



Report Reference Number: S/22/8

To: Scrutiny Committee
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Ward(s) Affected: All
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Title: North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Reports 2020 / 2021 and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnerships Independent Scrutineers Annual Reports 2020 / 2021.

Summary: This report accompanies the above-named reports. A summary of the documents and an insight into Selby District Council's current position in relation to ensuring effective safeguarding practices is contained below.

Recommendation: The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the content of the attached annual reports for the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Independent Scrutineers Annual Reports 2020 / 2021.

Reasons for recommendation

Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children is a statutory duty for the District Council.

1. Introduction and background

1.1 The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board has a statutory duty to publish Annual Reports accounting for the activities of the board for the previous year. This report covers the 2020 / 2021 activity and provides evidence of the key areas of focus for the current year.

1.2 The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership succeeded the Local Safeguarding Children Board in September 2019. This report covers their first full financial year of operation.

2. North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020 / 2021

2.1 The report outlines the work carried out by the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB) between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021.

2.2 The strategic vision remains the same as it did for 2019/2020,

“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 prompt the values of openness, trust, respect, and learning.”

2.3 The strategic outcomes also remain in place:

- Awareness and Empowerment
- Prevention
- Protect and Proportionality
- Partnership and accountability

2.4 NYSAB’s strategic priorities for 2020 / 2021 are:

- Work more closely with communities in North Yorkshire to develop strategies that reduce the risk of abuse, and help to improve services
- Implement and embed the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policies and Procedures 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

2.5 The report updates on how the group has supported a post implementation review of the joint multi agency safeguarding adults policy and procedures for health & adult services in conjunction with Veritau. It explains that a further review of their electronic recording system is currently underway.

2.6 A Section 11 and governance audit has been developed with the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children’s Partnership, City of York Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children’s Partnership. This will reassure NYSAB that partner organisations have everything in place to deliver safeguarding effectively.

2.7 Work undertaken involves the development of One Minute Guides with partner agencies to provide bite-sized information on key issues and key areas of focus, covering a number of areas.

2.8 There has been a review of the Safeguarding Adults Decision Support Guidance and this is now called the Risk Notification Return Guidance Tool for providers. This document assists providers in identifying situations that may occur whilst carrying out a service / activity which relates to a quality assurance issue. More information is available here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/info/risk-notification-return-guidance-tool>

2.9 There has been a review of the guidance which has been written for responding to concerns about Persons in a Position of trust (PiPoT). This is where a concern relates to someone’s personal life but may impact upon their job role, if they work with adults with care and support needs.

2.10 Over the year, 3456 safeguarding concerns were received, with a decrease of 23% from the previous year.

2.11 The agreed priorities for 2021 / 2023 are:

- Reconnect with communities in North Yorkshire to raise awareness and develop strategies to address and reduce the risk of abuse
- Ensure multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures are in line with best practice and meet the needs of older people and younger vulnerable people – now and in the future
- Ensure a stronger partnership approach and accountability for the prevention of abuse
- Ensure NYSAB is able to effectively adapt and respond to wider contextual changes affecting adult safeguarding

3. North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Independent Scrutineers Annual Report 2020 / 2021

3.1 The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) is a statutory body, led by an Executive and it carries coordination and accountability responsibilities under the 4 Priorities “Being Young in North Yorkshire”.

- A safe life
- A happy family life
- A healthy life
- Achieving in life

3.2 The report outlines how despite the Covid pandemic, partner services across North Yorkshire have sustained the development of the partnership at both sub-group and Executive levels to keep children and young people as safe as possible.

3.3 The 2020 / 2021 report is the first that covers a financial year in which both the Children’s Trust and the NYSCB’s previous agendas are covered by NYSCP. However, the scrutineer in 2020-2021 has covered only the Executive and the subgroups of the NYSCP.

3.4 North Yorkshire’s developments and partnership practice are well within the range of what both Sir Alan Wood and the National panel consider good practice.

3.5 The four priorities (outlined in 3.1) seek to enhance the life chances of every child and young person. Executive agendas are now moving towards all business being themed to steer work done under the 4 themes. NYSCP subgroups’ terms of reference, as they are reviewed, will also be linked to the themes to ensure that fulfilment of “Being Young in North Yorkshire” is assured between now and 2024.

3.6 NYSCP remains keen to ensure that support on safeguarding is given to schools and that where necessary, challenges and suggestions for improvement are provided. Throughout the pandemic an adequate number of schools remained open, particularly for vulnerable children and the children of key workers.

3.7 The NYSCP team is also involved in work across the county and the city of York on Domestic Abuse and Violence, which includes agencies across voluntary, community, and survivor-led and focused bodies. Such a focus on a vital issue for some children and young people is a marker of partners’ insistence that vital work

must go on no matter what, and it is hoped that its positive effects will be felt by children and their families who may be at risk

3.8 Some of the issues identified by the scrutineer include:

- There are children and young people with special educational needs, with or without disabilities, who need support beyond the resources available, whose situation may have been exacerbated by restrictions during the pandemic
- Rates of referrals into some higher-level children's services were initially lower during 2020 than in pre-pandemic times across all agencies. This manifested in lower levels of children caught up in County Lines and other Criminal Exploitation, lower referral and self-referral in mental health services, and lower reported cases of domestic abuse and violence. All these indicators of extreme vulnerability have resurfaced and are rising in frequency and complexity
- There has also been a rise in the need for intervention in a minority of families which either struggled behind their own closed doors and did not ask for help during lockdown periods, or turned help away using Covid 19 in the home as an excuse for doing so
- The increase in family poverty caused by adults' job uncertainty and leading to a need for more access to free school meals or other practical support, added to some families dealing with state benefit difficulties or housing problems and in worsening poverty, all affect some children's lives far more than others

3.9 The report declares that the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is a significant commissioner of a range of services, and it is highlighted that the new Commissioner needs time to learn the intricacies, requirements and boundaries of the role and what partnership working will require of her.

3.10 It is acknowledged that the local government re-organisation cannot be underestimated, and planning will take into account what the impacts may be and what it will mean once all concerned are clearer in 2023.

4. Local Delivery

4.1 The Selby Local Safeguarding Partnership (LSP) was newly established in 2020. This meeting takes place on a quarterly basis and involves a range of stakeholders. Selby District Council is an active member of the LSP as well continues to manage the Safer Selby Hub, with staff supporting and chairing the multi-agency tasking meetings which addresses issues of community safety, prevent and safeguarding.

4.2 Selby District Council supported the 2020 Safeguarding Awareness Week virtual campaign. Due to the covid restrictions there was no face-to-face delivery. The overarching topic was "Safeguarding is everybody's business", with a focus put onto how to report a concern.

5. Implications

5.1 Legal Implications

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

5.2 Financial Implications

None identified

5.3 Policy and Risk Implications

None identified

5.4 Corporate Plan Implications

The Council Plan sets out the ambitions for the Council and these are to make the Selby District:

- a great place to live
- a great place to enjoy
- a great place to grow; and that
- Selby District Council delivers great value

To do this, an effective safeguarding function is essential to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

5.5 Resource Implications

None identified

5.6 Other Implications

Not applicable

5.7 Equalities Impact Assessment

Not applicable

6. Conclusion

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board and the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership are required to publish Annual Reports to provide an overview of the activity that has taken place to effectively safeguard and promote the welfare of both adults and children in North Yorkshire.

The attached reports outline the achievements for 2020 / 2021 and the areas of focus for the coming year.

7. Background Documents

None

8. Appendices

Appendix A - North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2020 / 2021

Appendix B – North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Independent Scrutineers Annual Report 2020 / 2021

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