities set out within the three respective Boards' business plans

Selby District Council is represented at the new LSPs through the Partnerships Manager. The meetings have been disrupted due to the impact of Covid with virtual communication occurring during the last 6 months. The Partnership is due to meet again at the end of September. From a community safety perspective, the Safer Selby Hub and Multi-Agency Child Exploitation groups have continued to meet to focus on case specific support during this time.

4. Selby District Council activity

In order to discharge our duty to cooperate, the Community, Partnerships and Customers team have delivered the following through the 2018-2020 period:

- Supported the planning and the delivery of local multi-agency events during Safeguarding Awareness Week, with the theme of 'Safeguarding is Everybody's Business'.
- Attended the Local Safeguarding Partnerships and continued to manage the Safer Selby Hub multi-agency tasking meetings to support community safety, prevent and safeguarding case issues.
- Conducted and submitted the Section 11 audits as per our statutory requirements.
- Revised all internal policy and procedures including alignment with the new North Yorkshire Adult's Safeguarding policy.
- Established an internal Safeguarding Panel with cross department representation. The Panel has met twice and its focus is on identifying rates

and quality of referrals as well as identifying training and development needs for staff and members. Training plans have been rolled out for both over the last 6 months.

4. Alternative Options Considered

None.

5. Implications

5.1 Legal Implications

The Council has a statutory duty to cooperate in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

5.2 Financial Implications

There are no identified financial implications.

5.3 Policy and Risk Implications

Not applicable.

5.4 Corporate Plan Implications

The Council's Corporate Plan sets out long term plans to make Selby District a great place to do business, enjoy life, make a difference, supported by the Council delivering great value. An effective safeguarding function is essential to protect those who are most vulnerable in our communities, ensuring everyone can enjoy life in Selby District.

5.5 Resource Implications

None identified.

5.6 Other Implications

Not applicable.

5.7 Equalities Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards are required to publish Annual Reports, providing an overview of the work carried out to effectively safeguard and promote the welfare of Children and Adults in the County.

6.2 The 2018-19 reports outline the priorities for each of the Safeguarding Boards, along with the local area work that is focused on issues specific to Selby District.

7. Background Documents (also hyperlinked)

Appendix A - [North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2018-19](#)

Appendix B - [North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018-19](#)

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