

Arrangements for North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership



Foreword



El Mayhew

Safeguarding children and young people is a shared responsibility, and our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements set out how partners across North Yorkshire work together to protect children, respond effectively to risk and continuously improve practice. These arrangements reflect both our statutory duties and the strength of our local partnerships, with a clear focus on accountability, learning and professional challenge, and a commitment to keeping children's lived experiences at the centre of all decision-making. Through strong leadership and a culture of collaboration, transparency and continuous improvement, we remain committed to ensuring a safeguarding system that is robust, responsive and focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

El Mayhew, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Service



Catherine Clarke

A partnership of this kind is about more than necessity. 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.

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, North Yorkshire Police



Paula South

It is recognised that the move to ICBs offers increased opportunities to share good practice, reduce duplication and learn from the experience of other partnerships and professionals across the ICB footprint, and we are seeing the benefits. This work continues to further evolve and develop and has been strengthened and overseen by the establishment of the Humber and North Yorkshire ICB Safeguarding Committee.

There are challenges ahead as the NHS landscape continues to evolve, however, the ICB is committed to continue to build on our strong partnership relationships, dedicated to strengthening the safeguarding and children in care practice across North Yorkshire, and is proud to actively contribute to the work of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Paula South, Director of Nursing and Governance, Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board



Introduction

We are pleased to share with you the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's, (NYSCP,) Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, 2026. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and its accompanying guidance Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2026 place a shared and equal duty on the statutory safeguarding partners to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. This document sets out how the Safeguarding Partners in North Yorkshire coordinate safeguarding services and explains how we will work together to fulfil our legislative duties.

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026) states:

“Nothing is more important than children’s welfare. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable, and loving home. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support. This requires individuals, agencies, and organisations to be clear about their own and each other’s roles and responsibilities, and how they work together.”

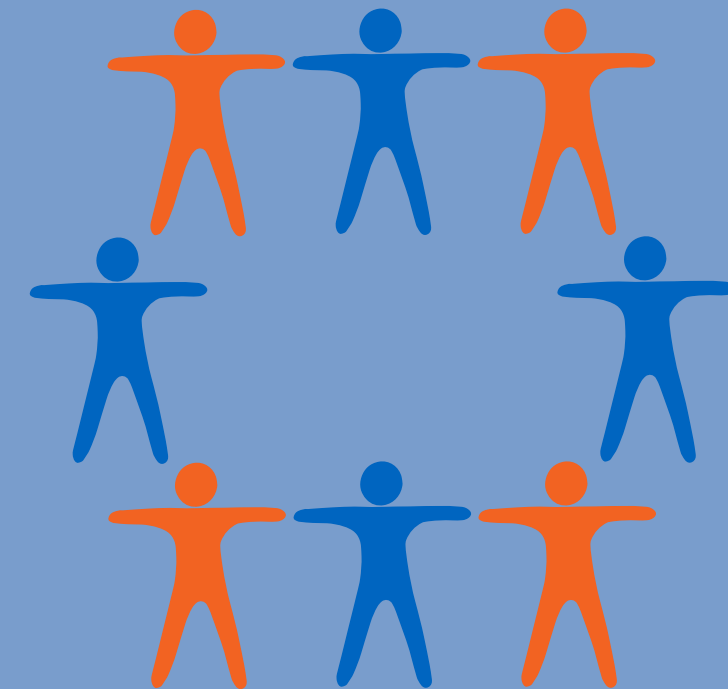
This document sets out how the Safeguarding Partners in North Yorkshire coordinate safeguarding services and explains how we will work together to fulfil our legislative duties.

Introduction North Yorkshire we have well established relationships with both our statutory partners and relevant agencies who demonstrate, daily, their passion and desire to meet the needs of our county’s children and their families.

We agree to ensure children are at the heart of our work, we listen to their views, understand their lived experiences, and promote the inclusion of their perspectives in all our work.

Our partners know that safeguarding is everybody’s responsibility, and we have a genuine ambition to ensure that all services understand and respond to those responsibilities in a way that has a really positive impact on the children and families we work alongside.

We understand that robust safeguarding arrangements help to prioritise children’s wellbeing and safety, ensuring that information about a child and their family is shared effectively and that risk of harm is correctly identified and understood. We are committed to working alongside our communities to stimulate, support and develop activities that enable children, young people and their families to be happy, healthy, safe and achieving. When a child's needs cannot be met by services within their community, children and their families are able to access targeted services that meet their needs in a co-ordinated way.



