

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 NOVEMBER 2019

STATEMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

As of the 29th September the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) became operational taking in the work of the Safeguarding Children Board and Children's Trust. Over the next quarter the NYSCP will work to identify its priorities for 2020 and beyond. More detail can be found here: www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk.

Strengthening Families, Protecting Children

In the 2018 autumn budget, the Treasury committed a further £84 million to the scaling up of three programmes deemed successful from the first two waves of the Innovation Programme into other LAs. This is called the Strengthening Families Protecting Children programme (SFPC). The three selected programmes to be delivered under SFPC, are those developed by Leeds, Hertfordshire and North Yorkshire's No Wrong Door (NWD). Over the next five years these will be implemented across 18 other local authorities as follows:

Leeds	Hertfordshire	North Yorkshire
Family Valued	Family Safeguarding	No Wrong Door
Darlington	Cambridgeshire	Middlesbrough
Warwickshire	Walsall	Rochdale
Newcastle	Lancashire	Norfolk
Coventry	Telford & Wrekin	Warrington
Solihull	Wandsworth	Redcar & Cleveland
Sefton	Swindon	Leicester

The programme will be robustly evaluated by the What Works Centre to produce an estimate of the impact of each of the approaches.

The objective of SFPC is to improve social work practice and decision making so that the best decisions are made for every child, and outcomes are improved. In addition this programme should lead to a reduction of demand at the critical end of the spectrum, leading to a reduced spend on children's social care.

The North Yorkshire No Wrong Door programme will build on its learning and evaluated evidence base in delivering an integrated service for vulnerable adolescents who have experienced complex and troubled lives. Furthermore, the NWD footprint of practice will develop across the country and demonstrate that better outcomes for young people can be delivered at a lower cost through public sector providers. To support this we will receive significant funding over five years to support the implementation of the NWD model into host LAs.

We will be working in partnership with our six adopter LAs to develop 'their' NWD model, working closely with them to 'adopt and adapt' the model whilst testing out if this way of working has an impact on decisions and outcomes for young people.

Children & Families Performance

Performance across Children's Services continues to inspire confidence in our ability as a local authority to act quickly and decisively to keep children safe from harm. The service continues to lead the sector in terms of timeliness of assessment, with 97% of assessments

completed in 45 working days or less, and over two-thirds completed in 30 working days or less. Our on-going commitment to ensuring families receive the right service at the right time is demonstrated by the low proportion of children and families assessments that are closed as “no further action”. This was 26% in Quarter 2, compared with 29% 12 months ago and 29% nationally.

There were 384 children subject to a child protection plan at the end of the quarter. Although this is 35 more children than at the end of the last quarter it remains within the range of what would be considered “normal” for North Yorkshire. Analysis highlights that the increase has been driven by lower than usual numbers of plans coming to an end this quarter, rather than an increase in new child protection plans.

451 children were in the care of the local authority at the end of September, nine fewer than three months previously. Although this is still higher than we may wish to see the service explores every avenue before coming to the conclusion that entering care is absolutely necessary and is the best thing for the child. The service has recently embedded family finding, with all social workers undertaking family finding training to enhance the services ability to develop family support networks before bringing a child into to care becomes necessary.

Always cognisant of our responsibilities to those young adults who have been in our care, the Leaving Care teams continue to provide outstanding support to care leavers. 71% of our care leavers aged between 19 and 21 are in education, training or employment (compared with only 51% nationally), whilst 92% are in suitable accommodation (compared with only 84% nationally).

Finally, it is with great pleasure and pride that I confirm that North Yorkshire has been shortlisted in the prestigious national Social Worker of the Year Awards in the category of “Social Work Employer of the Year”, whilst one of our social workers has also been shortlisted in the category “Children’s Social Worker of the Year”.

Medium Term Financial Strategy & 2020 North Yorkshire

Within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), the local authority has made a net investment of £3.6m in High Needs (SEN) and a further £3m in SEN Transport in response to significant cost pressures arising from a rise in the number of children and young people assessed as requiring an Education, Health and Care Plan since 2014. Despite the announcement of £5.4m additional High Needs Funding for 2020-21, this will leave a funding gap that will require the LA to continue to identify measures to reshape provision in line with the Strategic Plan for SEN.

Following the implementation of a locality-based model for Children and Families, further significant structure reviews have been undertaken in Inclusion and School Improvement. The approach continues to prioritise and maintain frontline service delivery as much as possible through innovative models, greater efficiency and increased commercialisation. Work has started to implement the Stronger Families, Protecting Children programme working with DfE and other local authorities to roll out the No Wrong Door model.

Although this information appears in my Statement to Council is should be noted that both Executive Members for the Children and Young People’s Service have joint responsibility for all relevant resources.

Janet Sanderson

Executive Member for Children’s Services and Special Educational Needs