

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**11 NOVEMBER 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. Although the Directorate is facing emerging pressures in some of the higher need budgets, such as Special Home to School Transport and Disabled Children's Services, we are on track to achieve the savings and transformation projects agreed by Council.

2015-16 sees 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 Performance 2015t

North Yorkshire maintained its position in the top 20% of Local Authorities nationally at GCSE and outcomes at five A*-C including English and Maths are five percentage points above national. At Key Stage 5 (A Level) North Yorkshire has continued to show strong performance again above national indicators. Whilst we have also seen a closing of the gap between those on free school meals and the rest it remains a key priority.

School OfSTED Inspection Outcomes

The percentage of schools graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted as at 1 October is an improving picture. 84.2% of North Yorkshire's primary schools are graded as good or outstanding which is just below the national figure of 84.8%, and 75% of secondary schools are good or outstanding, which is now better than the national figure of 74.3%. Both North Yorkshire figures show improvement from the beginning of the academic year September 2014 and also North Yorkshire's rate of improvement is better than the national one.

The percentage of pupils attending a good or outstanding school has also increased and at a faster rate than the national rate. As of 1 October 84.4% of North Yorkshire's primary school pupils attended a good or outstanding school, and is now better the national figure of 84%. 80.7% of North Yorkshire's secondary pupils attend a good or outstanding school, which is 3 percentage points higher than the national figure (77.7%).

The number of inadequate schools has reduced. There are now only two in primary and one in secondary

School Improvement

The School Improvement restructure is now fully in place with the focus of this year being the strengthening of the traded service. All four improvement Partnerships (Early Years, Primary, Secondary and Special) have now had their first meetings with priorities focussing on improving attainment and progress, closing the gap between vulnerable learners and their peers, building capacity in a school-led improvement system, and recruitment. The only Chair still to be confirmed is that of the Special Schools Improvement Partnership and recruitment is progressing well. All Partnerships delivered their first reports to the North Yorkshire Education Partnership early in October.

HMS Heroes Service

The special service for Service pupils in North Yorkshire's schools was held on Friday 6 November at Ripon Cathedral. This year the theme was 'new beginnings' reflecting the high amount of change that Service children manage in their lives particularly in light of the on-going rebasing and drawdown from Germany and the high amount of movement of this year and next. The rich diversity that Service pupils bring to their schools and communities was celebrated. The service included spoken and musical contributions from Service children in North Yorkshire schools with schools also contributing to an exhibition of work on the theme of new beginnings which is on display during the month of November and in the Station Gallery in Richmond during December.

Scarborough Skills Summit and progress regarding the "Scarborough Pledge"

The Scarborough Education Summit is progressing work through the Steering Group. The group has now met twice to help shape workstreams to deliver specific activities with measurable outcomes. There are three workstreams detailed in the Scarborough Pledge which focus on

- Early help which is about enhancing prevention measures to ensure that potential difficulties are identified early and that children and their families don't get 'left behind';
- Improving schools which is about ensuring there is high quality learning for all children enabling them to achieve and thrive. This will include tackling teacher recruitment difficulties on the Coast; and
- Raising Aspirations which is about ensuring that young people in Scarborough have high aspirations to achieve and have fulfilling lives. This will include providing experiences to broaden their horizons and build their resilience and confidence. Community engagement and support will also be led by this group – securing involvement from the business, cultural and wider community on the Coast.

The Institute of Effective Education from the University of York will also evaluate progress and measure the success of different approaches.

Work will now be taken forward by smaller groups to focus on specific activity and ensure we start to make an impact, building on existing effective practice on the Coast and from farther afield. There will be a wider communication roll-out, including key messages to the Scarborough community as well as relevant education, health, employer and voluntary sector forums. This will include the development of a digital/web presence to keep everyone informed of progress. An early dissemination event is planned for the early in 2016.

A Learning and Skills Post 16 summit was held on 14 October with good attendance from educational providers and employers in the area. The purpose of the event was to build on recent local discussions about skills needs and provision in the Scarborough area and share understanding of needs and ambitions for both young people and employers.

The publication by HM government in July 2015 of 'Reviewing post-16 education and training institutions' will herald a national change of approach that is likely to have significant implications for Scarborough if the government realises its stated ambition to 'move towards fewer, often larger, more resilient and efficient (post 16) providers'. Whilst the impact of any change in the current pattern of provision will be most directly felt by individual institutions, it is just as important for the wider stakeholders, such as local authorities, the LEP and, indeed, schools, to understand more fully what an Area Review might mean for the provision of post 16 education and training in Scarborough and to proactively work together to establish an approach that is consistent with the 'general principles' included in the guidance document.

It is now intended to set up a task group which is charged with turning the Summit's ideas and ambitions into more concrete actions.

School Organisation

Selby's newest primary school is starting to take shape with all the steel structures now in place. Staynor Hall Community Primary Academy will open in September 2016 and will address the need for additional school places arising from the Staynor Hall housing development. It will offer 210 places plus a nursery. York-based Ebor Academy Trust have been appointed as academy sponsors to run the school. All new schools now have to be either free schools or academies and Staynor Hall marks the first such school for North Yorkshire County Council.

The closure of Farnley Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School in North Yorkshire was approved by The Executive on 27 October following the governors' decision to proceed with proposals to close the school from 31 December 2015. The decision follows a meeting of the full Governing Body and statutory consultation as a result of concerns about the future of the school in the face of falling rolls and difficulties to secure the strong leadership required to ensure improved educational outcomes.

Thirty years of campaigning about healthy eating in schools.

Herbie the carrot is celebrating his thirtieth birthday! Herbie was created by the School Meals Service thirty years ago as a fun way to take the fresh, healthy foods message into schools for children from the youngest age and improve school meals take-up. Over this period, North Yorkshire County Caterers, the school meals service, has been at the forefront nationally of pushing ahead with its policy of buying local, fresh food for the nutritional benefit of the county's children as well as supporting local farms, growers and suppliers. School meals take-up has gone from 21% to 70% over the last 30 years and this year North Yorkshire's school meal service will spend nearly £6 million on food supporting local and regional producers to provide top quality, fresh ingredients for 330 schools across North Yorkshire.

County Councillor Arthur Barker
Executive Member for Schools and Early Years