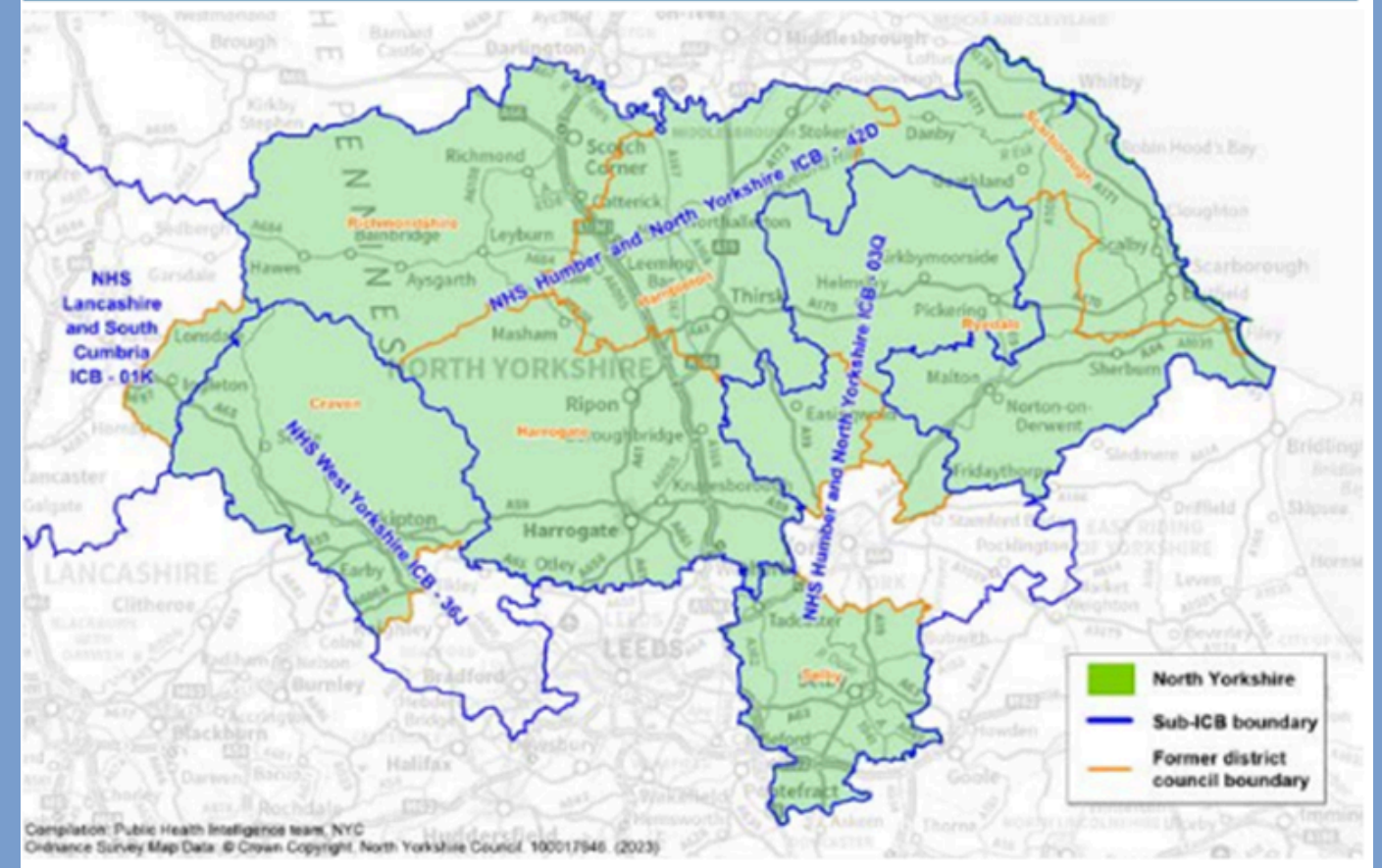
Geography

North Yorkshire Council is in the second year of delivering services to the residents of North Yorkshire as a unitary authority[1] with the aim of being the biggest county with the most local services. North Yorkshire borders County Durham to the north, the North Sea to the east, the East Riding of Yorkshire to the south-east and South Yorkshire to the south.

We serve a diverse and dispersed population of an estimated 615,400 people, 151,000 of those are children, across a geographical area of over 8,000 square kilometres or 3,090 square miles. Much of the county of North Yorkshire is rural, with moderately sized towns as well as an extensive coastline. There are significant pockets of deprivation across the county and it is clear that this has the potential to impact on the outcomes for children and their families in these areas.



Sub-ICBs and former district councils covering North Yorkshire – July 2023



The geography of the Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) does not fit neatly within our local authority designated boundaries. Almost the entirety of North Yorkshire is part of the Humber and North Yorkshire ICB, however, the Craven area to the west is covered by the West Yorkshire ICB and there is also a small area around Bentham that falls within Lancashire and South Cumbria ICS boundaries. This has the potential to create significant challenge in terms of data access and service planning.

So, with such a varied population over such a large geographic area, we need to strive even harder to ensure that our services, systems and support are accessible for all children in our beautiful county.



Our Vision

Being Young in North Yorkshire is our North Yorkshire Safeguarding Partnership Strategy with the vision that:

‘All children and young people are safe, happy, healthy and able to achieve in North Yorkshire’.

Our Being Young in North Yorkshire 2025- 2028 strategy sets out our vision which is shaped by the feedback from children and young people living in North Yorkshire and sets out or four key themes of children and young people having,



For more information, please visit our website [here](#).

The NYSCP recognises the importance of children, young people and their families being able to shape the policies and practices that impact their lives. As part of the creation of Being Young in North Yorkshire 2025–2028, the partnership consulted with children, young people and their families to ensure their views, experiences and priorities shaped the document. This helped make sure the strategy reflects what matters most to children and families across North Yorkshire.



How We Work Together

Humans have very long childhoods compared to other mammals because we have such a big and complex brain to build. Children and young people depend on adults to nurture them and emotional nurture is as important in developing the brain as good food is for the body. The brain grows when connections are made between the cells in response to what is happening to us, so, what happens to us shapes our brains. Brain connections help us to process and make sense of our experiences and research shows us that the brain is a social organ, every human relationship shapes the brain and loving relationships “feed” connections. Whenever we connect with people our brains change, repeated loving and respectful connections build strong patterns in the brain so we are able to function at our best. People need People.

Professionals in North Yorkshire share a commitment to and responsibility for creating and “feeding” these respectful connections in order to achieve successful outcomes for all our children.

Partners recognise the importance of inclusive, anti-discriminatory practice and understanding the impact of inequality, disadvantage and discrimination on children’s lived experiences. NYSCP practice is child-centred, strengths-based and rooted in professional curiosity, with a clear emphasis on multi-agency challenge, learning and assurance.

Our relationship based, “Strength in Relationships,” Practice model is embedded across our workforce. We recognise the need to provide the right support at the right time for children and families across North Yorkshire.

A Shared Responsibility

As set out in the Children’s Social Care National Framework, as a partnership we will adhere to the following principles:

- children’s welfare is paramount.
- children’s wishes and feelings are sought, heard, and responded to.
- children’s social care works in partnership with whole families.
- children are raised by their families, with their family networks or in family environments wherever possible.
- local authorities work with other agencies to effectively identify and meet the needs of children, young people, and families.
- local authorities consider the economic and social circumstances impacting children, young people, and families.

Successful outcomes for children depend on strong partnership working with parents, carers, practitioners and senior leaders. Strong, effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in place across North Yorkshire ensure an effective response to local circumstances and engage the right people at the right time in the right way.

Our Safeguarding Arrangements

We are pleased to share with you the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements. This chapter sets out the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for North Yorkshire, established in accordance with [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2026\)](#), which states:

“Nothing is more important than children’s welfare. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable, and loving home. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support. This requires individuals, agencies, and organisations to be clear about their own and each other’s roles and responsibilities, and how they work together.”

