

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

20 MAY 2015

STATEMENT OF SCHOOLS AND EARLY YEARS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

COUNTY COUNCILLOR ARTHUR BARKER

Medium Term Financial Strategy & 2020 North Yorkshire

The Children and Young People's Service has continued to meet its savings targets. The scale of budget cuts required – and achieved to date, whilst maintaining service levels, has been a significant challenge. The objective has been to protect front-line services as much as possible, thus enabling a restructured Directorate to operate effectively across its universal, preventative, targeted and acute service responsibilities, in line with legislation.

2015-16 will see the implementation of some major transformation programmes, including the review of Preventative Services and a new way of delivering school improvement.

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

School Improvement

As mentioned in my statement to November's Council, work is continuing to implement the recommendations of the Commission for School Improvement which focuses on a move to greater sector-led improvement with Headteachers and collaboratives playing a more significant role in school improvement. The implementation of the Education Partnership and the Improvement Partnerships are being planned to take place in the summer term.

The Chairs of the Early Years, Special and Secondary Improvement Partnerships are now in place. We are currently exploring the possibility of one Improvement Primary Partnership, rather than five, with an independent chair. This would build on the current networks, skills, capacity and strengths of the Teaching School Alliances and would mean less bureaucracy. This would release additional funding that would be used for school improvement initiatives.

The Executive considered the proposals in March and approval to implement the new structure was given. The school improvement service restructure is now in the assimilation and interview period. It is anticipated that all appointments will be made by the end of May.

OfSTED Outcomes

Ofsted data, as at start of April 2015, showed that 82% of primary schools and 71% of secondary schools in North Yorkshire are good or outstanding. This compares with national averages for the percentage of schools being good or outstanding at 83% for primary and 72% for secondary.

Data shows that 80% of primary and 78% of secondary pupils attend good or better schools in North Yorkshire. The proportion of pupils attending good or better schools has improved since August 2014 by 3% at primary and by 2% at secondary, whilst the national averages have improved by 1% at primary and improved by 1% at secondary. Nationally, 82% of primary pupils and 76% of secondary pupils attend schools which are good or outstanding. North Yorkshire is 2% above national figures for the percentage of pupils in good or outstanding secondary schools.

There are three primary schools in an Ofsted category – Richmond CE, Farnley and Skipton St Stephen's. Effective progress continues at St. Stephen's RC who will convert to sponsored academy status on 01/08/15. Richmond CE have now had their first monitoring inspection from HMI. We are working with both Richmond CE and Farnley CE schools to accelerate progress. However, at the last HMI visit to Farnley progress in teaching and learning was found to have had stalled. No suitable academy sponsor has been found by the DfE and Diocese and this is no longer an option for Farnley CE. Leadership support for both schools has been brokered by the LA and in partnership with the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales.

Barrowcliff Junior and Braeburn Junior have merged with their respective infant schools, as a result they lose their previous serious weakness judgements. The Local Authority (LA) continues to provide intensive support to both schools.

Only one secondary school was inspected during the Spring Term, and the judgement on that school remained as 'good.' There are currently two secondary schools in special measures - Graham School and Filey School. HMI continue to be pleased with the progress that Graham School is making towards the removal of special measures, and the school should be re-inspected in the Autumn Term. Filey School will convert to academy status in September, under the sponsorship of the Ebor Academy Trust in York. The LA is working closely with Ebor to ensure a smooth transition, and the HMI monitoring report in the Spring Term was very positive about the impact of the partnership between the LA and Ebor.

School Funding

There are no major changes since my last report to Council, In terms of individual school budgets, following lobbying by this and other Councils, North Yorkshire was allocated additional funding of £9.8m. All of this has been passed directly to schools and equates to an increase of 3.1% per pupil.

School Organisation

There has been further significant work in relation to school organisation.

Forest Moor have appointed a new headteacher, Marc Peart, who will take up post as of September 2015. The Local Authority continues to provide support to the school.

The new Bentham Community Primary School building was opened on 27 February replacing inadequate and cramped accommodation at High Bentham with a purpose built 210 place school on a new site.

Following consultation in 2014 a final decision was taken in March to amalgamate the Allertonshire School and Northallerton College. The renamed Northallerton School and Sixth Form College opened on 2 April. The enlarged school remains federated with Risedale School at Catterick.

Planning approval has been granted for the construction of a new 210 place primary school to serve the Staynor Hall area of Selby town. Work to prepare the site for construction commenced in February and contractors have been appointed to build the new school, starting in June. The school will open in September 2016 and will be an Academy sponsored by the Ebor Trust, a Multi Academy Trust.

Following formal consultation in January 2015 a final decision was taken on 24 February 2015 to expand Kirk Fenton primary school to accommodate growing pupil numbers. Approval will be sought from the Executive in May for the publication of statutory proposals to expand Coppice Valley Community Primary and Pannal Community Primary schools in Harrogate. The

accommodation to deliver these expansions forms part of the Basic Need Capital Programme approved by the Executive in September 2014.

On 28 April the Executive agreed, following consultation, to publish statutory proposals to expand Norton Community Primary School onto an additional site (currently a Youth Centre) in Norton, to provide additional pupil places in response to growth. A planning application will be submitted for the development of the site with a final decision to be taken on the school expansion by the Executive in July. The additional places are needed by September 2017.

A further £1.04m was allocated to the County Council in February for the provision of additional school places up to September 2018 as a result of further pupil number growth.

The County Council is providing support to the proposers of a University Technical College in Scarborough which will provide up to 600 places for 14-19 year olds to study advanced engineering. The UTC, if final approval is given by DfE following consultation, will open in September 2016.

Richard Taylor's Primary School and Stokesley School have recently converted to Academy status. A further 14 schools (one secondary and 13 primary) are in the process of converting between now and September 2015.

Schools' Capital Programme

A £16.1m programme of Capital maintenance investments in Community and Voluntary Controlled schools was approved by the Executive on 27 April alongside a £1.5m programme for Voluntary Aided schools. This included a number of kitchen improvement schemes funded through the Universal Infant Free School Meals policy. Announcements were made in February on bids into the second phase of the Priority School Buildings Programme. Two schools, Barby High and Willow Tree Primary will benefit from the replacement of individual buildings as a result of these bids. Larger whole school replacement bids were not approved.

Children's Centre Premises

The reorganisation of the children's centre premises is continuing. Last term there were consultations held about the Easingwold premises and the satellite building for Brotherton at Whitley and Eggborough, which have led to both premises being transferred to the local primary school for early years use. Initial discussions have taken place in East Ayton, Filey, Wensleydale and Skipton and these will be progressed over the next couple of months.

County Councillor Arthur Barker
Executive Member for Schools and Early Years