

East Riding Safeguarding Children Board

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

The Effectiveness of Safeguarding Children in the East Riding of Yorkshire



CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to welcome you to the 2015/16 Annual Report of the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board. Each year we are required to provide an assessment of the effectiveness of local services in keeping children and young people safe, and set out what the Board has done in the last year to provide the necessary leadership, challenge and support for continuous improvement in safeguarding arrangements. The Report is for the public, for professionals and for anyone who is interested in the wellbeing of children and young people in East Riding.

This is my ninth year as Independent Chair of the Board which means I have been able to observe how the partnership of agencies that make up the Board have consistently progressed how work is undertaken together on a multi-agency basis at both a strategic level and amongst practitioners working together on a day to day basis supporting families and acting on behalf of children and young people when necessary. Whilst the safeguarding agenda broadens and resources are under pressure all agencies continue their commitment to increase the quality of the services provided so that better outcomes can be achieved for children and young people.

We have decided to use the same format for this year's annual report as we used for our 2014/15 report. This is in part because the feedback we received was that the report was accessible and set out the issues clearly, but this also provides the opportunity through continuity to take a slightly longer term perspective on achievements and challenges. The report starts by setting out the governance and accountability arrangements for the Board and providing some information about the local and national context within which this year's work has been undertaken. The report then looks at the effectiveness of safeguarding, and what the Board has done to support and promote work by all partner agencies. Last year's report was a positive one and part of this year's evaluation will be based upon whether progress is continuing.

Partnership is the key to effective multi agency working; it requires that agencies, whilst pursuing their individual agency's priorities, recognise that there is an additional 'shared' agenda that partners have around the table that will require them at times to support other agencies with time and commitment and resources, that does less to forward their own priorities, but is part of the shared agenda that sits in the middle of the table. (For many of the agencies safeguarding children is only a part of their range of responsibilities). For any Safeguarding Board to work effectively this commitment has to be evident. The Board has continued to maintain good attendance and members have shown their commitment by involvement in additional activities such as case reviews and audit work, and other Board work. I believe that commitment is evident on our Board

There has been some robust challenge around the table at Board meetings again this year and the combination of being supportive to other agencies when needed, but open and candid when necessary in the best interests of children is an approach I hope we continue to model to practitioners in their work with families. Examples include challenge to partners about resourcing of the Board which led to a positive outcome, challenge around CAMHS services and the areas in need of development, and challenge around the development and resourcing of the multi-agency hub for joined up assessment and early help.

East Riding Council's performance data for the year for a range of nationally recognised indicators of children and young people's progress in health, well-being, safety and educational attainment places East Riding 1st overall in the Yorkshire and Humber Region. This level of performance could not be achieved without an effective multi-agency approach, cooperation and response.



Bron Sanders
Independent Chair

1. GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

1.1 The objectives of the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board (ERSCB) are set out in accordance with section 14(1) of the Children Act 2004:

- a) To co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority by which it is established;
- b) To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

More information can be found by following the link: [Children Act 2004](#)

Local Safeguarding Children Board Regulations 2006 set out the functions of the LSCB, in relation to the above objectives. These can be accessed at:

[Safeguarding Board Regulations](#)

1.2 The ERSCB is required to produce an annual report, which is presented to key individuals and strategic bodies and published to demonstrate how these responsibilities have been undertaken and to address two key questions linked to its objectives:

- ‘The effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children’.
- ‘The extent to which LSCB functions are being effectively discharged’.

1.3 Although the Board is independent from any one agency, responsibility for hosting and ensuring the effectiveness of the ERSCB sits with East Riding Council. To ensure these arrangements work well, and in recognition of statutory accountabilities, the Board’s Independent Chair meets regularly with the Chief Executive, Council Leader and Deputy Leader (who is also Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board), the Portfolio Holder (Lead Member) for Children, and the Director for Children, Families and Schools. There is a formal protocol in place which sets out roles and accountabilities, including the presentation of the Board's Annual Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board. Further information on the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board can be found at: [East Riding Health and Wellbeing Board](#)

1.4 There are close links with East Riding Council Members, who have responsibilities for children and young people’s issues. There is a strong commitment to safeguarding from local Councillors. The Council’s **Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools**, Councillor Julie Abraham, is the Lead Member for Safeguarding Children; Councillor Abraham is also a member of the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board and Children's Trust Board. It

is the responsibility of the Lead Member, in conjunction with the Director, to meet with members of the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board and hold them to account.

- 1.5 The role of the **Overview and Scrutiny Children and Young People Sub-committee** (CYPOSS) is to review the general policies and performance of the council and external organisations in relation to Education and Children’s Social and Care Services. The ERSCB Annual Report is presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Children and Young People sub-committee each year as part of its role.
- 1.6 Last year’s Annual Report referred to the work done by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s Safeguarding Children Review Panel which, following the publication of Professor Alexis Jay’s report into Rotherham, conducted a review to examine the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in place in East Riding to protect children and young people from sexual exploitation. The report of their work was published in February 2015 and implementation of the action plan associated with this report has continued throughout 2015/16, including actions attributed to the ERSCB. The Report can be accessed here: [Safeguarding Children Review Panel Report](#)
- 1.7 The ERSCB works with other strategic boards which have children and young people’s issues as part or all of their responsibilities. Bron Sanders, Independent Chair, ERSCB, continues to be a member of the **Children’s Trust Board**, which is the partnership of organisations responsible for services for children, young people and families. The LSCB has a separate identity and independent voice from the Children’s Trust; it is not subordinate to or subsumed within the Children’s Trust. The two Boards have established an on-going and direct relationship; with regular communications as safeguarding is a standard Trust agenda item. The Trust is chaired by the Director of Children Families and Schools, and the relationship between the two Boards is part of the agenda of their formal meetings. Further information on the Trust can be found at: [East Riding Children's Trust Board](#)

2. THE LOCAL & NATIONAL CONTEXT

2.1 The Local Context

- 2.1.1 The East Riding of Yorkshire comprises of 26 Wards, 171 Parishes, covering an area of approximately 930 square miles and is one of the largest rural authorities in the Country. The coastline stretches for 53 miles from Bempton to Spurn Point.
- 2.1.2 In 2015 the population was estimated at 336,635 (2015 Office for National Statistics Mid-Year Estimates). In 2037 the population is predicted to reach 368,728, which is a higher rate of growth than the national growth rate. 65,201 of the population are aged between 0- 17 years old, as a proportion of the total population is significantly lower than the regional and national figure. There are 153 schools and 18 outreach children’s centres.

2.1.3 In 2013, the Office for National Statistics classified the East Riding as being approximately 93% rural by area and 44% by population. This means that many people live in small, scattered and geographically isolated communities. There are a number of communities in the East Riding where pockets of child poverty are significant and exceed national average. Six wards have areas of high deprivation, these are: Bridlington South, Bridlington Central and Old Town, Goole South, Goole North, South East Holderness and Minster & Woodmansey (Beverley). Bridlington contains one area ranked 505th in the deprivation index in England out of a total of 32,482, meaning it is in the top 2% of the most deprived areas in England.

2.1.4 We know that many children and young people are impacted by the complex issues faced by adults in their families. In a snapshot taken in September 2015 of children subject to a child protection plan the following features were identified from the minutes of the most recent conference.

- Domestic abuse was a relevant factor for 65% of children subject to a child protection plan.
- Parental alcohol misuse was a relevant factor for 31% of children subject to a child protection plan.
- Parental substance misuse was a relevant factor for 34% of children subject to a child protection plan.
- Parental mental ill health was a relevant factor for 34% of children subject to a child protection plan.

As a result the Board has undertaken focussed work in each of these areas to support effective multi agency working, including prioritising the development of an ERSCB domestic abuse strategy, action plan and tool kit and providing additional training in safeguarding children for those working with parents and carers affected by these adverse circumstances. More detail is provided about this later in this report.

2.2 Ethnicity & Diversity

2.2.1 The East Riding has a relatively low Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) population.

Ethnicity Description	Figure	Percentage
White	61,955	97.7%
Mixed/multiple ethnic group	1,139	1.8%
Asian/Asian British	735	1.1%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	100	0.2%
Any Other Ethnic Group	146	0.2

2.3 Migrant Families

2.3.1 The area of the East Riding with the highest concentration of migrant families is Goole, where there are some 5,000 people largely from Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal and Russia. Data shows that migration into Goole has remained relatively static over the past three years. Whilst many single migrants came to the town in search of work, a significant number of families and extended families have now settled in the town. In addition to Goole there are smaller numbers of economic migrants now moving and settling in other areas of East Riding and in particular in the villages west of Hull.

The ERSCB is aware of the growing significance of these developments, particularly in the Goole area. Cases are arising in which the multi-agency community is being challenged in how it responds to cultural differences whilst ensuring that where necessary children are protected.

2.4 Children and Young People with a Disability and/or Special Educational Needs

2.4.1 All families with a disabled child who are known to the council are encouraged to register on the Look Ahead database which offers support to parents and carers. It is approximated that around 5000 children with a disability and/or special education need reside in East Riding. Around 1200 young people access additional support from the Local Authority and are listed on the Look Ahead database.

2.5 Traveller Community

2.5.1 The traveller community locally consists of British Gypsies, Eastern European Roma, Showmen (Circus and Fairs), New Age Travellers and Irish Travellers. East Riding has three local authority sites, housed families and mobile encampments.

2.6 The National Context

2.6.1 In March 2015, the government published a revised version of 'Working Together', which incorporated changes which were a response to the events in Rotherham, and also to the outcomes of major investigations into CSE in other parts of the Country. LSCB's responsibility for coordinating and evaluating the effectiveness of CSE work were consolidated and expanded in the revised guidance. The government also issued guidance on the protection of girls from female genital mutilation (FGM), in response to this the Board undertook a local roll out of awareness raising, so that practitioners know what to look for and produced procedures to support practitioners when they encounter possible cases. The Wood Report, looking at the future of LSCBs, was published, a report which was commissioned by the Government. It sets out proposal for the future shape of local inter agency cooperation to safeguard

children. At the same time the Government published its response to the report, which endorsed the recommendations and indicated that national guidance would be published at a later date to support local agencies in taking forward local reform.

3. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS TO SAFEGUARD & PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN

3.1 This section of the report provides an evaluation by the Board of the effectiveness of local arrangements for safeguarding. It uses the following indicators which provide information about outcomes for children and young people, the quality of the service and relationships through which children and their families are helped, and the effectiveness of the partnership working between agencies. No one of these indicators alone gives a complete picture but taken together they provide the best opportunity to assess how effectively agencies are working. They include:

- Inspection related activity;
- Performance and outcomes information;
- Information provided from auditing activity;
- Section 11 Audit; the statutory requirement of partner agencies to report to the Board how they are meeting their Safeguarding responsibilities.
- Feedback from young people and their carers about the quality of the services received.

3.2 Inspection Related Activity during the year

3.2.1 The outcome of an inspectorate or regulator undertaking an in-depth and objective look at outcomes and the quality of services, against national standards, provides important information about an agency, both comparably and whether there is a journey of progress taking place over time. Inspections provide us with evaluation of services across the spectrum from early help to services for children who are looked after. However, large scale inspections cannot be undertaken as frequently as annually which means that those reported in this year may vary from last year. The Board challenges partners to present recent inspection reports and also to report progress on implementing subsequent action plans.

3.3 Early Years Settings including Child Minders

3.3.1 As of 31st March 2016 Ofsted the outcomes of inspections in East Riding for all early years' settings was as follows:

Inadequate	1%
Requires Improvement	8%
Good	84%
Outstanding	7%

3.3.2 These results are the highest in the Yorkshire and Humberside Region and amongst the highest in the Country. They show a similar picture to last year.

3.4 Local Authority Children's Centres

3.4.1 East Riding has maintained its 18 Children's Centres. The last published data for inspection outcomes was as follows:

Inadequate	0%
Requires Improvement	12%
Good	76%
Outstanding,	12%

This places East Riding in the top quartile nationally.

3.5 Local Authority Children's Residential Units

3.5.1 The Local Authority has two Children's Residential Units, which are subject to regular inspections by Ofsted. Last year the Board reported that both had received ratings of 'Overall - Good' for inspections during the period under review with good in every area. These judgements include the experience and progress of young people. Appropriately there are small numbers of young people living in each unit but their needs make them amongst the most challenging to look after. This year both Units again received a rating of Good overall with good in every area.