These arrangements apply to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children, and in relevant circumstances include pre-birth work where there are concerns, consistent with WTSC 2026.

Lead Safeguarding Partners

In accordance with Working Together 2026. The Lead Safeguarding Partners, (LSPs,) have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements, which is underpinned by equitable and proportionate funding. In North Yorkshire, the LSPs are:



Richard Flinton,
Chief Executive,
North Yorkshire Council



Teresa Fenech
Chief Executive,
Humber and North Yorkshire
Integrated Care Board (ICB)



Tim Forber,
Chief Constable,
North Yorkshire Police

The LSP for Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board performs this function across 6 local partnership areas including North Yorkshire and the LSP for North Yorkshire Police performs this function in two local partnership areas, (North Yorkshire and City of York).

Each LSP is responsible for discharging their own statutory and legislative duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. As leaders of their organisations and the statutory safeguarding partners, it is for LSPs to assure themselves that their local arrangements are effective and keep children safe. This includes systems of assurance and accountability within each of their organisations.

Delegated Safeguarding Partners

In accordance with Working Together 2026,[1] each LSP should appoint a Delegated Safeguarding Partner, (DSP,) for its agency. DSPs should be of sufficient seniority to be able to speak with authority, take decisions on behalf of the LSP and hold their sectors to account. The DSPs should have the authority to carry out these functions, while ultimate accountability remains with the LSP as the individual responsible for the delivery of the statutory duties of the safeguarding partners.

In North Yorkshire, the DSP’s are:



El Mayhew
Corporate Director of
Children and Families
North Yorkshire Council



Paula South
Director of Nursing and
Governance
Humber and North Yorkshire
Integrated Care Board (ICB)



Catherine Clarke
Assistant Chief Constable
North Yorkshire Police

A full description of the joint functions of the LSPs and DSPs can be found in [Working together to safeguard children 2026: Statutory Guidance](#)

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, (NYSCP) consists of the three safeguarding organisations in North Yorkshire, namely North Yorkshire Council (NYC), the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and North Yorkshire Police (NYP).

Strong, joined-up leadership and clear accountability is critical to effective multiagency safeguarding and the LSPs and DSPs in North Yorkshire are committed to a partnership model that focuses on continuous learning and improvement with a clear line of sight on frontline safeguarding practice. All leaders will promote a shared commitment to work together to improve outcomes for children and their families.

There is full commitment from the Lead Safeguarding Partners for coming together with the Delegated Safeguarding Partners biannually to gain assurance that safeguarding systems are effective and are working well. Given the complexity of organisational geographic footprints the mechanism for so is still under development. DSP’s will also keep LSP’s apprised on a regular basis through ordinary channels of communication.

Our Safeguarding Arrangements

Delegated Safeguarding Partners Strategic Group

In order to support the delivery of the joint functions, the DSPs meet as a Strategic Group a minimum of four times per year to undertake the functions as outlined in Working Together 2026. Additional meetings are diarised to deal with emerging issues and/or concerns or at the request of an LSP or DSP. These meetings are coordinated by the NYSCP Business Manager.

Escalation of issues to LSPs

In order to ensure the LSPs have oversight of significant concerns that impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of the partnership arrangement the DSPs/Executive Chair and/or the Scrutineer can escalate concerns to all or relevant LSPs.

However, such action is only ever anticipated to be enacted in exceptional circumstances and only undertaken after matters have been fully discussed with all or relevant DSPs and a resolution not reached. It is anticipated that DSPs would wish an opportunity to brief their respective LSPs on any relevant issues, and any such escalation would only be undertaken with the full knowledge of all relevant DSPs.

At all stages of escalation, the LSPs and their DSPs will consider making use of key stakeholders in North Yorkshire who may assist on developing a resolution (this can include involving the Scrutineer, Police and Crime Commissioners, Mayors, Lead Members or other independent persons). If the matter remains unresolved between the three safeguarding partners and their local networks the next stage of escalation to be considered is the Secretary of State.

Executive Chair

It has been agreed that within North Yorkshire our Scrutineer will continue in their role as Executive Chair as they are able to provide scrutiny and challenge within meetings. This chairing role supports the three DSPs to focus on the agenda, discussions and decision-making and assists in the smooth and efficient running of the meeting, facilitation of discussion and keeps the conversation focused and balanced. However, a nominated DSP will support the agenda setting of the meeting. The discharge of the functions of the Executive Chair role are supported through regular communication with the Business Manager.

Relevant Agencies

Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider are required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children. (For a list of our relevant agencies please see [\(Appendix 1\)](#)).

Independent Scrutiny

In line with [Working Together 2026](#) the decision on how best to implement a robust system of independent scrutiny has been made locally with the aim that the system in place leads to objective and rigorous analysis of local arrangements.

In North Yorkshire, a decision has been made to appoint a Scrutineer to provide safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with rigorous, effective support and challenge at both strategic and operational level. The role supports the partnership drive for continuous improvement and assurance that arrangements work effectively for children, families and practitioners and adds value to the work of the partnership. This role contributes to a wider system of assurance and accountability including:

- Assurance and accountability action undertaken at the request of the three statutory partners
- Wider partnership activity (such as quality assurance, performance management and learning frameworks)
- Independent inspectorate inspections

The Scrutiny role is in line and compliant with Working Together 2026 in that the Executive Chair functions and scrutiny activity are separate. The Scrutineer acts as a “critical friend” to the partnership and provides opportunities to ensure the voice of children and families are considered and encourages reflection relating to frontline practice.

The partnership Business Plan includes an outline of planned scrutiny activity during the business plan cycle. Additional scrutiny activity can be undertaken at the request of the DSPs. The Scrutineer attends the DSP Strategic Group when required and is involved in key partnership activity (such as partnership development Sessions).

Funding Arrangements

The three local safeguarding partners, identify, agree and maintain the budget for the NYSCP. The principal contributors to the NYSCP funding include:

- North Yorkshire Council
- Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
- North Yorkshire Police
- City of York Partnership (Child Death Contribution)
- HM Prison and Probation Service

The NYSCP budget retains a reserve kept aside should there be a requirement to commission an independent child safeguarding practice review.

