

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 FEBRUARY 2012

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. In 2011-12 the CYPS MTFS target as set by Budgets 1 and 2 is £9.150m. This target has been spread across 18 projects, plus turn-off projects funded by grants which have ended or been reduced.

Overall achievement is well on target at this stage. Indeed, as is becoming clear through as part of the Q3 monitoring, it is likely that savings will be accelerated by approximately £2.4m from later years, giving a cash benefit although the overall 4-year target does not change.

The Directorate has set aside a specific MTFS reserve to ensure that cash savings are achieved over the next 4 years. This is still the intention and these will be used in addition to the acceleration referred to above to ensure the maximum cash benefit for the Council.

The Directorate is committed to seeking to fund additional pressures which arise from within its own resources and in addition to the MTFS targets.

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.

North Yorkshire Statement of Learning Needs 2012/13 - For young people aged 14-19 and aged up to 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Local Authorities (LAs) have a duty to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in their area. The *North Yorkshire Statement of Learning Needs 2012/13 - For young people aged 14-19 and aged up to 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities* fits with the LA's statutory duties and our role to champion the needs of learners aged 14-19 and up to 25 with SEND.

The Statement forms part of the North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2011-14. It provides the framework for the delivery and implementation of key objectives within the CYPP, in particular, but not exclusively, related to our objective to enable young people to achieve economic independence in adulthood. The Statement also aligns with the North Yorkshire Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy 2011-2014.

The Statement sets out the priorities for changing and refocusing the mix of the provision of learning to meet the needs of young people. The key priorities and actions are:

- Priority 1 - Planning for Raising Participation to 18 by 2015
- Priority 2 - Provide more local learning routes for learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 16-25
- Priority 3 – Improve attainment and progression
- Priority 4 – Increase employability skills and Apprenticeship places to meet learner and economic need

Funded provision for disadvantaged two year olds

Funded provision for two year olds – particularly the most disadvantaged - was first proposed in 2008 but only becomes statutory from September 2013 when the 20% most disadvantaged children will be entitled to 15 hours of free provision. A recent announcement from Government has extended this to 40% from September 2014. Indicative figures from the Department for Education are that North Yorkshire will be expected to find up to 1400 places by 2014.

The announcement of the extra places, whilst welcome, presents logistical problems in a county such as North Yorkshire, where we are heavily dependent upon the private and voluntary sectors, where premises may be unsuitable for very young two year olds, and where the distribution of required places may be patchy. Intensive work will be needed to bring the necessary places on stream. We will work closely with colleagues from other services, in particular health, to ensure that vulnerable children are known to us and referred for places, through good systems and protocols. We have been running two pilot schemes, in Scarborough and in Ryedale, so have useful experience to build upon.

This is a key part of our strategy for early intervention to support families and children. We will be making strong links between this work and that to support troubled families and intend that our provision will materially improve the life chances of these young and vulnerable children.

Schools Capital Programme

A number of significant capital projects have been completed in the last few months as part of the Children and Young People's Service capital programme. These include the £35m redevelopment of Richmond School completed last month, £12m investment in three Scarborough primary schools - Hinderwell, Barrowcliff and Friarage primary schools have been completely redeveloped as part of the Primary Capital Programme and a further £1m project has been completed to enlarge the site and improve accommodation at Gladstone Road Community Primary School. In addition, the £5.5m development of the new Foremost BESD School to serve the west of the county will be completed and opened to pupils later this month.

Work will start this summer on a number of other significant developments including a replacement primary school for Bentham and the Pupil Referral Service base at Raincliffe Street in Selby.

Pupil Referral Service

As part of the overall review of Behaviour Services in North Yorkshire and the development of a new Pupil Referral Service in Selby, the Children and Young People's Service is reviewing the numbers and coverage of the each Pupil Referral Service to ensure equity of response to schools and children and the fairest distribution of resource.

County Councillor Arthur Barker
Executive Member for Schools