

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

24 JULY 2019

STATEMENT OF EDUCATION & SKILLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

School funding

The local authority has continued the 'soft' implementation of the national funding formula (NFF) and has ensured that every school in North Yorkshire has received the phase-specific minimum per pupil level of funding. However, we continue to have real concerns about the level of school funding we receive and we continue to lobby the Department for Education for a fairer funding deal for North Yorkshire. In particular, the local authority is concerned about small secondary schools serving rural areas; we recognise the challenge of balancing the delivery of a broad-based curriculum and achieving a financially sustainable position. We continue to work proactively with local authority maintained schools to support and challenge them to take action to avoid deficit wherever possible.

Funding shortfalls for children and young people with SEN remains an issue in North Yorkshire – as it does across the country – and following Secretary of State approval in February 2019, we have transferred 1.0% of the Schools Block, equating to approximately £3.3m, to the High Needs Block for 2019-20. This is only a temporary measure and will be insufficient to meet current costs and anticipated increases in demand.

Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision 0-25

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

- Development of new targeted provision model linked to mainstream schools. 15 schools have so far expressed an interest in delivering the new model and further engagement is planned for the autumn term. A small amount of capital funding from Special Provision Capital has been allocated to targeted provision development.
- Development of models for PRS/AP provision is nearing completion, prior to the approval process. New models will be implemented from September 2020.
- Progressing the establishment of Mowbray School (Ripon) to open in January 2020.
- Capital work at Springhead School, The Dales School and the Forest School nearing completion.
- Ongoing work on the proposed special free school in the Selby area including two engagement events for potential proposer groups and meetings with the DfE.
- Increase in Personalised Learning Programme places and supported internships.
- Beginning the review of the special school sixth form offer.

A full review of the first year of the plan will be undertaken alongside development of more detail around phase 2 of the plan.

School organisation

The proposal to close Arkengarthdale School at the end of the current academic year was determined by the Executive Member on 25 June 2019. The Governing Body proposal to relocate Bishop Thornton CE School to the former Burnt Yates School site was approved by the Executive Member on 25 June 2019.

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:

- King James's School, Knaresborough – new 6th form centre including demolition of existing provision.

- Fairburn Community Primary School – additional accommodation
- Nawton Primary School – additional accommodation
- Selby Community Primary School – provision of a new foundation stage unit
- St Mary's RC Primary School, Malton – expansion to provide additional places

There have been 2 secondary and 2 primary academy conversions in Q1. There are currently a further 17 schools that have either been issued with an Academy Order, or an Academy Order is pending, and that are in the pipeline to convert during 2019.

Beyond the expected conversions (forced and voluntary) during 2019 the pipeline appears to be slowing. It is a reasonable assumption, based on current knowledge, that there will be fewer conversions from 2020.

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. Since the start of the project, the following have been delivered to date:

- The recruitment and training of 41 Speech and Language Champions and the provision of speech and language therapist support to 24 primary schools. More than 6,000 pupils have been screened for their current level of development in this area.
- 21 early years settings have accessed addition support and training to develop setting-wide improvement plans and to further develop interaction between staff and children.
- The first Maths Month took place in March 2019. There were 80 events, with 65% of schools taking part and more than 4,000 student experiences.
- Over 50 Literacy Champions have been recruited. They have run events to spread the importance of books and reading skills, with over 800 people benefitting to date.
- Specialist recruitment support provided to school, resulting in high-quality appointments to over 100 posts
- More than 1,800 participants in new extra-curricular activities, involving sport, drama, music and social action.

School Ofsted inspections – overall performance

The percentage of North Yorkshire schools judged Good or Outstanding now stands at 79.1% (compared to 75.4% nationally) at secondary level but below national at primary level (83.8% compared to 86.8% nationally).

The percentage of pupils attending a good or outstanding schools continues to be high and above national at secondary (83.1% North Yorkshire as compared to 78.5 national), but below national at primary (81.7% as compared to 86.5% nationally).

CLlr Patrick Mulligan
Executive Member for Education and Skills