Structure of the NYSCP

The NYSCP operates under a subgroup structure with the Executive providing strategic direction for the partnership in line with national, regional and local objectives and priorities. The arrangements outlined below identify the safeguarding partnership structure which seeks to ensure partners work together and respond to the needs of children in the area:



Our Meetings

Executive

In addition to the Delegates Safeguarding Partners (DSP) Strategic Group, the DSPs meet with wider strategic leads at the Executive meeting on an eight-weekly basis. The Chairing of this meeting is undertaken by the Executive Chair in order to facilitate strong and effective communication and engagement from the three DSPs within the meeting.

The DSPs jointly develop and implement the partnership’s business plan, identify and agree partnership strategic priorities and utilise the independent scrutiny role to support develop and strengthen the partnership arrangements

The DSPs identify specific areas for scrutiny and assurance activity relating to either strategic or operational partnership working to provide insight into current practice and potential areas for improvement. This reporting provides assurance evidence and focus for identifying the future strategic objectives that lead to operational improvements.

Strategic Partnership Development Days

Every six months the NYSCP hold a strategic partnership development day where senior leaders from statutory and relevant agencies come together to consider the effectiveness of the local safeguarding arrangements and to evaluate and improve services for children across North Yorkshire. These sessions ensure local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are fully understood and rigorously applied within both statutory and relevant agency organisations.

Safeguarding Practice Review Group, (SPRG)

North Yorkshire Children's Services are duty-bound to notify the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and by extension the Department for Education and Ofsted, if it knows or suspects a child has died or been seriously harmed and abuse or neglect is known or suspected.

The SPRG is a multi-agency group of strategic leads from statutory and non-statutory agencies, including education, chaired by the Designated Doctor for Safeguarding and Children in Care and meets responsively when a referral to the National Panel is made. The SPRG meet four times per year to ensure there is progress against the recommendations and learning gathered from both national and local reviews.

Action plans are created from recommendations gained in reviewing serious incidents and these recommendations are shared with the Executive via an assurance report. Action plans are managed through the Practice and Learning Subgroup with learning points shared with practitioners via Practitioner Learning Events. Anonymised briefing papers are published on our [“Learning for Professionals”](#) webpage.

Structure of the NYSCP

Practice and Learning Subgroup

In September 2023, after a period of consultation with partners, the NYSCP made the decision to make a change to the sub-group structure of the partnership. The consultation identified the opportunity for efficiencies to be gained by merging the Learning Improvement and Practice Development sub-groups to become the Practice and Learning Sub-Group. This group is the “engine room” of the partnership and has seen partners across police, health, the local authority, education and the voluntary sector come together on a six weekly basis to drive forward the partnership’s priorities and embed learning from audits and reviews across the workforce.

Multi-Agency Audit Group

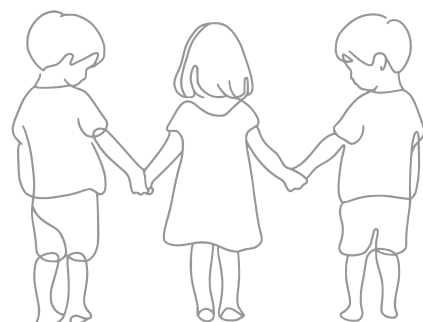
When partner agencies and individual professionals engage in case auditing, it helps:

- Identify good practice
- Understand the effectiveness of front-line practice in protecting children and young people.
- Be clear on the impact of locally delivered training
- Ask questions about whether things could be done differently to improve the safeguarding system

The partnership undertakes three learning themed audits per year with audit subjects identified from multiagency data sets. Audit reports are developed with the aim of developing “SMART” recommendations which are progressed through action plans managed by the Practice and Learning sub-group. Multi-agency learning from each audit is shared across the partnership via various networks, learning events, training sessions and written briefings.

Partnership Audits

Alongside multi-agency audits the partnership also undertake biennial Section 11, 157 and S175 audits where safeguarding partners and education settings are required to provide assurance to the Executive regarding their safeguarding arrangements. These audits result in an understanding of best practice which is shared across the workforce and allow for the development of practice through the delivery of targeted training sessions.



Child Death Overview Panel

The reviewing of child deaths is a statutory obligation as set out in the [Children Act 2004](#), as amended by the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) which states that child death review partners must make arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in the local area.

The NYSCP recognise the life changing impact the death of any child will have on their family, friends and local community. The panel review each child’s death with dignity and respect with the mantra that the review, from a professional perspective, is the last good thing that can be done for any child who has sadly died.

North Yorkshire and City of York work together to review children across their areas and the purpose of the review process is to identify any matters relating to the death of a child that are relevant to the welfare of other children in the family, in their local area, or to public health and safety.

The Child death review partners publish an annual report on:

- Local patterns and trends
- Lessons learnt and actions taken
- The effectiveness of the wider child death review process

Deaths of Care Leavers [1]

Working Together 2026 states, “the local authority should notify the Secretary of State for Education and Ofsted of the death of a care leaver up to and including the age of 24. This should be notified via the Child Safeguarding Online Notification System.

Should any of our young care leavers sadly die, the NYSCP and City of York partnerships have agreed on a shared process to support the identification and management of the deaths of these young people.

Information on the Child Death and Care Leaver review procedures is available from the [NYSCP website](#) where The Child Death Review Annual Reports can also be accessed.

[1]

Care leavers are entitled to support from their Personal Adviser up to their 25th birthday. Local authorities are required to keep in touch with all care leavers up the point they reach age 21, and to make their best efforts to contact all care leavers aged 21 to 24 annually to remind them that they remain eligible for support. If a young person chooses not to take up support between 21 to 24 years of age the local authority may no longer be aware of a care leaver’s whereabouts or circumstances (and therefore their death).