3.5.2 For one particular Unit, inspectors commented 'Safeguarding practice is robust. The manager and staff have a good understanding of the risks to young people and are proactive in protecting young people from harm. Safeguarding practice is very strong, and young people live in a safe, caring and supportive environment. Staff are proactive in addressing risks, such as child sexual exploitation, missing from home, self-harm and discriminatory behaviour. There is

no bullying in the home, young people are able to advocate for themselves, know how to complain and have frequent visits from the local children's rights team.'

3.5.3 The other unit received the following comments 'Young people are safe and the high quality of care results. Safeguarding practice is strong and results in the majority of young people reducing their levels of risk taking behaviour'.

3.6 CQC inspection of Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

3.6.1 The Care Quality Commission inspection in May 2015 identified areas of concern regarding the care of children with mental health needs and the Trust non-compliance with Level 3 safeguarding children training. The Trust rating for Children's Services in October 2015 was 'requires improvement'. The issues that led to this rating, which are directly related to Safeguarding Children included; the safe environment on the children's wards for children with mental health needs, training for staff in mental health assessment and the capacity of the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Level 3 training below 80% and storage of records on the children's wards.

The Trust has reported to the ERSCB on the inspection and progress on the implementation of the Action Plan.

3.7 HMIC inspection of Humberside Police

3.7.1 HMIC carried out an inspection of Humberside Police which was published in December 2015. As part of its annual inspections into police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL), HMIC's effectiveness programme assesses how well forces keep people safe and reduce crime. Within this programme, HMIC's vulnerability inspection examined the overall question, 'How effective are forces at protecting from harm those who are vulnerable and supporting victims?' It specifically focused on responses to missing and absent children, child sexual exploitation and domestic abuse. This inspection also followed up on the 2014 domestic abuse inspection and reviewed progress.

3.7.2 Humberside Police inspection outcome was Requires Improvement. Overall nationally, 8 Forces were Good, 5 Forces were deemed Inadequate with the remainder as Requires Improvement.

3.7.3 The Report identifies areas for improvement:

- The force needs to address the consequences of the implementation of its new way of working, its new operating model, to ensure that the right resources are deployed to the right incident at the right time.

- Humberside Police has made changes but still needs to improve how it responds to missing and absent children. Its response to those assessed as high-risk is good but less so for those who are medium or low-risk.
- Humberside Police is still developing its understanding of the needs of victims categorised as absent.
- The inspection found a number of examples of call-handlers providing timely, reassuring and rational safeguarding advice. However they also found cases where the deployment of a police officer to the scene was significantly delayed.
- HMIC were concerned for the welfare of some PVP officers.
- HMIC identified a need identified to raise awareness around Missing Persons and how this should be managed on the force database. The inspection also found that the management of absent cases does not follow force policy or national guidance.
- The investigation of high-risk incidents of domestic abuse sits within PVP with specially-trained domestic violence officers carrying out safeguarding activity and liaising with partners. Responsibility for safeguarding activity for medium and low-risk domestic abuse victims was not always clear.

3.7.4 HMIC found an inconsistent level of knowledge for non-specialist staff for safeguarding options such as domestic violence court sittings and the availability of mobile phones for victims. However, there was evidence that officers are aware of and make appropriate use of other safeguarding measures including domestic violence protection notices, domestic violence prevention orders (DVPOs) and Clare's Law.

Areas of good practice:

- The chief officer team has made protecting vulnerable people a clear priority for the force, and police officers and staff understand and share this commitment. They provide clear leadership and performance dashboards (easy to read, graphical presentations of the current state of performance) have been developed for domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation.
- The force investigates crimes committed against the most vulnerable victim's well, with generally the right level of expertise applied to the more complex investigations. This shows some progress since HMIC's crime inspection in 2014.
- The force has good systems for identifying repeat (persistently-targeted) and vulnerable victims at the initial point of contact. Humberside Police has taken the positive step to ensure that its response to the victim is based on the victim's needs rather than the type of crime.
- This inspection considered how well prepared the force is to tackle child sexual exploitation. The force has made a good start and must now build on this initial approach.
- The missing and exploited team (MET) within the PVP provides a key link between the force and the MASH/EHASH. Intelligence is exchanged between the MET and the MASH to ensure prompt and effective joint decisions can be taken by the different agencies to protect children.
- Inspectors attended multi-agency child exploitation (MACE) meetings. They found good evidence of a multi-agency approach to deal with each of the individual cases that were discussed.

- The force's approach to domestic abuse has changed considerably in the last year and officers attending domestic abuse incidents have a good knowledge of how to assess risk and keep victims safe. This is a good example of progress the force has made since HMIC's last domestic abuse inspection in 2014.
- HMIC reviewed 12 files with a domestic abuse element, and found a good standard of initial investigation centred on the victim.
- Working with partners was seen as working effectively in child protection, child sexual exploitation, and high-risk domestic abuse cases. The force works well with the independent domestic violence advisory (IDVA) service which provides positive interaction and support for victims.
- Humberside Police operates in an area that has four well-established multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASHs) or early help and safeguarding hubs (EHASHs). These bring together those professionals crucial to ensuring information is shared, analysis takes place and decisions can be made to safeguard children and vulnerable adults as quickly as possible.

3.7.5 This was an important inspection in relation to safeguarding children in East Riding. Humberside Police provided a report to the ERSCB following this inspection, which included their plan for remedial action. The Board will seek reassurance from the Police that sufficient progress is being made later in the year.

3.8 Performance & Outcomes Information

3.8.1 Ongoing development of the early help and preventative and intervention offer to children and their families has further increased confidence of both public and professionals and continued increases in the number of contacts received by the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHASH). The number of children subject to a child protection plan has risen whilst numbers of children looked after have fallen. Rates per 10,000 for both of these measures remain consistently below regional and national comparator authorities.

3.8.2 Following a successful pilot, Early Help Assessments (EHA) have replaced the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), work is ongoing with partners to ensure consistent use of EHAs across services.

3.8.3 Performance has improved in 'children subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time'.

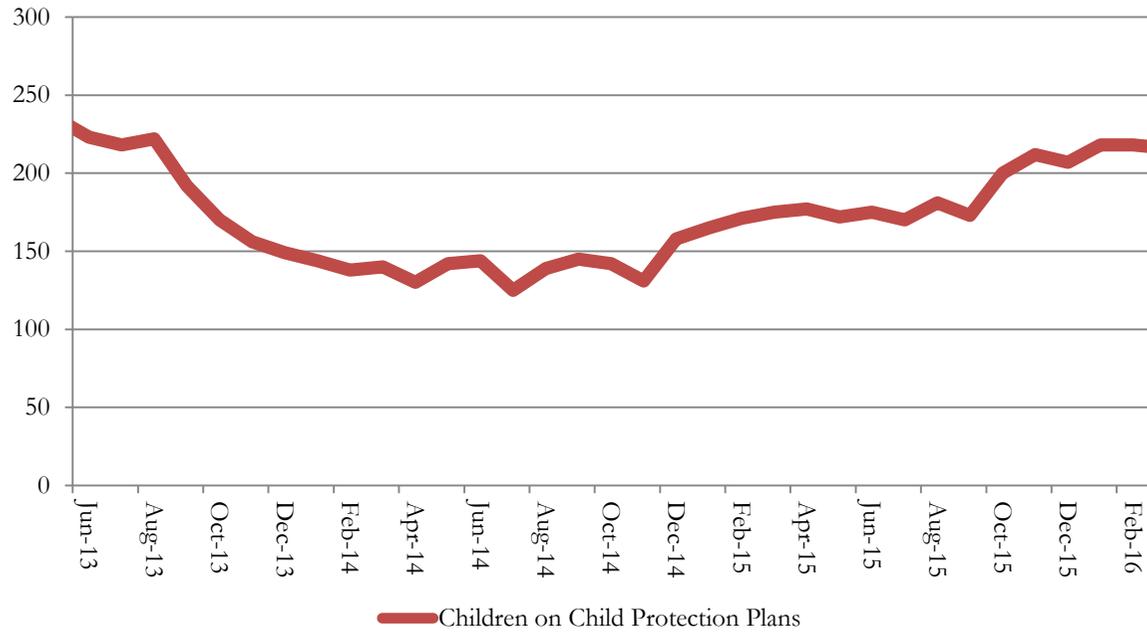
3.9 Early Help

- 3.9.1** Performance information gives an indication of how well an area is fulfilling responsibilities and so results in improved outcomes for children. The percentage of 2 year olds benefitting from early education is 94%, which is ranked highest in the country and the percentage of 3 and 4 year olds taking up some free education is ranked fourth in the country, the highest in our region.
- 3.9.2** The Supporting (Troubled) Families work is a central component of East Riding's Early Help offer. Significant collaborative work has been completed with key partners to pilot 'whole-family' working; these are now up and running within the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Education Welfare Service and the Sport, Play and Arts Team. This working model is working in the Early year and Family Support Service and further development of this work will include Housing Support Team. Under 18 conception rates in East Riding remain low, as do first time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17.
- 3.9.3** Youth and Family Support and Early Years' teams continue to work closely to provide an integrated service based on need and can provide intensive, flexible and non-stigmatising services working along universal service.

3.10 Children subject to a Child Protection Plan

- 3.10.1** At 31 March 2016 216 children were the subject of a child protection plan. Although this is an increase from 175 at 31 March 2015, this figure remains low in comparison to both regional and national figures when comparing the rates of children subject to a plan per 10,000 of the population. Our looked after population continues to decrease, which reflects the fact that we are supporting more families at home with robust child protection plans. Other factors behind the increase include: increased awareness of the prevalence and effects of domestic violence, increased awareness of child sexual exploitation, and extensive training around neglect resulting in social workers prompting child protection conferences to consider a child protection plan. Continued use of the Signs of Safety principles ensure all staff have access to practice leads to support the creation of detailed safety plans.

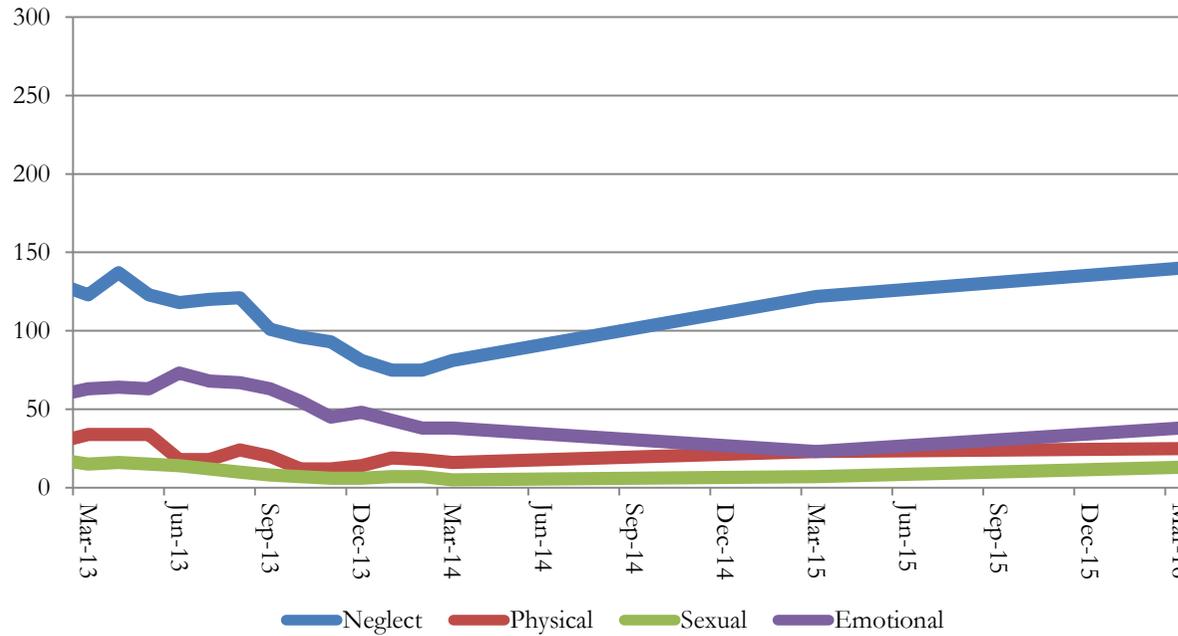
Number of Children On Child Protection Plans



3.10.2 Categories of abuse and neglect are outlined in the table below.

- Neglect remains the highest category but has reduced from 70% 2015 to 64% in 2016.
- Physical abuse has fallen slightly from 13% in 2015 to 12% in 2016.
- Sexual abuse has seen an increase from 4% in 2015 to 6% in 2016.
- Emotional abuse has increased from 13% to 18%.

