

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

20 JULY 2011

STATEMENT OF SCHOOLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

COUNTY COUNCILLOR ARTHUR BARKER

Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Statement to Council on 13 October 2010 set out the approach being taken under the Children and Young People's Service Savings and Transformation Strategy which is committed to giving highest priority to frontline services, while acknowledging that the scale of savings needed means that they cannot be protected completely. The service is on course to deliver this year's target savings of £9.150 million and a more detailed report will be made to Members in the near future.

This information appears in the Statements to Council for both Executive Members for the Children and Young People's Service as this reflects their joint responsibility for all the relevant resources.

Adult Learning Service

The service is about to launch a full service staffing review and formal consultation with staff will begin on 11th July 2011. The proposed time scale for the implementation of a new staffing structure for the service is 1st April 2012. The review is not about what learning opportunities the service provides - work on that continues as normal within the usual constraints of budget and the priorities and targets set for the service by the Skills Funding Agency. Delivery plans for 2011/12 are currently being finalised. Online enrolment will continue to be a key marketing strategy and the majority of courses will be available for on line enrolment via the NYCC website. A countywide prospectus will be available in hard copy for learners in early August and this will be sent out to libraries, Children's Centres and other key access points in local communities.

School provision in North Craven

Schools in North Craven are now working positively together and with the local authority to make sure transition to the new system in September 2012 takes place smoothly. Some appointments are already being made into the new system and others will take place in September.

A judicial review, lodged against the Authority by an individual, has been dismissed by the High Court with costs awarded to the Local Authority.

Members can be reassured that in terms of children's education, the positive way in which the schools are approaching the change means that extra care is being taken to ensure that there will be a range of opportunities and experiences to enrich children's experiences across the next academic year and bring them together across the area.

Secondary school provision in Scarborough

Following consultation in the area, statutory notices were published on 24 June 2011 proposing the formal closure of Raincliffe School and the linked enlargement of Graham School. A final decision will be taken in September. The response to consultation was positive, since the two schools have been working increasingly closely for some years now and for many, this is now seen as the next logical step.

Academies and Free Schools

There are now five Academies in North Yorkshire following the conversion, on 1 July 2011, of Rossett School, Harrogate. The other schools are Harrogate Grammar School, Skipton Girls Grammar, Norton College and South Craven College. A further five schools have applications at various stages of consideration although the majority of schools in North Yorkshire are not voluntarily pursuing the option. County Council officers will continue to provide appropriate support to those schools changing status.

County Councillor Arthur Barker
Executive Member for Schools