Structure of the NYSCP

MACE and Contextual Safeguarding

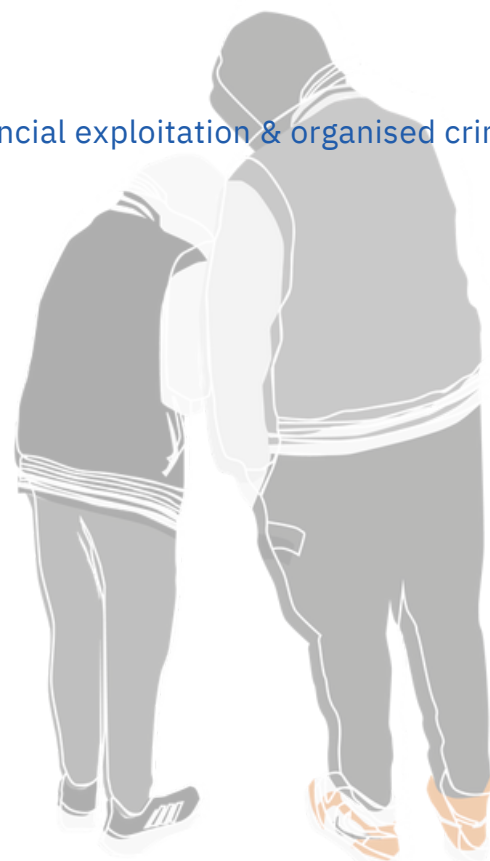
The MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Strategic subgroup provides strategic oversight, scrutiny and challenge of the NYSCP MACE arrangements. This is achieved through the analysis of performance management data to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of operational activity. The meeting takes place quarterly and is chaired by the Head of Safeguarding Partnerships, North Yorkshire Council.

MACE Level One: The Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and Contextual Safeguarding (CS) Level One process relates to the identification, risk assessment and risk management of those children vulnerable to all forms of exploitation.

This case discussion takes place across partners in the Multi Agency Screening Team alongside the allocated worker and any other local professionals required. It allows partners to offer challenge regarding the risk level and risk management plans for the young person. The meeting will result in an agreement as to the risk level which can be one of four outcomes: High risk, medium risk, low risk or no risk. Plans will be put in place and reviewed agreed based on the risk level.

MACE Level Two: The Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Level Two meeting draws on information from our [Multi Agency Child Exploitation \(MACE\) and Contextual Safeguarding Strategy](#). The strategy aims to build on existing structures in place across North Yorkshire to bring together expertise, knowledge, and skills to deliver services in a co-ordinated way across the following strands of exploitation:

- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) (inc. county lines, financial exploitation & organised crime)
- Children Missing from Home (MFH),
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB),
- Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT)
- Online Child Exploitation,
- Peer on peer exploitation/teenage relationship abuse
- Radicalisation and extremism



BeAware
of child exploitation
in **North Yorkshire**

The group will include a focus on children and young people aged up to 18 years, however, will incorporate the transition of children and young people over 18 into adult services up until age 25 years. The meetings are held monthly, virtually in Scarborough, Ryedale, Craven, Richmondshire, Hambleton, Harrogate and Selby to discuss local issues and concerns regarding child exploitation and contextual safeguarding concerns in the locality.

The purpose of the Level Two meeting is to facilitate the sharing of information and identify action regarding:

- The places and spaces where children and young people may be at risk of exploitation
- locations that could pose a risk of exploitation to children and young people
- The review of community intelligence and emerging themes, trends, and links in local areas
- The identification of potential perpetrators and the coordination of partner intervention and disruption

We recognise that children may experience multiple and overlapping harms, and arrangements support coordinated multi-agency responses to reflect this.

For further information regarding descriptions and work of the various subgroups please see our [annual reports](#).



Relevant Agencies

In line with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in North Yorkshire.

Safeguarding partners are required to set out which organisations they require to work with them as relevant agencies, in line with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018. Once named, relevant agencies are under a statutory duty to co-operate with the published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

These arrangements are designed to be responsive to local need and to ensure that the right agencies are engaged, at the right time, to protect children and improve outcomes, consistent with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.

Definition and Statutory Basis

Under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in North Yorkshire.

Safeguarding partners are required to set out which organisations they require to work with them as relevant agencies, in line with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Relevant Agency (England) Regulations 2018. Once named, relevant agencies are under a statutory duty to co-operate with the published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

These arrangements are designed to be responsive to local need and to ensure that the right agencies are engaged, at the right time, to protect children and improve outcomes.

A non-exhaustive list of locally named relevant agencies, aligned to the statutory regulations, is set out in Appendix 1. This appendix may be updated periodically to reflect organisational change.

Expectations of Relevant Agencies

Relevant agencies are expected to co-operate with the safeguarding partners in delivering the published multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in North Yorkshire.

Agencies must maintain effective safeguarding policies, procedures and governance arrangements, and share information lawfully, proportionately and in a timely way where this is necessary to protect children. Relevant agencies are expected to contribute to multi-agency assessment, planning and decision-making, and to engage with partnership audit, learning and improvement activity.

All agencies should operate in a child-centred, whole-family and anti-discriminatory way, supporting professional curiosity, respectful challenge and shared accountability. The NYSCP will use established assurance and scrutiny arrangements to seek assurance that these expectations are being met and to address any identified gaps or risks.

Education and Childcare Settings

In accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, all early education and childcare settings, schools, colleges and other education providers operating in North Yorkshire are named as relevant agencies. This reflects the pivotal role education and childcare settings play in children's daily lives, their safeguarding responsibilities under education legislation, and their essential contribution to early identification, information sharing, and multi-agency planning. Settings are expected to engage fully with NYSCP arrangements, including participation in safeguarding processes, audits, learning activity and information sharing, in line with statutory guidance.

Education Subgroup

In North Yorkshire we recognise the complexities of engaging with nearly 400 schools (including alternative education and further education providers), as well as over 600 childcare providers. Currently there is no statutorily designated role to represent "education" in partnership arrangements, however, the NYSCP recognises education staff often play a pivotal role in the daily lives of children. Schools offer a universal service and are therefore well places to spot any early indicators of safeguarding concerns alongside supporting their emotional health and wellbeing, helping them achieve their potential and potentially being the first trusted adult to whom children or families may share worried or concerns.