Child Protection Plans by Category



3.10.3 Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more which cease during the year – performance is excellent

- Performance against this measure remains strong and has reduced from 4.4% in 2014 to 1.9% in 2016.

3.10.4 Children becoming the subject of Child Protection planning for a second or subsequent time

- The number of children who became the subject of a CP Plan for a second or subsequent time rose saw a fluctuation early in 2015, but is now in the top quartile again. Many of these cases relate to children who leave and subsequently return to the area.

3.10.5 Initial child protection conference held with 15 days of the strategy discussion - performance is good.

- 83.7% of initial child protection conferences were held with 15 working days of the decision to undertake Section 47 enquiries through 2015/16.

3.10.6 Child protection reviews on time – performance is excellent.

- Child protection plans and the effective review of these plans should ensure the provision of timely, good quality interventions. This indicator is a proxy for the measurement of the effectiveness of child protection planning. Performance in this area has improved and 2016 performance is above both regional and national comparators.

3.10.7 Re-referrals within 12 months of the previous referral – performance is good.

- This percentage figure has increased slightly from 17% in 2014 to 21.7% in 2015. This measure has increased slowly for the last five years but has remained below both regional and national comparators.

3.10.8 Looked After Children

- The number of children looked after in East Riding at the end of the year was lower than at the start and this is because of a gradual reduction in the number of children becoming looked after during the year. At the start of the year there were 290 LAC, but in June this peaked at 294. Since June a gradual drop has been seen each month and at the end of March 2016 the figure was 261. The downward trend is a small one over the course of the full year, but it is anticipated that this will continue as the further implementation of the Early Help Strategy has more impact. These figures compare well with comparator authorities and others in the Region.

3.10.9 Adoption Scorecard – performance continuous on a trend of improvement.

- The average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family continues to improve. 23 children were adopted from East Riding's care in 2015.16. Timeliness of the adoption process continues to improve.

3.11 Information provided from Audit Activity (Single & Multi-Agency)

- 3.11.1** In July 2014 the Board appointed to a new half time post of Improvement and Quality Manager. The post is closely linked to the work associated with the Local Authority's Principal Children and Families Social Worker, as the post holder also carries out this role on a half time basis. The additional funds required for this post were allocated to the Board from the Local Authority. This was in recognition of the important role of Learning and Improvement going forward and a key aspect of how current practice is understood is through auditing of cases, both by each partner agency, and by the Board undertaking multi-agency audits.
- 3.11.2** The initial remit of the role was to coordinate an increase in multi-agency auditing activity and to use the information to inform practice, through disseminating good practice, as well as identifying areas for development. Activity has included monthly joint Health and Local Authority case audits, which were replaced during the year with a broader multi-agency approach linked to weekly threshold reviews meetings taking place around the county.
- 3.11.3** Audit activity has remained a core component of the work of the Board across 2015-16 and has become firmly embedded as one of the means by which to evaluate the effectiveness of both solo and multi-agency working. The Board has committed to an annual plan of audit activity, the content of which has been informed by local priorities and learning from local, regional and national reviews.
- 3.11.4** In response to positive feedback from practitioners and Board partners the bi annual thematic audits have become an integrated component of the audit framework; the learning from which has been shared with every Board member for dissemination across each partner agency. These started in June 2014, following meetings of the full Board members work together during the afternoon to review up to 6 cases, together with staff from all agencies who have been working on the cases, to understand practice and the experience of children and their families, and also to learn more about working together 'on the front line', and identify learning for themselves. Other means by which the learning has been cascaded to practitioners have included the ERSCB newsletter, learning bite sessions, training and workshops. In December 2015 six cases that had been previously audited through the thematic work, were reviewed in an attempt to consider how the previous observations and findings had influenced practice and professional thinking.
- 3.11.5** In addition to the thematic events, quarterly multi agency 'walk through the case' events have been organised. These have been interactive audit events engaging practitioners and managers from Health, Children's Safeguarding and Support Services and Education. The intention of the events has been to provide a safe environment that lends itself to reflective learning and engagement in exploring what has worked well and what conditions support best

multi agency practice to develop. In advance of these events each involved agency completes an audit of the case records they hold and provide a solo agency chronology. The chronologies are subsequently combined into one which is then reviewed by all participants who offer comment and observation about the best parts and any identified gaps. These events have been well received by participants who have identified them as good opportunity for reflection and learning.

3.11.6 Individual agency audit activity has continued and it has been a function of the Learning and Improvement group to collate an overview of the findings, understand the impact of the audit work in professional practice and identify any unmet learning needs with consideration as to how the learning can be incorporated within Board training delivery.

3.11.7 Given that there has now been significant amount of audit work from which to draw observation, there is a wealth of findings and as such it is timely for multi-agency bi annual learning events to be hosted. Such events will commence early 2017 and will offer opportunities to share good practice and disseminate information to practitioners across all partner agencies.

3.11.8 The following is a summary of the activity and learning across 2015-16, and some of the identified difference that has been observed as result of the quality assurance activity.

Month	Activity undertaken	Methodology	Identified learning
April 2015	Child protection plan audit	X 5 child protection plans audited by the Independent Reviewing manager and I&Q manager.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans were not SMART and tended to be service focussed rather than behaviour focussed Variable quality of use of SOS Confusion between 'goal' and the 'how' elements of planning
May 2015	Walk through the case multi agency event	Joint chronologies for X6 cases (2 from each LA cluster). Involved practitioners and their managers from Education, CYPSS and Health were invited to 'walk through' the chronologies and identify learning. Managers audited the cases. All practitioners submitted an appreciative inquiry reflection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication between agencies works best when joint meetings are arranged particularly at the beginning and end of intervention Different internal recording systems in both Health and CSC hindered easy communication Known case history not always used to inform a decision making
June 15	Thematic audit event - Child Sexual Exploitation	Interactive session between practitioners and Board members. Included audits, self-reflections and consultation with family.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible and creative working is needed Good working relationship with young person = important - may not always be the lead worker Joint planning = key - one plan - all know it Understanding the impact of adolescence on risk taking behaviour = important
July 2015	Audit of missing children episodes	An audit tool was completed for every missing child episode during July which equated to 17 children who went missing, with a total of 19 missing episodes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in efforts to contact and engage young person after missing Lack of consistency in evidential recording on CCM Lack of follow up by allocated SW in those instances where a

			return home visit not completed
September 15	Walk through the case multi agency event	As above for x3 cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not all involved clear about their role in the case - poor planning and communication Delay in Police passing on notification of DV Analysis in assessments was weak
November 15	Walk through the case multi agency event	As above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step down plans not always clearly communicated across agencies Quality of assessment and plans were weak (in x2 cases)
December 2015	Thematic Audit - DV and Neglect	Interactive session between practitioners and Board members. Review of X3 cases looked at in previous ERSCB thematic event where DV a feature and x3 cases where neglect is.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some evidence of improved outcomes and safety for children since cases looked at previously Practitioner confidence to constructively challenge needs to be supported (each other, legal services, partners and so on) Getting the right person with the right information at the right meeting is fundamental to timely and proportionate responses Quality assessment is fundamental to everything. Not always including all significant parties including absent Fathers
January 2016	Dip sample audit of child protection plans	<p>I&Q Manager, Safeguarding manager to review a sample of child protection plans from the previous 2 months</p> <p>The plans to consider initial child protection planning as well as review child protection conferences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plans all used danger statements (DS) although the quality of the DS was variable- some were very long, and repetitive, some should have been themed together, some lacked impact and did not adhere to the format Plans were not SMART Although desired outcomes were evident in the goals, they lacked specific detail in terms of what needed to be seen e.g. an outcome of 'to live a happy and safe life' required more detail in terms of what that would like for that individual child. Scaling was not consistently used Plans generally continued to be service led rather than clear about what behaviours need to change and what people would see for how long to feel more confident about increased safety of the child
March 2016	Test threshold of section 47 decision making	Dip sample of joint decision making - section 47 audit from the previous 3 months - auditors to include: I&Q Manager, EHASH strategic manager, Reviewing Safeguarding Manager and DI from police.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some noted inconsistency with regard to threshold for joint or solo enquiries

3.11.9 What difference has been made as a result of feedback from auditing activity?

- The quality assurance programme is now well embedded and an accepted part of Safeguarding Board Business. Noted learning is regularly shared via the ERSCB newsletter and directly with Board members for dissemination across individual agencies. The impact of this activity has been seen through the growing learning culture across partners. The thematic and walk through the case audits have received particular positive feedback from practitioners who have described it as a good opportunity to learn together.

- Child protection planning is showing an improved multi agency understanding of the Signs of Safety approach and danger statements are being more consistently used across agencies
- The importance of joint agency working at the earliest opportunity has resulted in Children’s Social Care introducing working practices that recommend a multi-agency meeting at the beginning and end of an intervention as a minimum expectation.
- The template for child protection core groups has been reviewed and revised to support improved planning and review of outcomes. The ERSCB child protection and core groups case conference training has been revised and now includes more focus on the importance of core groups and plan review.
- CSC have organised a ‘learning bite’ session on engaging Fathers and are reviewing the impact of this as part of their annual work plan.

3.12 ERSCB audit of casework in Children’s Social Care.

3.12.1 In January 2016, the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board (ERSCB) held an extraordinary meeting to discuss the findings from the Serious Case Review (SCR). The SCR included a specific recommendation for the ERSCB to assure itself that rigorous management systems are in place within Children’s Social Care (CSC) to review the quality, timeliness, and progress of work undertaken in response to referrals, including feedback to referrers in all cases.

3.12.2 As a result, the Board proposed to undertake an audit of CSC cases in order to assure itself that the issues highlighted in the SCR have been addressed. The Local Authority was fully supportive of the proposal. The Audit was undertaken during February and March 2016 and reported back to the ERSCB meeting in April 2016. More detail of this audit exercise has been provided to demonstrate how the Board undertakes this important aspect of its work.

3.12.3 The audit used the following methods:

- In-depth case file audits of 16 randomly selected cases, where the most recent referral was received approximately 12 months ago
- Practice conversations with CSC Area and Team Managers
- Analysis of performance data in respect of timeliness of assessments and the frequency of case supervision
- Analysis of quality of case supervision discussions within case worker personal supervision

- Feedback from the families in the 16 cases

3.12.4 The case file audits were undertaken by Board members from Humberside Police, Hull and East Riding Clinical Commissioning Group, Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals Trust and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Each auditor was allocated four cases and asked to undertake the audit using an audit framework tool and an additional template outlining the key areas highlighted within the SCR (Appendix 2).

3.12.5 The Independent Chair of ERSCB, and The Quality and Improvement Manager undertook practice conversations with three Area Managers and four Team Managers from CSC to explore the processes in place for management oversight and reflective supervision.

3.12.6 The local authority's performance data system was used to evidence timeliness of case supervision and assessments. In order to assess the quality of both case supervision and reflective case discussions within personal supervisions, copies of supervision records were requested – case supervision records were obtained from CCM and personal supervision records were requested for all social work practitioners and managers for the month of November 2015. Finally, parents/carers and, where appropriate, the children involved in the sixteen case files were contacted with a view to requesting their feedback in terms of their experience of CSC involvement.

3.12.7 The conclusions of the audit were that there was evidence of improvement over the last 18 months in all of the key aspects covered by the audit exercise: strong ownership of management accountability for quality of practice, strong embedding of 'in house' audit and a clear impact of signs of safety supporting a shared approach when working with children and families. There was evidence of systems that support strong management oversight and this was seen by managers as a strong support in their ability to manage their teams and responsibilities. One of the 16 cases raised concerns about the adequacy of the intervention. This was referred back and received an immediate response from CSC management.

3.12.8 Issues were also identified:

- Acceptance by practitioners of parental explanations and other partner views without professional curiosity, challenge or triangulation
- Timeliness of interaction with the child and family following allocation
- The need to view the assessment itself as part of an intervention and ensuring that this is a dynamic process not founded on a 'snapshot' visit or interaction.
- Ensuring that known family history is considered and used as a means to support the analysis of parental capacity and the likelihood of achieving required change

3.12.9 The Local Authority has completed a detailed action plan incorporating the learning from this exercise and implementation will be monitored by the ERSCB.

3.13 Section 11 Audit - Individual Partner Agency Compliance

3.13.1 Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (Working Together 2015).

3.13.2 The ERSCB holds partner agencies to account and challenges them to further improve through Section 11 Challenge Events. Agencies are required to complete a Section 11 Self-Assessment in order to evidence how effectively they are fulfilling their duties under and in compliance with Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, and then to discuss their self-assessment with a Challenge Panel.

