

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

24 JULY 2019

STATEMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

The three Safeguarding Partners (North Yorkshire County Council, North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Groups) in consultation with the relevant agencies have agreed their new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for North Yorkshire as set out in the Children and Social Work Act (2017). The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) will be fully operational by 29 September 2019 and will undertake the work of the North Yorkshire Children's Trust and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board with the aim to ensure all children in North Yorkshire are safe, happy, healthy and achieving.

To view the NYSCP arrangements visit <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/aboutus/multi-agency-safeguarding-arrangements>

Children & Families Performance

Children's Services in North Yorkshire continue to be in a strong position. Having witnessed a decrease in referrals to Children's Social Care last Quarter, during Quarter 1 2019/20, we have seen a return to more expected levels. Regardless of any fluctuations in the number of referrals to Children's Social Care, the service continues to display sector leading performance in the speed with which families' needs are accurately assessed. During the past Quarter, 97% of assessments were completed within 45 days. In isolation this is commensurate with an outstanding authority, but it is to the services credit that we see continued improvements in the number of assessments completed within 30 day, increasing from 69% in Quarter 4 2018/19 to 74% in Quarter 1 2019/20.

Reflecting the demand-led nature of social care, we have seen the number of children in care increase over the last Quarter. At the end of Quarter 1 2019/20, there were 460 children in care, including 23 UASC. Robust quality assurance measures are ensuring that taking a child into care remains the last option from a suite of interventions the service can use to support children at risk of harm.

The Leaving Care service continues to perform strongly in its support of young people leaving care, consistently performing considerably above both the national and statistical neighbour averages. At the end of Quarter 1 2019/20, 92.7% of Care Leavers aged 19, 20 or 21 were living in suitable accommodation, compared to 85% nationally. 72% of Care Leavers aged 19, 20 or 21 were in Employment, Education or Training, showing considerably better performance than the national average of 51%.

Medium Term Financial Strategy & 2020 North Yorkshire

Within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), the local authority has made a gross investment of £7.6m 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. The local authority continues to lobby for a fairer funding settlement for North Yorkshire but will continue to identify measures to reshape provision in line with the Strategic Plan for SEN.

The Directorate has developed plans to meet the savings target in 2019-20 around Inclusion, PRS provision 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.

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

North Yorkshire Self Harm Pathway

I am pleased to tell you that the North Yorkshire Self Harm Pathway has now been published. The newly developed North Yorkshire Pathway of support for children and young people with self-harming behaviour and/or suicidal thoughts is an online tool that contains information and guidance for parents, and professionals working with children and young people. It also provides support and advice for children and young people who identify themselves as using self-harm as a coping strategy and/or want support as a result of disclosing self-harm, suicidal thoughts and/or a previous suicide attempt.

The pathway is part of the wider work of the Safeguarding Children Partnership, North Yorkshire County Council and their partners to deliver the North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Health Strategy.

Janet Sanderson

Executive Member for Children's Services and Special Educational Needs