Meeting on a termly basis, the Education Subgroup group was established in 2023 and brings together representatives from the education and childcare sector. Members of the group represent "education" in its broadest sense, rather than acting as a voice for their own setting. The aim of the group is to ensure the education sector is included in the development of strategies, practice guidance and other areas of partnership work. Chaired by the Head of Alternative Provision, this group began as a focus group however, the NYSCP Executive requested the terms of reference be strengthened so that it now forms part of the formal Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements Subgroup Structure, further cementing the way in which the education sector is represented across the Partnership.



Relevant Agencies

Working with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE)

Voluntary, charity, social enterprise (VCSE) and private sector organisations (including sports clubs and organisations) and agencies play an important role in safeguarding children through the services they deliver. The staff, students and volunteers in these settings play an important role in building relationships, identifying concerns and providing direct support for children, families and communities. In North Yorkshire there are over 7,000 VCSE groups supported by over 67,000 volunteers and 15,000 paid staff.

A VCSE group was established in 2023 to further develop the partnership links across the VCSE sector and explore the changes to Working Together and the implications for the voluntary sector and their role in the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Work of the group has led to the development of communication strategies with the voluntary sector (with a focus on information being shared into the partnership from the VCSE and information being shared to the VCSE sector from the partnership) via the development of a Key Safeguarding messages campaign. VCSE partners are represented across the partnership subgroup structure and are seen as a vital partner in the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in North Yorkshire.

In North Yorkshire, a joint children and adults safeguarding self-assessment checklist has been produced to support colleagues in the VCSE sector to identify the safeguarding arrangements that need to be in place in their organisation and the need to work with safeguarding partners, which is then used to provide assurance back into the partnership.



'Although not a statutory partner we feel we are integral to keeping the children of North Yorkshire safe'

'We aren't just in the room, we are valued, listened to and appreciated.'

'The VCSE is proud to be part of the MASA and feel equal in how our voice is heard.'

Auditing Impact

Audit and assurance activity within North Yorkshire is used not only to provide assurance on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements, but to support learning, drive improvement and evidence the impact of partnership working on the experiences and outcomes of children and families. Learning from audits, reviews, performance data and practitioner feedback is used to inform action planning, influence practice, and strengthen multi-agency arrangements over time.



The Families First Partnership Programme



The Families First Partnership Programme is a national reform programme designed to improve outcomes for children and families through earlier help, stronger multi-agency working, and a more integrated whole-family approach. It brings services together so that children and families can access the right support at the right time, reducing duplication and improving continuity of help.

A central feature of the programme is the development of joined-up Family Help arrangements and Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams, which strengthen coordination across safeguarding partners and support a more seamless response from everyday services to targeted early help and through to statutory intervention. The approach places emphasis on consistent relationships, shared responsibility, and coordinated planning across agencies.

In North Yorkshire, this programme supports our ambition to build on existing strengths in partnership working and relationship-based practice. Local implementation will be developed through partnership working and test-and-learn activity, helping to ensure that future arrangements are shaped by local need, learning, and what is most effective for children and their families.

Sharing Good Practice



Awards

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Awards celebrates the multi-agency work between the Council, Police, NHS and wider partners in safeguarding vulnerable children and their families. The recipients of the awards have all demonstrated their passion and determination to keep children and young people at the heart of the work they do in what can be exceptionally challenging circumstances. Strategic leads would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt “thank you” to not only the award winners but to all practitioners who work, day in day out to keep children safe and to help them to achieve their full potential.

Media

The NYSCP use a variety of media sources in order to share key safeguarding messages, best practice and opportunities for learning and development. Our monthly [e-bulletin](#) is full of information and resources for partners and includes a “Do your Part” practice and research themes section which focuses on key safeguarding themes for practitioners. The NYSCP has a social media presence, including a YouTube channel where practitioners can access training events delivered through our monthly learning events among other things.

Practitioner Forum

Frontline practitioners are the linchpin to the vital support that is offered across the Partnership to support children and families across North Yorkshire. They hear, on a daily basis, the views of the children and families they are working with and have valuable insight into the experiences and challenges that are effecting their lives. With that in mind, the NYSCP have developed a practitioner forum to provide an opportunity for frontline practitioners to share their experience, best practice examples and views in order to help shape the development of multi agency strategy, policy and action planning.

“The ability to have our views considered within decision making...having our voices in the background of decision makers can only help.” ^[1]

Wider Partnership Working

Links to other Strategic Partnerships

The NYSCP works as part of a larger collective with other strategic partnerships across North Yorkshire and other Local Authorities to support children and families. We recognise that in working together to consider cross-cutting themes we are more likely to have positive impacts on the lives of children and their families. This includes but is not limited to other public boards, including:

- North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership
- Local Family Justice Board
- Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Strategic Management Boards
- Drug Partnerships
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board
- Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
- Corporate Parenting Board
- Youth Justice Management Board

How any youth custody and residential homes for children will be included in the safeguarding arrangements

There are no youth offending institutes within North Yorkshire, it is however important to recognise the duty and ensure the duty is applied in respect of North Yorkshire children who may be placed in custody in other local authority areas. The Head of Early Help in North Yorkshire has responsibility for Youth Justice ensuring that this important area of work is considered throughout the NYSCP’s sub-groups.

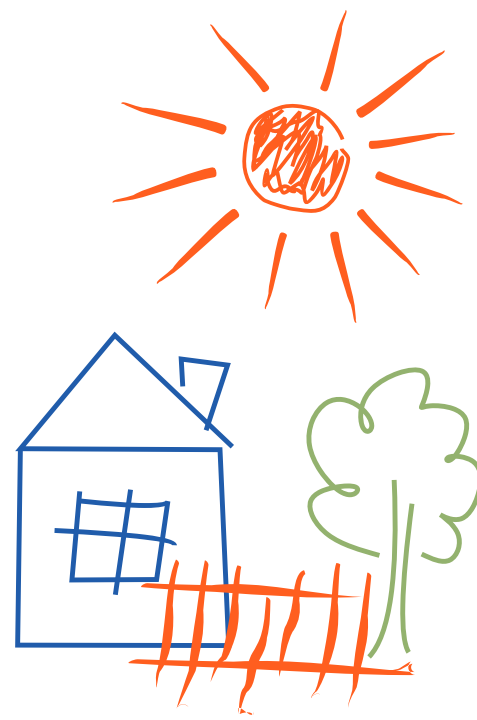
How we Support Partners

Our Multi-Agency Strategies

Our vision is for all children in North Yorkshire to be safe, happy, healthy and achieving. This vision underpins all the work undertaken across the partnership and is used as the starting point for the development of all our key strategies. When we consulted with children on this vision, they told us that they like it, they understand it and they feel it reflects what they want for themselves and each other.