3.13.3 In 2015 the Challenge Events took place across three days, with partner agencies invited to attend to discuss their submission with a Panel, facilitated by the Independent Chair and consisting of representatives from partner agencies and the Board. Peers were involved to a greater extent this year, so that each of the three days had different panels. This proved to be a successful process, enabling both the Board and partner agencies to discuss their submissions in more detail, offer further challenge and share good practice across a range of agencies.

3.13.4 The Section 11 self-assessment template enables ERSCB member agencies to report on the strategic and organisational arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Specifically, the template requests information on a number of areas, including:

- Senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children’s welfare;
- A clear statement of the agency’s responsibilities towards children is available for all staff;
- An accountability structure for work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people;
- How service development takes account of the need to safeguard and promote welfare and is informed, where appropriate, by the views of children and families;
- (promoting a culture of listening to and engaging in a dialogue with children, young people and families);
- Staff training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children for all staff working with or, depending on the agency’s primary functions, in contact with children and families;
- The recruitment and selection, complaints and disciplinary processes in relation to safeguarding;
- Contribution to effective inter-agency working to safeguard children and young people;

- Arrangements for effective information sharing;
- How issues of diversity are addressed in their work to safeguard children and young people.

3.13.5 Compliance with Section 11 Requirements

3.13.6 The Section 11 Challenge Event 2015 highlighted substantial progress both in terms of compliance with the self-assessment requirements and against priorities. Without fail, all partners were able to demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding children and young people and evidenced areas of good practice. However, there were a number of areas for improvement identified, although all partners showed a good awareness of where improvement is required and have plans in place to address these. All agencies demonstrated they are compliant with the majority of Section 11 requirements, with some who were fully compliant. Those agencies who were not yet fully compliant tended to be those organisations whose regular client base were not children and young people. However, these agencies were able to demonstrate clear plans in place in order to progress to full compliance.

3.13.7 A number of new agencies/services completed Section 11 self-assessments for the first time, which was felt to be a positive approach from these agencies. These included:

- Community Rehabilitation Company
- Licensing Services
- Transport Services

3.13.8 Each partner has received a summary of the Challenge Event discussions and has been asked to complete an Action Plan outlining how they intend to address both the areas for improvement identified through the event and the priorities they have identified for the coming year.

3.13.9 For 2016 it was decided to focus attention on the action plans each agency completed as part of their submission in 2015, given the very thorough nature of these submissions and the positive picture established through the 3 day challenge event in 2015. All agencies, apart from one, responded to the request for updated action plans within the timescale identified. The results were generally positive, with significant progress being made with the actions identified in 2015 for all agencies.

3.13.10 A significant feature of this exercise is the feedback from agencies about how useful they find the section 11 process and the holding to account it entails. For many of the agencies involved, safeguarding children is only a component of their work and the section 11 challenge provides a useful reminder each year of the importance of this work.

3.14 Feedback from Parents & Carers & from Children & Young People

3.14.1 A further element that supports evaluation of the effectiveness of Safeguarding is what the feedback from parents and carers and from children and young people tells us, and how this information assists in improving services. Children and Young People are also enabled to contribute their views on planned service development so that these developments take account of young people's perspectives.

3.14.2 What does good look like for children and young people in East Riding? The Annual Report has previously highlighted some of the views obtained through surveys, feedback and participation activities that tell us what young people think, and these change very little each year: The Board attempts to incorporate these principles into the promotion of good practice through training and other methods of communication.

- Children and young people are safe.
- Children and young people feel safer.
- Children and young people feel listened to.
- Children and young people feel involved in decisions that affect their lives.
- Children's experience of the social work relationship is positive.
- Young people attend or have their views represented at child protection conferences.
- Young people attend and chair their looked after children reviews.
- Parents and carers feel listened to.
- Parents and carers are included in decisions that affect their lives.
- Services are honest and direct about what they were worried about.
- Services notice what is working well within the family.
- Services help children understand what is happening.
- Services make it clear what needs to happen.
- The family get on better with each other.
- Their child is getting on better at nursery, school, college etc.
- Their family can manage difficult situations or problems better.
- They feel more positive about their child's future.

- They feel more positive as parents and carers.

3.14.3 The Board, along with partners, is developing feedback processes and refining them through experience. Far more takes place on an ongoing basis, that is not recorded, as part of the ‘checking out’ that goes on when evaluating progress with children and their families. However it is also important that feedback that is obtained in a more objective way is gathered and used to improve services.

3.14.4 Children and Young People’s Support and Safeguarding Service Children and Young People’s Feedback Survey.

3.14.5 Consultations are part of developing a learning culture and feeding into workforce development and the East Riding Safeguarding Children Board Learning and Improvement Framework. In last year’s Annual Report we provided information from the Children and Young People’s Support and Safeguarding Service (CYPSSS) feedback form developed for parents and carers involved in children’s services and in 2015 the format for this feedback form was revised. The consultation is collected at the end of an intervention and focuses on the quality of support. It is outcome focused and asks what difference they can see as a result of the intervention.

3.14.6 A summary of the consultation responses is outlined below. In total 79 consultations were returned from young people between June 15, when the form was revised and May 16. Services had been received from Children’s Social Care – 13, Youth and Family Support – 65, Looked After Children – 1

3.14.7 The questions were as follows:

Do you understand why we have been supporting you and your family?

- Of the 76 responses 99% answered yes and one respondent answered no.

Young people rated the quality of the support;

Please rate the following statements My worker.....	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Listened to me	69 (88%)	9 (11%)	1	0	0
Helped me understand what they were worried about	56 (71%)	19 (24%)	2 (2.5%)	2 (2.5%)	0
Saw what was good in my family	49 (62%)	23 (29%)	6 (9%)	0	0
Did what they said they would do	60 (76%)	15 (19%)	4 (5%)	0	0

How much did we help you?	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Our family get on better with each other - 71 responses	31 (44%)	18(25%)	17(24%)	5(7%)	0
I'm doing better at school, college etc – 76 responses	32(42%)	30(40%)	12(16%)	1(1%)	1(1%)
I feel better about my future – 78 responses	42(54%)	28(36%)	4(5%)	4(5%)	0

3.14.8 Young People were asked what it was about the worker that was helpful. Some of the many comments included:

- ‘He listened to me and explained the situation I was in and helped me through everything’
- ‘She had time to listen to us and if we didn’t understand anything she would explain’
- ‘She took the time to understand my issues and find the best solution’
- ‘...she helped me with my confidence and self-esteem’

3.14.9 Young people were also asked; ‘Is there something else we can do better?’ Those that replied to this section said ‘no’ and didn’t identify anything.

3.15 Feedback obtained by the ERSCB as part of its audit process.

3.15.1 The Board is increasingly building in to its audit processes seeking feedback from parents and carers and also young people as part of the approach to engaging with and hearing the voice of children and young people. The Board is commit to ensuring that it is not playing lip service to this notion;

approaching children with whom there is no relationship and asking their views about the service they have received is not always helpful and asking someone who has worked with the family to seek this feedback risks it being limited as children and young people will find it hard to be honest in those circumstances.

3.15.2 As part of the audit of Children’s Social Care, carried out in February/March 2016 following the completion of a serious case review, about which there is more information later in this report, feedback was sought from parent/carers and children and young people.

3.15.3 It was possible to speak with fourteen parents and six children as part of this process (Appendix 4). This was helpful in supporting a developing understanding of the individual experience of services although it is acknowledged that feedback from such a personal perspective will hold some level of bias and as such this must be taken in to account when considering the findings. Given the qualitative nature of this data drawing themes has been difficult although there were several that felt important to note.

- 12 of the 14 parents felt that they were really clear about why the social worker was involved and were able to describe the worries that professionals had for their children. One parent advised that they did not know from the first worker they had what the worry was, although the second worker made it clear.
- 8 of the 14 parents had seen the completed assessment and 1 was unsure
- 9 of the 14 parents had seen the child’s plan
- 5 of the 6 children said that they were seen alone by their social worker and felt they were listened to.

3.15.4 In considering the comments from parents and children, the importance of open, honest discussion was valued by them even when they did not always agree with the concerns. There is some concern that, from a parental perspective, assessments and plans were not consistently shared in every case. It is reassuring that the children who gave feedback advised that they were seen alone by their social worker and they were able to articulate the different ways in which their social worker had gained their views and insight into what was happening for them.

3.16 Humberside Young Witness Support Service

3.16.1 Children and Young People who require safeguarding and are therefore a focus for LSCBs can be in situations right across a spectrum, from the early stages of vulnerability, pressures building up within a family that may lead to risk of abuse or neglect, through to those who require specialist services to help them overcome the effects of having been abused and who are in danger of having their adults lives and relationships adversely affected and dominated by the impact of what has happened to them.

- 3.16.2** One situation along this spectrum is those children and young people who are giving evidence at court, either as a victim of crime or as a witness to a crime. Children are classed as ‘vulnerable witnesses’ and therefore an enhanced service should be available for them. Being a victim of crime is in many cases a traumatic experience for a child and can have the lasting impact described above. However, although great strides have been made in recent years to try to make the experience of giving evidence less of an ordeal, unless the child is supported and informed appropriately the experience can have devastating consequences in its own right.
- 3.16.3** During the year the ERSCB has continued to contribute financially to Humberside Young Witness Service. This service is funded by the four LSCBs within the Humberside sub region, Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner and Humberside Police Service.
- 3.16.4** The Service recruits, trains and supports workers from the agencies represented on the LSCBs. With the support of their agencies the workers use their skills and expertise in a voluntary capacity. Allocated support workers visit children and young people and their parents or carers and spend time explaining the court process, the roles of the various professionals associated with the courts and what to expect at court. Support workers use a nationally recognised ‘young witness pack’ and pre-court visits to prepare children and their families. As well being available to answer any questions, the support workers will also keep the child informed about progress in their case, something that can be vitally important when cases can take over 12 months from when a defendant is charged to the date of a trial beginning. Workers support children whilst attending court and are able to be with children whilst their evidence is being heard. Support continues to be provided in the immediate aftermath of a court case, ensuring everyone understands the outcomes and that they are referred or signposted to services, where there is a need for longer term or specialist help.
- 3.16.5** Through its evaluation process, the voice of children and their carers is captured and provides important feedback on the effectiveness of the service. More details of this are provided in the Voice and Influence section of this Annual Report. Whilst the service evaluates its effectiveness on the feedback from children, young people and their carers on the quality of the service, it is also reasonable to assume that the presence at court of witnesses ready to give evidence has an impact on a defendant’s decision to plead guilty and increases the likelihood of a successful prosecution. During the year 66% of the cases involving young victims and witnesses supported by the service resulted in a conviction. This activity also makes a contribution to a component of the ERSCB Strategy in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation, which has successful prosecution as one of its four key areas of activity.
- 3.16.6** From April 2015 – March 2016 79 young witnesses from East riding were referred for a service, which equated to 49 cases. 33 were victims of crime and a further 46 were witnesses. 53% of the cases were cases of alleged sexual abuse and 30% were physical assault. The remaining 17% were made up of public order offences, criminal damage, theft and burglary. As some cases remain ongoing, outcomes are known for 38 of the 49 cases referred. In 60% the defendant pleaded guilty and in a further 8% the offender was found guilty.

- 3.16.7** The Service has also completed a two year evaluation, from April 2014 – 2016, based on feedback from 35 young people, which provides valuable information about their experience. Young People’s experience of police involvement was very positive with 100% feeling they were listened to and 97% felt they were treated well by the police. The evaluation suggests the police could do more to help young people understand what would happen next, as only 77% felt positive about this aspect of their experience.
- 3.16.8** The majority of young people were concerned about going to court, but all thought their worker had been helpful in making it easier, with enough time given, and feedback was useful in giving views about how written materials could be improved.
- 3.16.9** Young people particularly found the visit to the court before the hearing useful and were able to explain in a variety of ways why this was the case. 82% of the young people attended court for the trial and 65% gave evidence. Detailed feedback was particularly helpful in providing insight into this experience.
- 3.16.10** All found the YWS helpful, but the feedback highlighted that more needs to be done to enable young witnesses to be able to give their evidence without fear and without feeling they have had a further damaging experience.

