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**To:** Scrutiny Committee  
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**Ward(s) Affected:** All  
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**Title:** North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Reports 2017-2018

**Summary:**

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

**Recommendation:**

**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 2017/18 activity and also provide evidence of the key areas of focus for the current year.
- 1.1 Both reports set out the governance arrangements across North Yorkshire and outline the activity and partnership working in the Selby District.
- 1.2 The priority area for the boards remain the same as those shared in the 2017 Scrutiny report, and include:

Adults	Children's
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness and Empowerment</li> <li>- Prevention of Harm</li> <li>- Protection and Proportionality</li> <li>- Partnership Effectiveness</li> </ul>	<p><b>Vision:</b>            "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."</p> <p><b>Priorities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordinate the activities of the board</li> <li>- Ensure the board's effectiveness</li> </ul>

## 2. North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board Report 2017-18

- 2.1. The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board (NYSCB) report outlines in 2017-18 data that the overall demand for child protection services remained high, with a 22% increase across the County in referrals to Children's Social Care compared to 2016-17. The repeat referrals rate was measured at 15.8%, indicating that cases remained open until the risk of harm to the child was removed and significant progress was made.
- 2.2. As part of its safeguarding function, Selby District Council completes an audit as per Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, when requested by the NYSCB. The purpose of the audit is to demonstrate to the Board that there are appropriate arrangements in place to meet our duty to children and young people.
- 2.3. The report outlines that the 2017-18 audit 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;
  - Information sharing needs to be considered, ensuring partners know the need to share information, and what can be shared, when.

Since the last audit return it has been agreed that the audit is carried out on a bi-annual basis.

- 2.4. Selby District Council's involvement is included within Chapters 5 and 6 of the NYSCB report. It explains that there is crossover between Safeguarding and Community Safety work, and Selby District Council carries out activity in both of these 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 2017-18, along with reducing teenage pregnancy.

The 2018-19 priorities include:

- Developing and integrating teenage pregnancy services;
- Substance Misuse and its Impact on Safeguarding;
- Improving access to Emotional Health and Wellbeing services, and;

- Maintaining close links to the Domestic Abuse Forum to ensure an integrated approach to the issue.
- 2.5. Following the review of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)' it is anticipated that some changes will be implemented to strengthen work in multi-agency approaches to safeguarding. The extent and detail of those changes are not yet known.

### **3. North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Report 2017-18**

- 3.1. The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB) report informs of the June 2018 appointment of Dr Sue Proctor as the Independent Chair, and the ambition to develop closer relationships with the Children's Safeguarding Board and the Community Safety Partnerships.
- 3.2. 2017-18 also saw an independent review of the safeguarding function in North Yorkshire. Key learning points are outlined in Page 17 of the NYSAB Report, but overall the focus is around:
- Having a clear vision and stronger arrangements for learning lessons and facilitating change;
  - Continual improvement of recording, measuring and monitoring information;
  - Improvement of sharing information and learning; and
  - Ongoing training for the workforce, with a focus on partners working together to develop staff.
- 3.3 Overall the number of adult safeguarding concerns reduced during the year. It is thought that some of this was due to improved processes, especially in how North Yorkshire Police and Yorkshire Ambulance Service provide this information.
- 3.4 The report outlines partner and district achievements over the period of 2017 18 within Appendix 1.

In summary, this demonstrates that Selby District Council has supported safeguarding through:

- Providing training;
  - Being active in the planning and the delivery of local events during Safeguarding Awareness Week, with the theme of 'Safeguarding is Everybody's Business';
  - Promoting safeguarding alongside priority areas such as PREVENT; and
  - Co-ordinating and being an active member of local partnership groups, with a focus on protecting and supporting vulnerable members of our community.
- 3.5. The priorities and areas of focus remain the same for 2018-2019. Changes are expected in 2019-20 as new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures are to be implemented. The NYSAB is also expected to agree

new strategic priorities. These Strategic Priorities will be used to develop the Strategic and Local Delivery Plans.

#### **4. Alternative Options Considered**

None.

#### **5. Implications**

##### **5.1 Legal Implications**

There are no identified legal implications.

##### **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 has the ability to 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 2017-18 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.

- 6.3 With the introduction of the revised 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2018) guidance and the development and expected implementation of the new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures, changes to the working practices of both the NYSAB and the NYSCB are expected throughout 2019-20. These changes are likely to have a minimal impact on the day-to-day safeguarding processes and procedures within Selby District Council, who will continue to work in partnership to safeguard those vulnerable in our communities.

## **7. Background Documents/Appendices**

Appendix A - North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017-2018

Appendix B - North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017-2018

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