The aim of all our multi-agency strategies is to provide useable frameworks for frontline practitioners to support the work they undertake on a daily basis with children and their families. We want our strategies to be meaningful and accessible for everyone and as such we aim for a consistency in language with a recognition that the strategies do not exist in a vacuum and should be considered in conjunction with each other.

Our Strategies



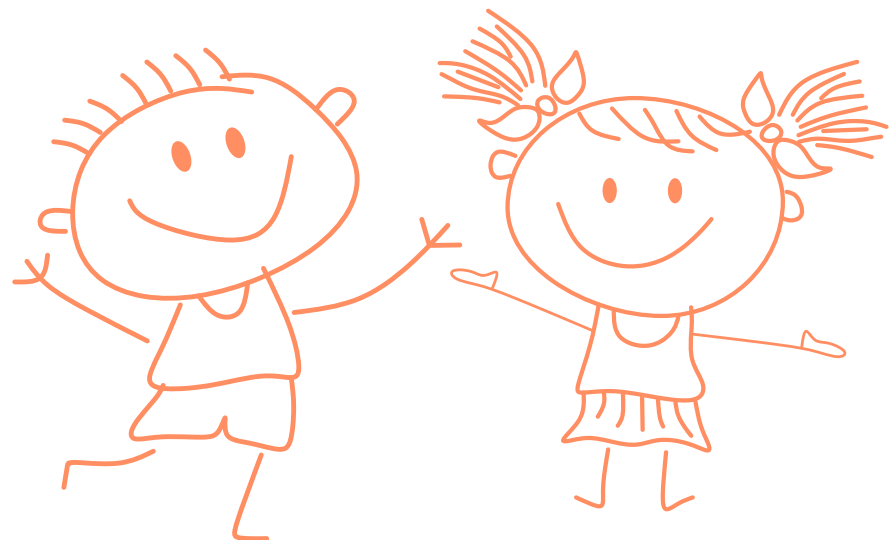
Early Help Strategy

The aim of the multi-agency Early Help Strategy is to help children, their family and friends understand what support is available throughout their lives. We understand that early help is not one service but a system of interconnecting people, services and support networks.

Early help is about recognising the value of adults in communities who support children and families and build positive connections. This could be the teacher in a dance class, a football coach, a member of a church group, a kind neighbour, a music group volunteer, school teachers, friends, family, and any other interaction that nourishes and supports a child to thrive.

When a child's needs are identified that cannot be met by services within the community, families in North Yorkshire are also able to access our Early Help Service who offer targeted support to families based on their individual needs and circumstances.

To view our Early Help Strategy, please [click here](#).



Multi-Agency Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding Strategy

NYSCP's vision for the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding arrangements is that:

"All children in North Yorkshire who are being exploited and are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse are effectively identified and protected by services which are delivered in a coordinated and informed way that consistently responds to the harm and risks and improves the outcomes for our children, their families and the wider community."

The strategy sets our four priorities to tackle child exploitation in North Yorkshire:

- Prepare
- Prevent
- Protect
- Pursue

It also incorporates the principles of our [BeAware knowledge hub](#) for children and young people, parents and carers, professionals and community partners to recognise the signs of exploitation.



Key Policies

Framework for Decision-Making

The NYSCP “[Framework for Decision-Making: Right help, at the right time by the right person](#)” has been developed to help and support practitioners working with children across all agencies and organisations when faced with a decision about the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person.

The guidance sets out which agencies and which levels of intervention may be needed to:

- keep children safe
- support families
- build on their strengths
- promote resilience, and
- improve overall outcomes for children, young people and their families

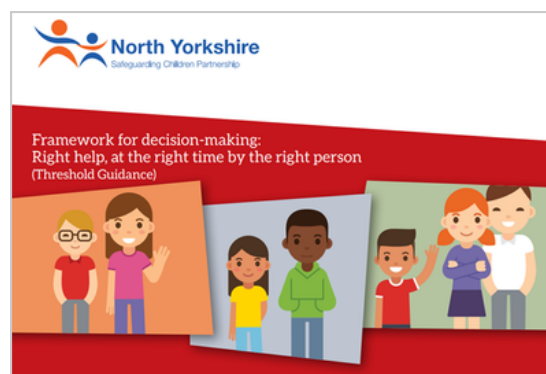
It is important for all practitioners across the partnership to work alongside families and other professionals in order to have a full understanding of the needs of the child and their family. The NYSCP has established multi-agency safeguarding procedures and practice guidance to support those working with children, young people and their families across North Yorkshire all of which are available on the [NYSCP website](#).

Professional Curiosity

Being professionally curious is fundamental to how we work with children, their families and other professionals. To work alongside people, we need to understand their perspectives and lived experiences so that we can support them to achieve their full potential and by understanding multiple perspectives, we gain a deeper connection with each other meaning that we are better able to work together. The NYSCP recognises the importance of practitioners having access to useable guidance that supports their professionally curious interactions and as such have recently updated this [guidance](#) based on feedback from parents, children and practitioners.

Managing Different Professional Perspectives

This practice guidance aims to support practitioners, professionals, and volunteers with an effective means of exploring different professional perspectives, addressing differing opinions and is supportive of professional and respectful challenge. Respectful challenge should be viewed by all agencies as a positive activity that places the primary focus on the safety and wellbeing of children and in doing this, the child remains at the centre of effective safeguarding practice.



Working Together 2026 references that strong multi-agency and multi-disciplinary working is vital in identifying and responding to the needs of children and families. The NYSCP understands it is important to promote a culture of ‘mutual challenge’ across the partnership, where practitioners challenge themselves and each other by questioning each other’s assumptions and seeking to resolve differences of opinion in a restorative and respectful way.