4. PROGRESS/EFFECTIVENESS OF KEY WORK AREAS OVERSEEN BY ERSCB

- 4.1.1** In East Riding the ERSCB has taken the lead in driving forward the multi-agency response to safeguarding children and young people in specific circumstances. These are priority areas, because, relatively, we see we see high numbers of children being affected by living in these circumstances, for example domestic abuse and neglect or because they are emerging issues that require developmental work; child sexual exploitation and those missing from home or education, or those who may be affected by female genital mutilation. The Board highlighted these in last year’s report as areas in which further progress would need to be made. In September 2015, following the completion of the Peer Challenge, reported in more detail at section 5, the Board agreed to focus on four of these key practice areas in the year ahead, as well as maintaining the development of others: CSE, Domestic Abuse, Neglect and Self Harm.
- 4.1.2** There are other areas of practice over which the Board should have a ‘line of sight’ to what agencies are doing. This is important as part of the evaluation of effectiveness of safeguarding in East Riding. The third aspect of what the Board should be involved in has been referred to as ‘horizon scanning’, looking ahead to anticipate what might provide the focus for future challenges. The impact of the increase that has been seen in the number of families from Eastern Europe is one example of this, which the Board will need to take regard of in the coming year.

4.2 Multi-Agency Response to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

- 4.2.1 Under national guidance, LSCBs have responsibility to ensure an effective response to CSE in the local area. In East Riding, the CSE Strategic Group takes the lead on behalf of the Board for the East Riding multi-agency response to CSE. There is an ERSCB multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy in place and this has been developed from a CSE Action Plan first agreed in 2011, which was enlarged into its current format in January 2015 to reflect further national developments and updated guidance. The action plan has been updated to reflect the progress made in many areas and the recommendations attributed to the ERSCB from the Overview and Scrutiny Panel Report considered alongside it.
- 4.2.2 Procedures, guidance, and the CSE strategy are available on the ERSCB website <http://www.erscb.org.uk/about-erscb/child-sexual-exploitation/>
- 4.2.3 As a result of some key resource and structural developments during the course of the year, although there is still much to do, there has been progress in most areas of how effectively we work, both proactively and reactively to the threat of young people being sexually exploited:
- 4.2.4 Whilst the quarterly multi agency Strategic Group and the Operational Group, have remained in place, changes have taken place to the monthly multi agency child exploitation meetings. (MACE) One meeting on a monthly basis, usually lasting a full day considers the risk reduction plans for those young people thought to be at highest risk of CSE and also known suspects, so that intelligence about any possible links is shared.
- 4.2.3 How we collate data on numbers of young people at risk, or subject to CSE has been amended to include those young people overseen by the MACE process and not all those for whom a risk assessment tool has been completed. A monthly 'Pre- MACE' meeting considers all new RITS and where this process indicates a specific risk of CSE the case will be escalated to 'overseen by the MACE.'
- 4.2.4 Other routes for support or if necessary intervention have been clarified, for example where there are circumstances which require the use of child protection procedures and for a young person to be subject to a child protection plan, this is used appropriately.
- 4.2.5 Further resource developments have provided increasing levels of training and support to schools and other front line staff. The Youth and Family Support Service now host the CSE team with the number of practitioners increased to six, who are supervised by a fully time manager. The team works alongside key workers and directly with young people.
- 4.2.6 In January 2016 a new Prevention and Education Team was established to work in schools across East Riding to support staff with their response to the growing challenge of young people exhibiting 'risky behaviours', which includes those vulnerable to exploitation. Raising awareness amongst staff and

students, promoting protective behaviours and supporting staff and working directly with students in a preventative capacity, the team is already making a significant contribution to the early intervention approach which is part of an the CSE strategy.

- 4.2.7** The ERSCB has continued its support for the local awareness raising campaign ‘Not In Our Community’ established initially by ‘Crime Stoppers’ and the High Sheriff of East Riding to raise awareness of CSE in 2014. The project manager of this campaign attends the CSE Strategic Group. The Campaign’s social media platform is used to promote messages to young people the Board More information about the campaign can be found at <http://notinourcommunity.org/>
- 4.2.8** CSE data is increasingly robust, although the range of the information is limited. A multi-agency dataset is currently under development to reflect a consistent approach across the Humberside Police area.
- 4.2.9** Board members have been involved directly in audit activity, meeting with practitioners and managers to audit cases together in order to understand better the quality and effectiveness of East Riding response to CSE. In June 2015 the Board, as part of its bi-annual process of undertaking themed multi-agency audits on the afternoon following a full Board meeting, undertook an audit of 6 cases currently or very recently classed by the CSE workers as being at either high or medium risk of CSE (this is using the East Riding MACE Risk Indicator Tool). The children whose journeys were explored were selected to offer representation across East Riding.
- 4.2.10** In advance of the event managers were asked to complete an audit and practitioners provided reflective summaries. Where possible parents and carers were contacted and their views captured. This combined information was given to Board members with the intention of offering some case insight so as to consider questions they may want to ask the involved practitioners. The information was considered and small group discussions were facilitated by two ERSCB members. Facilitators were asked to capture key learning points and observations before feeding back in to a bigger group discussion. Board members and practitioners highlighted the value of this process.

4.3 Children Missing from Home, Care Settings & from Education

- 4.3.1** The last six months of the year has seen a good deal of work to improve and ensure a consistent and robust approach to supporting children and young people who go missing or are reported as absent. Work has been undertaken with Humberside Police to ensure a consist approach to missing and absent children notifications. A clear and consistent approach has now been established and this ensures that every case involving a child going missing or absent is sent to the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHaSH) for single assessment of need, or if necessary, for enquiries to be made under section 17 or Section 47 of the Children Act 1989. All children in both categories will be offered a return home interview.

- 4.3.2** All return home interview forms are now sent to the ERSCB Board Manager who collates the information into a spreadsheet with a view to providing the Missing Children Operational Group with data, including emerging themes and trends. The Missing/Absent Register is used to identify any return home interviews not yet received and this information is forwarded to the Youth and Family Support Service and Participation and Rights Team Manager for action. In those instances where the information contained within the return home interview forms is vague or if it is not clear if, where further support/action is clearly required, any action is being undertaken, the Board Manager will contact the worker requesting clarification.
- 4.3.3** For those children/young people where the return home interview form suggests complex issues or further support may be required, these cases are discussed at the Missing Children Operational Group.
- 4.3.4** Monthly review of the Missing/Absent Register also ensures that cases are automatically brought to the Operational Group for the following children who have missing/absent episodes:
- Children under the age of 12 years old
 - Children who have 2 or more missing/absent episodes in one month
 - Children who are overseen by MACE
- 4.3.5** For children placed in the East Riding from other local authorities (OLA), it is the responsibility of the home local authority to undertake the return home interview. For those OLA children who have frequent missing episodes, the Missing Children Operational Group chair forwards a standard letter to the child's social worker and/or manager, informing them of the missing episodes and re-iterating that it is their responsibility to undertake a return home interview.
- 4.3.6** Amendments to the notification and return home interview process and forms have resulted in more detailed information being available to identify themes and trends of missing children, and to allow a more robust approach to identifying children who go missing and who are at risk of CSE. Processes are now in place to enable children who go missing and who are also at risk of CSE to be discussed at both the MACE and Missing Operational Groups, with the key worker in attendance, where appropriate. Data concerning those missing from Education is regularly cross referenced, with appropriately representation on the operational groups to ensure this information is made use of.
- 4.3.7** The ERSCB Board Manager is able to retain an overview of children who go missing or are reported as absent through the monthly review of the Missing/Absent Register and cross-checking this info with the return home interviews and monthly police data. This information is summarised and discussed at the Missing Children Operational and Strategic Groups and also shared at the Children and Young People's Safeguarding and Support Service Management Team meetings.

4.4 Domestic Abuse

- 4.4.1 The repeat this year of the evaluation of child protection plans to examine the situations that children and young people are living in, which leads to the need for them to become the subject of a child protection plan, again highlighted that domestic abuse remains a dominant feature.
- 4.4.2 Whilst in last year's Annual Report the Board recognised the strengths of service provision in East Riding, and particularly the role played by the DVAP services in this, it also highlighted the importance of reducing the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people by providing further skills development and practice tools to the wider workforce working with children and their families.
- 4.4.3 The Board has maintained discussion at Board meetings to challenge the key agencies to provide clarity on an agreed process for completing a revised multi-agency strategy and this has been achieved. However, meetings arranged between Chairs and Officers from the ERSCB, the East Riding Safeguarding Adults Board and the Community Safety Partnership did not lead to the establishment of a forum, as had been agreed and so the lack of full coordination between strategic boards in this important area of practice remain. The ERSCB will continue to work towards closer integration.
- 4.4.4 As part of the Board's forward planning, considering how best to take forward a Domestic Abuse Work Stream and also the work in relation to Neglect, the Board identified resources to employ a Practice and Development Officer for two days per week on a time limited contract, to focus exclusively on these two areas of practice. Work has therefore been focussed since her arrival on developing a full domestic abuse strategy and action plan for children and young people, which will complement the County's Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- 4.4.5 The Practice and Development Officer joined the Board Business Unit in February 2016 and will be including in her work a needs assessment and survey of existing services and resources in the scope of her work. This project will support the wider work being done, to ensure that we fully understand how all children living with, or at risk of, domestic abuse in East Riding are already being helped, to share and disseminate good evidence based practice and ensure that future work is coordinated in a way that maximises the use of necessary resources.

4.5 Neglect

- 4.5.1 As described above in relation to domestic abuse, the Board has appointed a dedicated Practice and Development Officer, who joined the Board Business Unit in February 2016 to take forward the completion of a Neglect Strategy and Action Plan. The CCG Designated Nurse for East Riding has agreed to lead on this work on behalf of the Board. The prevalence of domestic abuse in cases identified as 'Neglect' is well documented, and it is intended that these two pieces of work will complement one another.
- 4.5.2 The ERSCB training has previously promoted the use of the Graded Care Profile, as an evidenced based assessment tool specifically for neglect situation, but the use of the tool remains sporadic. The further embedding of the Signs of Safety Framework has made a significant contribution to how complex neglect cases, in which family difficulties have been long standing, and in which a proactive approach is needed, can be undertaken. However, as part of the implementation of the Neglect Action Plan East Riding will become a partner with the NSPCC to fully implement the use of the Graded Care Profile, version 2.

4.5.3 The Board's audit work, undertaken in December 2015 to follow up on cases of domestic abuse and neglect which had been previously audited by Board members, demonstrated some of the progress that has been taking place.

4.6 Young People who Self Harm

4.6.1 In 2013 the ERSCB published a serious case review which resulted in a wide range of initiatives to raise awareness of this issue amongst practitioners, providing them with a fuller understanding of what self-harming behaviours may signify for a young person and how to respond. Resulting from the action plan partner agencies looked at how services could be developed to be more responsive to young people, for example where access and availability could be responsive to when and where young people needed them. Both the Local Authority and Health have continued to develop the nature of their services with these principles in mind; CAMHS have developed pathways for self-referral and for schools to receive support and advice as part of a closer partnership approach. The Youth and Family Support Service has developed a 7 days service, where this is necessary to be able to respond when help is needed, not just during 'office hours'.

4.6.2 In December 2015 the Board revisited this issue and heard from Public Health colleagues and the details of a needs analysis that has been undertaken for East Riding, taking into account research, and national and local developments. This research suggested that although the number of hospital admissions related to self-harm has not been increasing, the number of young people presenting at A & E and to school nurses with less issues resulting in self harm is increasing. It is not clear at this stage whether this is a result of an increase in the emotional distress that may lead to self-harming behaviours, or a growing ability amongst young people to be able to talk about these things and seek help, or as is most likely, a combination of the two. As a result the action planning for this aspect of the Board Business Plan is being revised.

4.7 Hidden Harm

4.7.1 Hidden Harm is a phrase that has been coined to describe the impact that on children of adult behaviour, such as drug and alcohol misuse, which can have a significant impact on children's lives and in some cases can result in serious harm and neglect. One of the key aspects of agencies responding effectively is to ensure that communication and coordination takes place between services working with adult and those working with children.

4.7.2 In December 2015, the ERSCB agreed to develop the ERSCB Targeted Sub Group into a time-limited Task and Finish Group to undertake the Board's key priorities and initially to focus on Hidden Harm. The Hidden Harm Task and Finish Group have produced multi-agency guidance, setting out the procedures to be followed where professionals are working with parents who use/misuse substances and/or alcohol in which there are children and the group has organised three half-day multi agency Hidden Harm Awareness and Networking Workshops to take place in May 2016 in different venues around the County. The Task and Finish Group will continue to meet for a minimum of six months in order to develop a robust over-arching strategy which will ensure multi-agency ownership of both the procedures and the response to Hidden Harm across the East Riding.

