

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

20 FEBRUARY 2019

STATEMENT OF EDUCATION & SKILLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

School funding

From April 2019, we will continue to operate a 'soft' funding formula which moves the county towards the national funding formula. All schools in North Yorkshire will receive the minimum per pupil level of funding (£4,800 for secondary schools and £3,500 for primary schools). Given pressures on high needs, there will be a transfer from schools block to high needs block (although we are waiting for conformation from Secretary of State to the agreed amount). The local authority fully understands that schools in North Yorkshire continue to see budget pressures and this transfer is a measured approach to ensure that available funding is targeted to support those pupils with additional needs.

Concerns remain over funding for small, rural schools – secondary schools, in particular, and we continue to lobby central government to ensure that schools in North Yorkshire receive a fair funding deal. The national funding formula does not yet deliver. However, we continue to work with schools to mitigate the financial pressures and we continue efforts to lobby central government to ensure that schools in North Yorkshire receive a fair funding deal.

The local authority has worked with a number of schools in, or projecting, financial deficit to support school leaders to deliver a good quality, financially sustainable education to children and young people. Work will continue with individual schools to ensure that they are able to deploy their resources efficiently.

Educational Standards

At Key Stage 4 (GCSE) North Yorkshire is above all benchmarks for every indicator and performance is in the top 25% of all local authorities nationally. Performance is also very strong at Key Stage 5 (A-level) with North Yorkshire in the top 20% for students achieving at least two A's and a B. Despite improvement, the percentage of children achieving the expected level or above in reading, writing and maths combined at Key Stage 2 remains an ongoing challenge. Whilst performance is similar to the region, it is below national and statistical neighbour benchmarks. For individual subjects, reading and writing are actually in line with national, but maths is significantly behind which is impacting on overall performance.

There are a number of long standing performance challenges around children eligible for free school meals (FSM). In terms of attainment, despite some improvements FSM-eligible children remain below the national benchmark. This cohort are also above national benchmarks for school absence and are over-represented in terms of exclusions.

School Ofsted inspections

There were 21 school inspections in Q3: 15 judged good; 4 judged requires improvement; and 2 judged inadequate. The percentage of pupils attending a good or outstanding school continues to be high and is above national at secondary, but below national at primary. At a district level the percentage of children attending a good or outstanding school at both primary and secondary in Scarborough (71.5% primary and 57.9% secondary) and secondary in Hambleton (24.6%) are significantly lower than North Yorkshire overall.

| Percentage of pupils attending a good or outstanding school (end of Q3 2018/19) | | |
|--|---------|-----------|
| | Primary | Secondary |
| National | 88.9% | 83% |
| North Yorkshire | 86.1% | 86.3% |
| Craven | 79.8% | 92.7% |
| Hambleton | 88.9% | 24.6% |
| Harrogate | 89.3% | 100.0% |
| Richmondshire | 78.1% | 100.0% |
| Ryedale | 87.6% | 100.0% |
| Scarborough | 71.5% | 57.9% |
| Selby | 94.0% | 90.1% |

There are currently 35 schools judged requires improvement and 14 judged inadequate. At primary 31.7% of these schools are either academy status or are due to convert in the near future, whilst at secondary this figure is 75%. The Council continue to support Local Authority Maintained schools to implement the necessary improvements. The Regional Schools Commissioner is responsible for taking action where academies are underperforming.

Academy Conversions

There has been 1 primary academy conversion in Q3 and no secondary conversions. There are currently 17 schools that have either been issued with an Academy Order, or an Academy Order is pending, and are in the pipeline to convert. Furthermore, there are 8 additional schools anticipated to convert in 2019 and become part of the St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust.

Beyond the expected conversions (forced and voluntary) during 2019 the pipeline appears to be slowing. It is thought that the increased number of schools forecasting financial deficits contributes to fewer conversions given the need to pass financial due-diligence. It is a reasonable assumption, based on current knowledge, that there will be fewer conversions from 2020.

Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision 0-25

Work is progressing to implement the action in the Strategic Plan. This includes:

- Development of a directory of continuous professional development opportunities for professionals working in the area of SEND
- Discussions with existing enhanced mainstream schools about taking forward the new model of targeted provision
- Working alongside Headteachers to develop the future model of alternative provision, proposals for budget modelling for the Pupil Referral Service/alternative provision having been approved by the Executive on 15 January
- Consultation on proposals for years 2 and 3 of the Special Provision Capital Funding which are for work at Brooklands Community Special School and the proposed Mowbray satellite provision.

We expect to hear the outcome of the bid for a special free school in Selby in the near future.

North Yorkshire Coast Opportunities Area

The North Yorkshire Coast Opportunity Area Programme is focussed on improving social mobility in Scarborough, Whitby and Filey. The programme's delivery plan was published in October 2017 and there are a variety of initiatives to boost help improve early years provision, as well as outcomes in numeracy and literacy. This has included the launch of a Literacy Hub with the

National Literacy Trust, expert support to recruit to more than 40 teaching posts in schools and investment of more than £800k in regular, additional extra-curricular activities. In March 2019, the first Maths Month will be launched across the borough of Scarborough to provide engaging and free events to support improved engagement with maths as an important life skill.

School Organisation

At a meeting on 21 January the Governing Board of the BAWB Federation (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton Schools) confirmed their refusal of the request that West Burton School be allowed to leave the federation.

The proposal for the amalgamation of Moorside Infant and Junior Schools, and the establishment of satellite provision for Mowbray School on the Moorside Infant site, are both due to be determined by the Executive Member for Schools on 19 February 2019.

The consultation on a proposal to close Arkengarthdale School at the end of the current academic year is underway and runs until 15 March with Executive due to consider the consultation responses on 16 April. The consultation on a proposal to close Clapham School at the end of the current academic year opened on 14 February and runs until 4 April. Executive are due to consider the consultation responses on 16 April.

School Capital projects:

Significant capital projects are either underway or recently completed at a number of North Yorkshire schools and delivered from the School's Capital Programme and the Basic Need Programme. Examples are:

- Barwic Parade CP School, Selby – hall extension and related improvements
- Graham School, Scarborough - new two storey teaching block
- King James's School, Knaresborough – new 6th form centre including demolition of existing provision.
- Selby Community Primary School – provision of a new foundation stage unit
- St Mary's RC Primary School, Malton – expansion to provide additional places

Cllr Patrick Mulligan
Executive Member for Education and Skills