[Our Managing Different Professional Perspectives practice guidance](#) provides practitioners with the framework for understanding the perspectives of others, encourages open dialogue and sets out a pathway for when escalation processes should be implemented.

Training

In accordance with Working Together 2026, the NYSCP ensures the provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training.

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership in conjunction with the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board have produced guidance which is designed to assist partners in identifying training needs and offers a variety of multi-agency in-person and e-learning advertised through the [NYSCP website](#) and on our [YouTube channel](#) alongside training delivered by NYC Training and Learning Team.

Good practice and learning from reviews is shared via briefings on our Learning for Professionals page. These briefings support learning and professional reflection to strengthen multi-agency safeguarding practice.

Data

Effective data collection, sharing and analysis, both local and national enables early identification of new safeguarding risks, and emerging threats, themes and trends. The NYSCP compiles a comprehensive multi-agency data which is shared as a quarterly standing agenda item on the Practice and Learning Subgroup and also features on the NYSCP Executive agenda on a quarterly basis. A partnership dataset is also used as part of the Multi Agency Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding, (MACE) meetings to gain a comprehensive understanding of the harms faced by young people in North Yorkshire outside the home.

How any youth custody and residential homes for children will be included in the safeguarding arrangements

There are no youth offending institutes within North Yorkshire, it is however important to recognise the duty and ensure the duty is applied in respect of North Yorkshire children who may be placed in custody in other local authority areas. The Head of Early Help in North Yorkshire has responsibility for Youth Justice ensuring that this important area of work is considered throughout the NYSCP’s subgroups.



Appendix 1

Relevant Agencies

Within North Yorkshire, the Relevant Agencies include but are not limited to:

Sector	Organisation
Education and Early Years	All Education Setting (Maintained, Academies, Independent, Further Education and Higher Education) All Early Years Setting
Health	Airedale NHS Foundation Trust Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust Child Death Review Partnership General Practitioners Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board NHS England Primary Health Care (Pharmacy, Opticians) South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Spectrum Community Health CIC Tees Esk Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Yorkshire Ambulance Service
Criminal Justice	CAFCASS National Probation Service
Voluntary Sector	Commissioned services Compass Phoenix Community First Yorkshire Just B North Yorkshire Youth NSPCC North Yorkshire Sport Other voluntary sector groups by discussion and representation
Local Government	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) North Yorkshire Council Health and Adult Service North Yorkshire Council Children & Young People's Service North Yorkshire Council Housing North Yorkshire Council Public Health Youth Justice Board
Public Services	Army Foundation College British Army Welfare Service British Transport Police North Yorkshire Fire Service North Yorkshire Police Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
Wider Partnership Engagement Groups	Faith Groups NYC Children's Champion NYC Lead Member for Children and Young People's Service NYC Lead Member for Schools Youth Voice Executive MEARS Housing

Appendix 2

Business Unit

The NYSCP Business Unit consists of the posts as outlined below:

Business Manager

2 x Policy and Development Officers

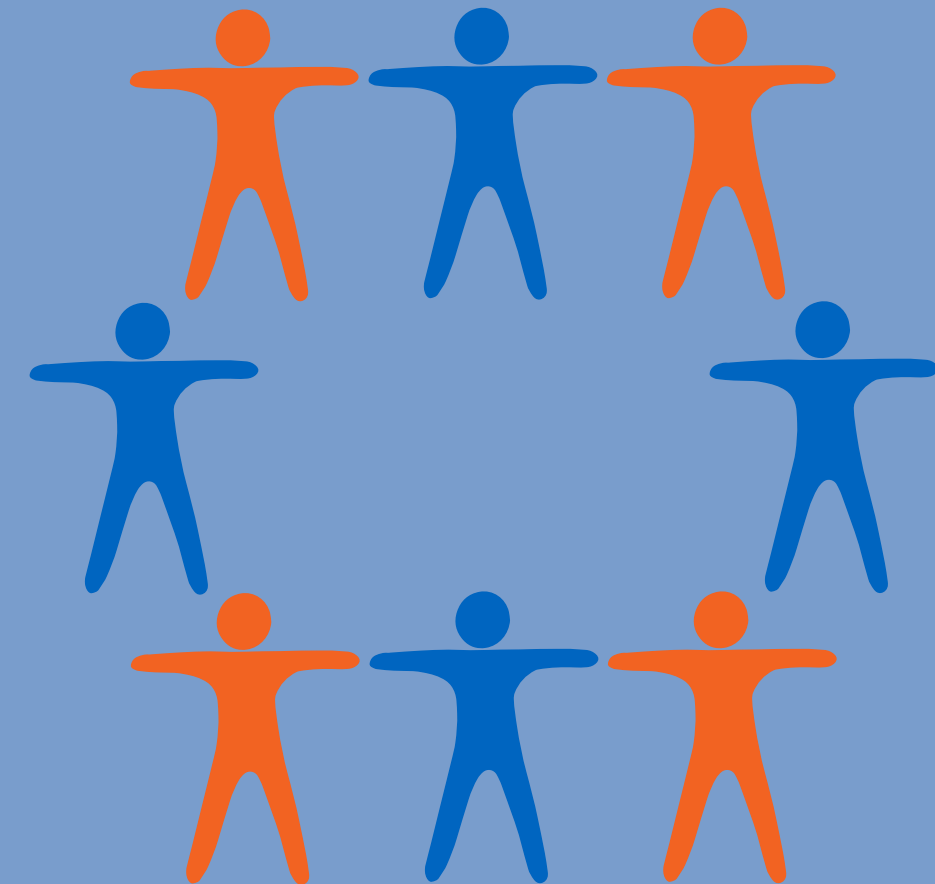
1 x Child Death Review Officer (shared with North Yorkshire and City of York)

1x MACE and NRM Chair

1 x NYSCP Leadership Support Officer

1 x MACE Coordinator Business Support Officer

Executive Chair and Independent Scrutineer



North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Contact Details

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
County Hall,
Northallerton,
North Yorkshire,
DL7 8AE



www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk

nyscp@northyorks.gov.uk

01609 535123

Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to - 5:00pm, and 4:30pm on Fridays (excluding bank holidays)

If you have safeguarding concerns about a child click [here](#) to view the worried about a child page