4.8 FGM

4.8.1 A significant piece of work has been carried out this year, on behalf of the ERSCB to establish multi-agency procedures, roll out of awareness raising workshops around the County and to bring clarity about reporting mechanisms in this important area. Although East Riding does not have significant

communities from cultures in which this practice is prevalent, professionals must still be vigilant and understand the complexities of these situation. We are also aware that there are communities in authorities which border East Riding and coordination with services in those areas has been part of East Riding's preparation.

4.9 The Threat of Radicalisation and the local implementation of the 'Prevent' Strategy.

- 4.9.1 In June 2015 the ERSCB received a report providing an up to date position of how agencies are responding locally to the threat of young people becoming radicalised. The report gave a comprehensive account of recent developments and how agencies are cooperating together to implement the agreed strategy.
- 4.9.2 The Board heard that concern had been raised about very small numbers of young people who had been identified as at risk in East Riding, and that these were at risk from adults whose political views are predominately on the far right. The Board was assured that support is available for schools and that all agencies are cooperating together in this emerging area of safeguarding.

4.10 Safeguarding Children with Disabilities

- 4.10.1 In December 2015 the ERSCB requested a report from the Local Authority on how children with disabilities are being safeguarded in East Riding. The Board sought reassurance that, as in many instances a child with a disability can have increased vulnerability and is therefore is at greater risk, staff working in this specialist field are equipped to respond appropriately if concerns arise. The Board was aware that no children with a disability were subject to a child protection plan, something that required further examination.
- 4.10.2 The report provided examples of cases in which Section 47 enquiries had been carried out and strategy meetings held, and further work was requested by the Board, which will be the focus of further Board activity going forward

4.11 Young Carers

- 4.11.1 The ERSCB is aware of the progress that the Local Authority has made with regard to its responsibilities for young carers, a growing number of young people whose lives are dominated by the need to care for a parent or carer due to chronic illness, or disability or lifestyle choice.
- 4.11.2 The Young Carers (Needs Assessments) Regulations 2015 came into force on 1st April 2015, which mandated local authorities to carry out a young carer's needs assessment in a manner, appropriate and proportionate to the needs and circumstances of the young carer, combined with an assessment of the person cared, with a view to reducing the impact on their education and personal and emotional development. In reality, whenever additional service are provided the young person will maintain a prominent role and so the ongoing support for them is essential.
- 4.11.3 In April 2013 responsibility for the East Riding Young Carers service transferred from Action for Children to the Children's Rights and Participation Team. At the point of transfer Action for Children worked exclusively with children and young people caring for parents / carers with physical disabilities; 37 children and young people in total were receiving a service provided by 2.5 workers

- 4.11.4 From April 2014, the remit of the service was extended to include the provision of a service to children and young people living with parents / carers caring for parents who misuse alcohol and / or substances; the service also identified the unmet needs of siblings living with children and young people with life limiting conditions.
- 4.11.5 In the period between April 2014 and April 2016 the numbers of young carers receiving a service has increased from 37 to 160 representing an increase in service demand of 332%
- 4.11.6 Support packages on offer include: one to one sessions with an allocated worker and / or group work for different age ranges which is arranged in locations around the County.

4.12 Serious Case Reviews & Learning Lessons Reviews

- 4.12.1 The ERSCB Serious Case Review Panel has overseen progress on Serious Case Reviews (SCR) and Learning Lessons Reviews being undertaken during the year and the Learning and Improvement Group has a role in ensuring the learning is disseminated and influences practice. No SCRs were published during the year, which last year's annual report anticipated, although one was completed and work undertaken on implementing the learning whilst complex issues associated with publication were considered. Issues arising from this case relate to quality of assessment work and appropriate management oversight, which was the focus of an ERSCB single agency audit, reported in detail at section 3 of this report.
- 4.12.2 Two Learning Lessons Reviews were completed and the learning incorporated into objectives by the Learning and Improvement Group. The learning from both cases including recognition of neglect and the impact of parental substance misuse has links with the Board's practice priorities.

4.13 Child Death Overview Panel: Review of Child Deaths in East Riding

- 4.13.1 The primary purpose of CDOP is to examine individual child (under 18 years) deaths, to identify modifiable causes to inform strategic planning on how "best to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children in their area" (Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2010) – that is, to learn lessons and put the lessons into practice to prevent future deaths. To meet these ends and to support the operational functions of the CDOP, the panel collects information about each child death in the East Riding of Yorkshire.
- 4.13.2 East Riding CDOP seeks to identify significant risk factors and trends in individual child deaths and in the overall patterns of deaths in the area, including relevant environmental, social, health and cultural aspects of each death, and any systematic or structural factors affecting children's well-being to ensure a thorough consideration of how such deaths might be prevented in the future. The aim of this review process is therefore to reduce child deaths overall by understanding the reasons why children die.

4.13.3 Number of Deaths

4.13.4 An examination of notified infant and childhood deaths of East Riding residents by calendar year (Jan 2015– Dec 2015) found that:

- There occurred 17 infant and childhood deaths in East Riding between January 2015 to December 2015. This number is higher than the deaths experienced in 2014 (10 deaths) however a significant decrease compared to previous years.
- Over the past decade there have occurred on average approximately 22 infant and childhood deaths per year in East Riding. This annual number has shown a downward trend, falling from a high of 33 in 2003 to a low of 10 deaths in 2014.
- Ten of the seventeen cases have been reviewed by the CDOP, the others are pending due to complexity of the cases and awaiting further information. All ten deaths have been categorised by the panel.
- Due to the low numbers further details of the categorisations cannot be made available publically because of the possibility of identification.
- All 10 deaths were thought to have had no modifiable factors that may have prevented the death.

4.13.5 An analysis of the cases reviewed by the East Riding CDOP in 2015 suggest the continuation of a number of issues that have been recurring themes identified over the past 5 years.

4.13.6 Major Learning Points

4.13.7 Despite an overall reduction in infant death rates the main issues of prematurity and congenital problems remain the same.

4.13.8 There remains a greater risk of childhood deaths within the most disadvantaged families within the East Riding, where a combination of environmental factors and parental/young people lifestyle risk factors cause greater risk for the most vulnerable children.

4.13.9 Mothers who smoke are more likely to deliver their babies early. Preterm delivery is a leading cause of death, disability, and disease among newborns. One in every five babies born to mothers who smoke during pregnancy has low birth weight. Mothers who are exposed to secondhand smoke while pregnant are more likely to have lower birth weight babies. Babies born too small or too early are not as healthy. Both babies whose mothers smoke while pregnant

and babies who are exposed to secondhand smoke after birth are more likely to die from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) than babies who are not exposed to cigarette smoke. Babies whose mothers smoke are about three times more likely to die from SIDS. Services to help women to stop smoking during pregnancy are key, with an emphasis on targeting the most vulnerable groups in the population. The considerable variation in smoking in pregnancy rates within different geographical areas and socio-economic groups within the East Riding remains a concern.

- 4.13.10** Overlaying and co-sleeping remains a local and national problem. Bed sharing increases the chance of SIDS and is particularly dangerous if either parents smokes or have drunk alcohol or taken drugs (including medications that may make you drowsy). Similarly, bed sharing with a baby of low birth weight (2.5kg or 51/2lbs or less) or a premature baby (37 weeks or less) is strongly linked to an increased risk of SIDS. The improved targeting of 'higher-risk' families should be further improved.
- 4.13.11** Whilst levels of take-up of childhood vaccination programmes continue to remain high in the East Riding, it is essential to continue these efforts to protect East Riding children from existing and emerging infections. Vaccination coverage (including DTaP/IPV/Hib, MMR and PCV) for children in ERY is significantly better than England average with all but one of the rates in excess of 93% (as reported by PHE on the Public Health Profiles website)

4.14 Early Help and Safeguarding Hub (EHaSH)

- 4.14.1** This 'front door' service, based at County Hall in Beverley, provides a first response to the public, offers advice and signposting on issues relating to children and routes situations requiring an ongoing response to the appropriate team, to offer support to families and if necessary protection to children. The Board was instrumental in the establishment of the current arrangements, whereby the police 'decision maker' is also based within the team, along with admin support. This arrangement has proven its worth as timely joint decision making is possible because of this colocation.
- 4.14.2** The ERSCB has continued to challenge other agencies to provide staff to be based within EHASH; a multi-agency approach is now an accepted element of good practice nationally. During the year the Humber Trust have provided a member of staff for part of the week, but the Board has made its expectation clear to Commissioners and Health providers that this should be a full time presence. The CYPSSS Youth and Family Support have latterly seconded a full time member of staff and CAMHS are looking to develop their contact point access service to integrate more effectively with EHASH. The Board will continue to challenge agencies to contribute to EHASH becoming an appropriately multi-agency service.
- 4.14.3** The Board has also, with the generous cooperation of EHASH staff, developed an 'Early Help Assessment' (EHA) to replace the CAF, and the Board is leading awareness raising sessions and a pilot implementation phase to ensure the EHA becomes fully embedded across agencies.

4.15 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

- 4.15.1** In last year's Annual Report we reported on the review of CAMHS services in East Riding and how the introduction of a new service specification was implemented as a response to the recognition that, for a number of reasons, the service was not satisfying the demands for an efficient and fully effective service to one of our primary groups of vulnerable children, those whose emotional health and wellbeing are under threat from mental health issues.
- 4.15.2** During the course of the year the Board has monitoring progress, by receiving direct reports from the service commissioner, and also by monitoring the Children's Trust Board's oversight. Also of relevance was the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Panel work in this area, resulting in the publication of the report, 'CAMHS in the East Riding of Yorkshire. +published in December 2015. The comments of the Chair of the Panel in her introduction are echoed by the ERSCB, 'Whilst the Panel acknowledges that the recent performance data illustrates an improving situation, we express caution of the significant challenges which continue to face the providers and commissioners of both CAMHS provision and non-CAMHS universal support services.' The Board has confirmed that the Children's Trust Board, as the forum where joint commissioning of services, is the correct forum in which these issues should be resolved and through membership of the CTB the Chairs has continued to contribute and monitor the robust challenge that has taken place to ensure that the CAMHS services meet the needs of the group of children and young people they serve. We fully anticipate that these issues will be resolved in the coming year.

4.16 Online Safety

- 4.16.1** In 2014 the ERSCB re-established an e-Safety subgroup and this has now become known as the Online safety sub group. The previous sub group was very successful in offering direct help to schools with hardware advice and with advice and training on awareness raising about the risks associated with internet use by young people. Strong links had been established with regional umbrella organisations such as The Yorkshire Grid for Learning, and national groups such as CEOP. And these have been continued. The group has focussed on developing a strategy to take account of the growing impact of social media on the lives of children and young people, and have included in this the use of social media as a tool for assisting with safeguarding work, and promoting messages to young people about online safety. The group has also coordinated the identification of resources and training and continued to promote these.
- 4.16.2** It has been very helpful that one of our 'lay members', who represents the community in East Riding on the Board, has agreed to Chair this group. A useful partnership has been established with Hull University, which will enable the group to draw upon national and international research as it further develops the Board's response in this important area of work.

4.17 Response to Allegations against Professionals & those in a Position of Trust Working with Children

4.17.1 Local Safeguarding Children Boards have a responsibility for ensuring that there are effective inter-agency procedures in place to deal with allegations raised about persons in paid or voluntary work with children including monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of those procedures.

4.17.2 Working Together 2015 points out that;

‘Regulation 5 of the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations 2006 Requires that LSCB develop policies and procedures to investigate allegations concerning persons who work or volunteer with children. Local Authorities are required to identify a Designated Officer or senior officer with responsibility for the management and oversight of individual cases – providing advice and guidance to the Local Authority, private employers and voluntary organisations within their geographical area of responsibility.’

4.17.3 It has been agreed that the title Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) should be retained within the ER area.

4.17.4 East Riding two LADOs in post, one of whom primarily responds to allegations linked to educational establishments and he also has a wider role of supporting the sector with advice and support with wider safeguarding matters. The LADO service is highly respected and valued for the contribution made to safeguarding children in East Riding.

4.17.5 The ERSCB procedures and guidance (‘Allegations of Abuse – Aug 2016) regarding allegations made against adults who work or volunteer with children have been updated and this makes clear the responsibility on all managers to ensure that all allegations notified to LA and independent settings are referred to the LADO.

4.17.6 The guidance should be followed in respect of any allegation that a person who works or volunteers with children has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against, or related to a child; or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children.

4.17.7 This is in connection with the person’s paid employment or voluntary activity and may involve concerns arising about the person’s behaviour in private life.

- 4.17.8** Two essential elements of this guidance are that: it is essential that any allegation of abuse made against member of staff or volunteer is dealt with very quickly, in a fair and consistent way that provides effective protection for the child and at the same time supports the person who is the subject of the allegation. Any consideration of referrals to the LADO should establish if the matter is an allegation (as above) or a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint.
- 4.17.9** Recently the LADO team has held discussions with Adult Services and the LA Early Years Team in to ensure that there is a mutual understanding that referrals to the LADO for should be made if there are possible allegations in respect of possible harm to children by adults. Allegations against adults working with Adults should be managed by Adult Services and incidents which are clearly not allegations or possible allegations within Early Years and Childminder settings by the Early Years Service.
- 4.17.10** A priority for the LADO team is to ensure that its profile and role across the Local Authority Children’s Services and the independent sector remains high. This is particularly important in the context of increasing academisation of schools. The ERSCB procedures and guidance ‘Allegations of Abuse made against adults who work or volunteer with children’ has been updated this makes clear the responsibility on all managers to ensure that all allegations notified to LA and independent settings are referred to the LADO.
- 4.17.11** The LADO team in partnership with the ERSCB training team has delivered allegation and safe & appropriate working related training to LA and Independent Schools, Foster Carers, Children’s Homes and Transport Services. The role of the LADO and agencies’ responsibilities in response to allegations are underlined in generic ERSCB training.
- 4.17.12** In isolation the efficient and appropriate management of allegations will have limited impact in ensuring the safety and welfare of children when in the care of professionals, support workers and volunteers. The development of Safe & Appropriate working and ‘Whistle Blowing’ practices and related policies and training and supervision alongside allegation management will help to protect children and professionals.
- 4.17.13** A full report on LADO activity during the year can be found as appendix 3

4.18 Private Fostering

- 4.18.1** A private fostering arrangement is essentially one that is made, without the involvement of the local authority, for the care of a child under the age of 16 (or under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative with the intention that this should last for 28 days or more. East Riding of

Yorkshire Council has a duty to ensure that the welfare of children who are privately fostered within their area is being safeguarded and promoted. Every local authority must promote public awareness of the requirements regarding the notification of children being privately fostered within their area. The local authority should also ensure that those professionals who may come into contact with privately fostered children understand their role in the notification of private fostering arrangements.

- 4.18.2** During the period 01.04.15 and 31.03.16, there have been 6 notifications of children privately fostered. Of these, 3 became Children Looked After, 1 return to parental care and another ended on the young person's 16th birthday. Most of the children who were privately fostered were teenagers and the arrangement contributed to being able to stabilise the young person's lifestyle.
- 4.18.3** The Lead Officer for Private Fostering has continued to provide advice and guidance and has kept information regarding private fostering and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Private Fostering Statement of Purpose up to date on the ERSCB website. Information about private fostering is now also available on the East Riding Council website.

4.19 Supporting Schools

- 4.19.1** Policy and Guidance templates have been provided to schools to support the school's development in Safeguarding & Child Protection, Whistle Blowing, Managing Allegations and staff Code of Conduct policy and practice
In addition an annual Safeguarding and Child Protection reporting form to School Governing Bodies and the ERSCB is now in place to cover the 2016/17 school year. Guidance has been issued to all school Governors on their Safeguarding responsibilities with related training which provides advice on the monitoring of safeguarding arrangements in school.
- 4.19.2** The Schools Child Protection Officer works closely with, and regularly briefs, the LA School Improvement Team on safeguarding developments and expectations to inform their work with individual schools. If School Improvement Partners identify safeguarding concerns in any of their allocated schools support and guidance is provided by the Schools Child Protection Officer. Secondary School Designated Safeguarding Leads network meetings are held each half term to provide a forum for the sharing of good practice and resources etc and the discussion areas of operational concern. The success of this forum is to be extended to primary school network meetings in the new year.
- 4.19.3** By the end of the Autumn Term representatives from schools will be nominated to the Education Reference Group and the first meeting of this consultative group will be convened in the Spring Term.

5. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EAST RIDING SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

5.1 ERSCB Peer Challenge

- 5.1.1** How effective the Board is must be judged on what steps it takes to evaluate the quality and impact on outcomes of local services and how effectively leadership is provided to enable local agencies to work effectively together, through coordination, support and challenge which brings about improvement. This is demonstrable through a number of examples, which are ongoing but there will be 'one off' activities which make a contribution. One of these was the Peer Challenge
- 5.1.2** In April 2015 the Board was subject to a Peer Challenge, which has been arranged by invitation. The Peer Challenge is part of a programme of mutual support for children's services across Yorkshire and the Humber. It was undertaken over 3 days, beginning with a presentation by Bron Sanders to the review team of 3, introducing the ERSCB and ending early afternoon on the third day with a feedback presentation by the review team to the DCS, CYPSSS Head of Service and the Board's Chair. As well as examining Board documentation the review team conducted interviews with key individuals including the LA Chief Executive, the Lead Member, the DCS and CYPSSS Head of Service, Board Officer and Sub group chairs. Group discussions were also held with Board members and practitioners from a range of agencies.
- 5.1.3** The subsequent report details 6 key areas of the Board's functioning and responsibilities which the review team were asked to focus on particularly, although the review also took in a wide range of the Board's work. A letter from the review team subsequently provided details of strengths and areas for development which the review team identified. d
- 5.1.4** Strengths:
- A stable, well respected and improving Board with strong, mature partnerships.
 - Strong governance arrangements
 - Strong partnership commitment to scrutiny and accountability.
 - EHaSH arrangements
 - Increasing recognition of challenge

5.1.5 The Board considered the feedback at its Annual Review session in September 2015 and looked in detail at the areas for improvement which had been identified.

5.1.6 Areas for Improvement:

- Develop a clear, shared narrative which describes the journey of the Board, where it is now and aspirations for the future.
- Clarify and focus on priorities and implement with pace and vigour.
- Review and secure ownership of the governance arrangements needed to implement priorities. This describes the interrelationship between and impact of sub groups and links across the system.
- Develop and implement a strategy for engaging Education.
- Confirm partner's financial commitment to ongoing investment in safeguarding agenda.

5.1.7 These were consistent with the Board's own evaluation of where development was necessary improvements needed to be made in how the Board infrastructure operated.

5.1.8 The Board considered the outcome as part of its Annual Review sessions in September 2015, discussed and agreed a position on some of the observations and agreed amendments to the Board's Business Plan as a result of this work.

5.1.9 The Board's operating budget has been maintained this year, with partner agencies retaining their contributions in a context of increasing budget pressures in all agencies.

5.1.10 At the end of the year under review the departure of the Board's Practice and Project Development Officer provided the opportunity to review the use of this post. This has resulted in a more specific focus for the post and a change in designation to 'Board Manager'. The Board Manager, who has been in post since July 2015, is focussing initially on the Management, Evaluation and Effectiveness Group: ensuring the Board's business plan is implemented through the sub groups coordinating the updating and implementation of new procedures and guidance, and developing a multi-agency Performance Framework.

5.2 Ensuring that Strategic & Operational Partnerships are Strong

5.2.1 Feedback from the Peer Challenge endorsed the Board's view that it is a strong and effective partnership led by an experienced and committed Independent Chair. Links with other strategic partnerships, such as the Children Trust Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board are good, although more

can be done to use the Members of strong partnerships need to be able to challenge one another to improve and there is evidence of this taking place throughout the year focussing on such matters as the development of EHASH, the CAMHS Review, the impact of the reorganisation within Humberside Police and in relation to the responsibility for taking forward an updated domestic violence strategy.

5.3 Ensuring an Effective Board Infrastructure to meet the demands of an increasingly broad safeguarding agenda.

5.3.1 Last year's report highlighted examples of the Board's positive impact on safeguarding activity through its infrastructure. These included:

- The coordination of the response to CSE at strategic and operational levels.
- The revisions to the guidance for responding young people who go missing.
- Improving the understanding of self-harm amongst practitioners.
- Effective coordination of the CDOP process.
- Undertaking the on-going work of the Serious Case Review Panel.
- Retaining oversight/challenge of early help arrangements.
- Developing the Board's challenge role through sub groups as well at Board e.g. escalation procedure, domestic violence services, CAMHS services, police response during restructure.
- Resourcing multi agency audit activity.

These areas continue to be highly relevant, with the addition of new areas of focus: Hidden Harm and FGM for example.

5.4 Learning & Improvement - Multi-Agency Training arranged by the ERSCB

5.4.1 ERSCB is committed to delivering high quality inter-agency training which supports professionals, volunteers and the independent sector in their work, complimenting individual agency training strategies. The resourcing of this multi-agency training was reduced in the second half of the year due to a secondment opportunity and is now 1.6 training officers in post.

5.4.2 The training programme, made up of separate courses and briefings, is designed to ensure that anyone working with children and/or their family members has the knowledge and skills they need to deliver effective services to ensure children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted. Details of courses and learning outcomes can be found on the ERSCB website at: [ERSCB Multi-Agency Training Programme](#)

5.4.3 In addition to this programme the links to four free national e-learning courses have been added to the training section of the website covering topics on Child Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation.

Attendance:

Inter-agency Training Programme	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Total Face-to-Face	1502	2241	2282	2429	2121
Total E-Learning (Passed)	2737	3367	4541	4224	4346
Total Trained	4239	5608	6823	6653	6467

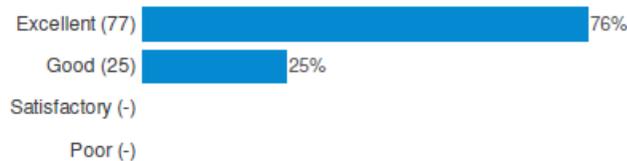
5.4.4 The face to face figures include all training and briefings delivered through ERSCB inter-agency training programmes, as well as additional training including standard courses delivered to a single agency.

5.4.5 Training Evaluation

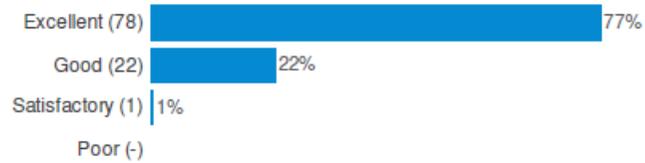
5.4.6 The new evaluation form introduced in 2015 generated a lot of qualitative data, some of which was useful to the training team but overall it was felt that it did not help to facilitate participants reflection on key learning and the implementation of this into practice. A revised version has been in place since March 2016 which furthers these aims as well as gathering quantitative data on training delivery.

5.4.7 The following charts are examples of the quantitative data collated in March.

Responses for exercises and activities used



Balance of exercises and information giving



Knowledge and helpfulness of the trainer



5.4.8 Early responses to the questions which ask people to identify their key learning points and how they will transfer it into practice into practice are showing positive results and suggest they may facilitate better learning transfer. For example: -

- **Up to three key learning points you have found valuable form your training:**

Child Protection Case Conference and Core Group training:

Whole process of a conference meeting/ Process after an EHASH referral/ Everything about danger statements, safety goals and plans

Writing reports for conferences / Structure of CP conferences and core group meetings

Thresholds of Need and Intervention Briefing:

Clarity of levels of threshold/ Using real 'scenarios' /Safeguarding from point of view of different agencies

Hidden Sentence Training:

Sources of help that is available to families./Understanding of the experiences children face when visiting a prison. / The effect of a parent going to prison on the whole family unit.

- **How will you apply your learning in the workplace?**

Child Protection Case Conference and Core Group training:

Work with families and be honest / Details of reports written/Inform CP/Collaborative working/ Expanded awareness and understanding in school setting of danger statements etc/ Share relevant info with colleagues.

Substance Misuse Awareness training:

Refer to AUDIT when working with a family with alcohol misuse. / Be aware of signs and symptoms of drugs and alcohol consumption/Be observant when doing home visits.

5.4.9 Future plans for this area involve the better use of IT to collate end of course evaluations and post course reflection.

5.4.10 Progress across the year

5.4.11 As well as providing a continuing core programme, the training team has responded to other developments throughout the year including:

- In response to the ongoing need to upskill workers in their knowledge of children and young people's mental health, the two day Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) course has been included as a core subject to the ERSCB Inter-agency programme. To date 100 workers have completed one of six courses across different service areas. In addition the training team joined the Virtual College consortium to design and develop 'Self-Harm and Suicidal Thoughts in Children & Young People' an e-learning course which is now available through the ERSCB website. To date uptake has been low and therefore a drive to promote this excellent resource is needed.
- Schools Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) Development Days have now become an annual event in line with the recommended training requirements for DSLs as outlined in the national guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. This year 75% of all schools and colleges in the ER were in attendance at the event which provides updates on national and local guidance and legislation, information on changes to service provision and processes with the LA as well as information and discussion time for key or emerging issues. An additional date to accommodate those schools not able to attend is planned for 2017.
- Safeguarding Children Briefing for Taxi Drivers is now part of the licensing agreement decided by the local authority and will take place annually across the three areas with the East Riding. The aim is to ensure local taxi drivers understand their role in safeguarding children and have a special emphasis on CSE. This briefing has also been attended by licencing officers, drivers and passenger assistants, housing and environmental officers within the local authority.
- Trainers have continued to be involved with the North East (NESCT) and Yorkshire and Humber (YHMAST) regional safeguarding children training forums. A conference was held again by YHMAST members in November entitled '*That Difficult Age: the journey through adolescence*' which focussed on understanding child development through the adolescent years and key safeguarding issues.
- In response to the findings from local audits and the impact of using the SOS approach within the East Riding, Child Protection Conferences & Core Group training has now become a two day course covering in detail the knowledge and skills needed to participate effectively in these processes.
- Training officer contributed to the development and delivered on the CSE practice day for students on the Social Care Masters Degree at Hull University.
- The practitioner conference on Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking was initially agreed to take place but in response to a prioritised need this

was replaced by a conference for CYPSSS staff on Engaging with Children and Young People aimed at providing knowledge and increasing skills in communication and engagement. A later conference on CSE was delivered by the CSE strategic lead and the CSE response team to Children's Social Care and Youth and Family Support.

- Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP3) - 92% of all Schools and Colleges (Private, Academy and LA Maintained) have now received Prevent training. Those left will be targeted in the autumn term to ensure compliance with the DfE Prevent Duty Guidance. LA staff that come into contact with members of the public both children and adults have also attended this face to face training. These sessions will continue to ensure all staff know who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism and know how to respond if they have concerns.

Training Priorities for 2016/17

In addition to the continuation of the ERSCB Interagency Training Programme the following priorities have been added from the Learning and Improvement Group Action Plan 2016/17;

1. Child Sexual Exploitation: Ensure CSE training is accessible for all professionals and volunteers working with children and young people.
 - the CSE course continues to be a core topic in the multi-agency training programme and available single agency to LA foster carers
 - continue briefings to LA housing, transport and public protection staff and taxi drivers
 - e-learning course available will continue to be promoted to the voluntary sector via ERVAS
2. Domestic Violence/Abuse: To continue to ensure the development of a strategic approach to Domestic Violence Abuse
 - Domestic Violence Awareness course and Domestic Violence and Children's Needs course continue to be core topics in the multi-agency training programme and will be reviewed on completion of the ERSCB DV Strategy and action plan
3. Neglect: Promote the development of a common evidence based tool and ensure a consistent approach to identifying early help and intervention across partners
 - ERSCB Neglect Strategy has now been completed and the training team is involved in the action plan to address the training needs of the workforce
 - The current training will be reviewed to ensure all sectors of the workforce can access training relevant to their needs. This will include the delivery of training to use the Graded Care Profile 2 in late 2016.
 - The revised Early Help Assessment training will form part of the 2017 ERSCB training programme

4. Self –Harm: To continue to ensure learning lessons from SCR, lessons learned reviews and case file audits inform partner practice and provide training for staff supporting people who self-harm
 - Briefings on lessons learned will take place following the finalisation and publication of the current SCRs
 - ‘SafeTalk – Suicidal Awareness for Everyone’ is being offered as part of the Suicide Prevention Task Group Action Plan
 - Youth Mental Health First Aid and Self-Harm and Suicidal Thoughts in Children and Young People will continue to be promoted and available to all sectors of the workforce

Other priorities for the training team over the coming year include:

5. Signs of Safety: Using SOS in the East Riding – multi-agency training for practitioners other than those in Children & Young Peoples Support and Safeguarding Service (CYPSSS) will be developed and form part of the 2017 training programme.
6. Child Development: In response to identified need for the multi-agency children and families workforce to have a deeper understanding of child development from ages 0 – 18 a new one day course a child development is to be written for delivery in 2017.

6. HOW WELL DID WE DO WITH OUR PLANS FOR 2015/16?

- 6.1 In last year’s Annual Report we identified a large agenda and an ambitious list of priorities – how well did we do?
- 6.2 The Board will review priorities and ensure these are in clear focus and owned by all Board members.
 - *Priorities were reviewed and these are contained in the latest refresh of the Business Plan.*
- 6.3 The Board will develop a challenge log to make challenge explicit and evidence of the impact of challenge.
 - *A challenge log was developed and embedded through a session at a Board meeting exploring together what challenge means and identifying examples. It has been raised at subsequent Board meeting to retain its importance.*
- 6.4 A Board Manager post coordinating the work of the meetings infrastructure of the Board and priority areas: CSE, domestic abuse, neglect, self-harm and also ‘hidden harm’
 - *Appointed in July 2015 the newly established Board Manager post has taken steps to resolve the structural issues restricting progress*
- 6.5 The Board will be co-ordinating the establishment of an ‘Early Help Assessment Tool’ to replace the CAF.

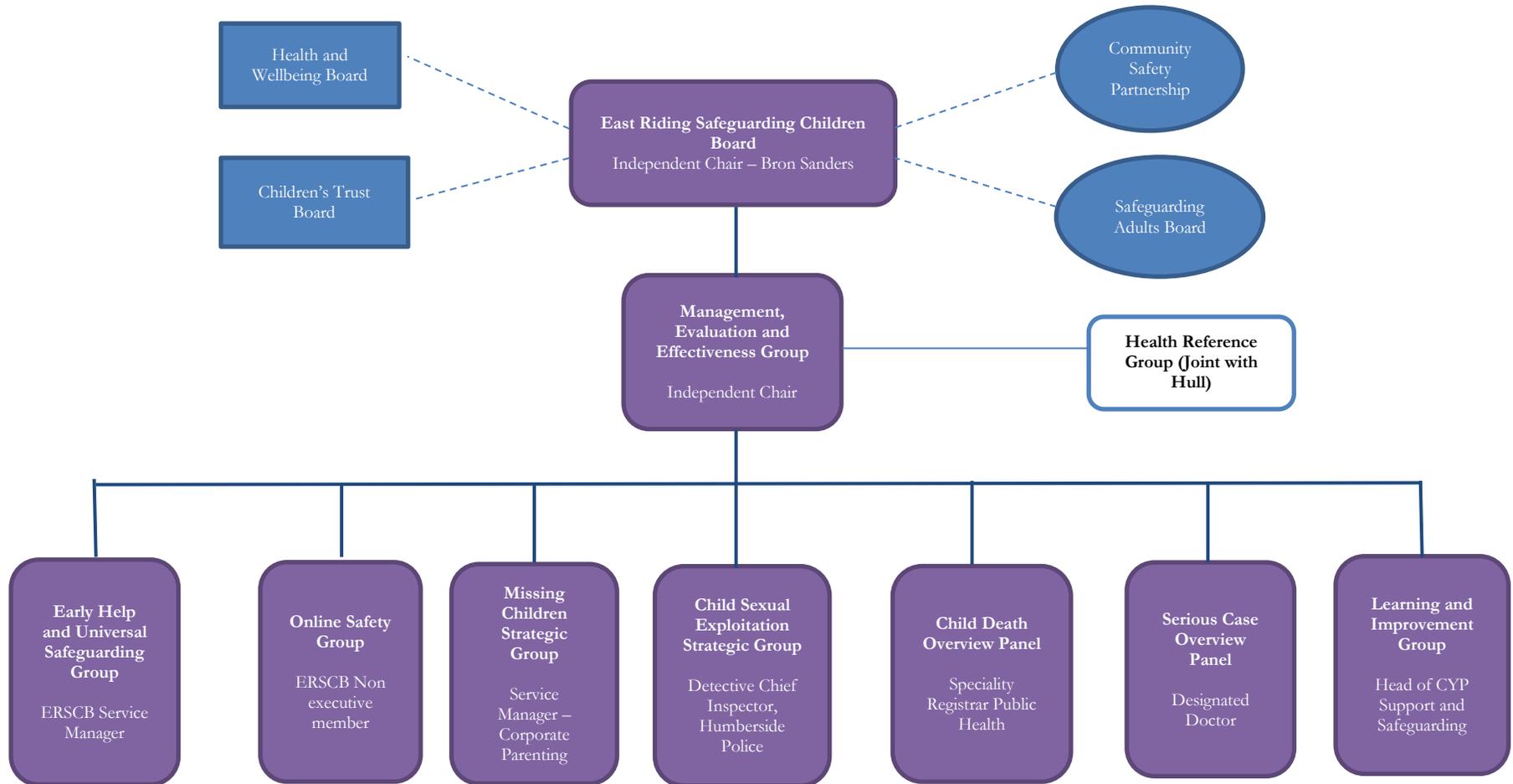
- *This is well under way and includes an evaluation to ensure the process assists children and their families*
- 6.6** The Board will reach a fuller understanding of the significance of demographic information on Safeguarding children and young people in East Riding and ensure that this learning is fully utilised in the provision of services.
- *Some elements of this have been progressed, for example in relation to CSE issues and through the audit of self harm, but more work is needed on this in the coming year.*
- 6.7** The ERSCB will fully support the implementation of the CSE Strategy and Action Plan, and the Action Plan arising from the Local Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Review of Safeguarding
 - *Good progress has been made in this area and its will continue to be a Board priority.*
- 6.8** The Board will develop an FGM Strategy and undertake awareness raising with staff in schools and other agencies as the reporting of FGM becomes a statutory function of teachers as well as health professionals.
 - *Good progress was made with this priority*
- 6.9** The Board will focus on developing further the links with the Adult Safeguarding Board and the Community Safety Partnership, with a view to working more closely together on common priority areas such as domestic abuse and trafficking.
Three way meetings have been held and common areas identified, links between the Boards has been clarified and strengthened, there is further work to do in the coming year.
- 6.10** Neglect will become a key practice area for development in the Business Plan.
 - *This is now a key priority area for the Board and resources have been identified to ensure that sufficient progress can be made.*
- 6.11** The Board will make further progress to ensure the voice and influence of children and young people influences service and policy developments.
 - *Some good work has been done to progress this priority, notably through the Board's auditing work, but this will remain a priority for next year.*
- 6.12** The Board will progress work on embedding the multi-agency data set and to evidence its use in driving service improvement and use the multi-agency data set to improve our understanding of the effectiveness of services for children and young people.
 - *Progress has been made and a consistent data set is now reported on to the Board, however further work is needed to ensure this becomes more multi agency.*
- 6.13** Future work includes: ensuring messages from the auditing work influences practice and policy where appropriate.
 - *An annual audit programme is now in place and audit work is used to consistently promote practice development*
- 6.14** The Board will establish a work stream to focus on reducing the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.
 - *This is now a key priority area for the Board and resources have been identified to ensure that sufficient progress can be made.*
- 6.15** Schools Child Protection Officer helping schools to maintain and develop their safeguarding responsibilities
 - *The SCPO has continued his highly regarded work with schools, an Education Reference group will be established as planned, in the new year.*

7. APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – Board Attendance

Summary of attendance – April 2015 to March 2016	Attended	Deputy	No Rep
CCG	3	0	0
Humber NHS Foundation Trust	1	2	0
CAFCASS	1	0	2
East Riding Safeguarding Children Board - Chair	3	0	0
Cllr Abraham	3	0	0
NLAG	1	0	2
ERVAS	3	0	0
Designated Doctor	2	0	1
Non-Executive Member	3	0	0
Community Rehabilitation Company	0	0	3
Primary School Rep	2	0	1
Secondary School Rep	1	0	2
York Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust	3	0	0
Humberside Police	2	0	1
HEY Hospitals NHS Trust	1	1	1
Humberside Probation Service	3	0	0
Director of Children, Family & Schools	3	0	0
East Riding Of Yorkshire Council – Head of Children's Social Care	3	0	0
East Riding Of Yorkshire Council – Head of Housing and Public Protection	0	2	1
Humberside Fire Service	1	1	1
Director of Public Health	0	3	0
NHS England	1	1	1

Appendix 2 – ERSCB Governance Structure



Appendix 3:

Full annual Report of the Local Authority Designated Officer LADO:



ERSCB LADO report
2015-16 draft.doc