



**North Yorkshire County Council
Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee
12 November 2020**

Schools, educational achievement and sustainability

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1** To inform Members of the local educational landscape, educational achievement and the financial challenges which affect schools in the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency committee area

2.0 Local educational landscape

- 2.1** There are now 19 primary academies and 4 secondary academies within the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency area. The academy conversion rate is higher within the constituency area than the county as a whole (63.3% of primary schools in the area compared to 28.3% in North Yorkshire, and 57.1% of secondary schools in the area, compared to 56% in North Yorkshire).

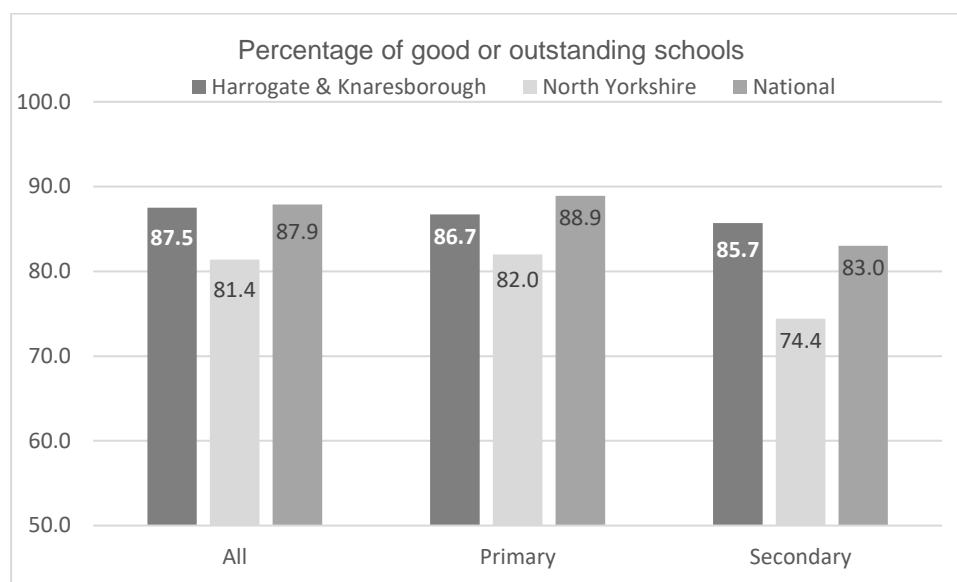
Summary of schools' status – October 2020

	Schools in North Yorkshire		Schools in Harrogate & Knaresborough ACC	
Primary Maintained	218	71.7%	11	36.7%
Primary Academy & Free School	86	28.3%	19	63.3%
Total	304		30	
Secondary Maintained	19	44%	3	42.9%
Secondary Academy	24	56%	4	57.1%
Total	43		7	
Special Maintained	8	80%	1	50%
Special Academy	2	20%	1	50%
Total	10		2	
PRU Maintained	4	80%	0	100%
PRU Academy	1	20%	1	
Total	5		1	
Total maintained	249	69%	15	37.5%
Total Academy	113	31%	25	62.5%
Overall Total	362		40	

3.0 School standards

3.1 School Ofsted judgements

In the constituency area 86.7 per cent of primary schools are judged good or outstanding by Ofsted, which is above the North Yorkshire and slightly below national benchmarks. Performance is stronger for secondary schools with 85.7 per cent judged good or outstanding which is above all benchmarks.



There is 1 primary school judged 'Inadequate' and 3 at 'Requires Improvement'. There is 1 secondary school judged 'Requires Improvement'.

3.2 Attainment overall

Following the Coronavirus pandemic and lockdown, pupils in all phases of schooling did not sit formal examinations. This means that for GCSE and A Levels, pupils' grades are based on centre assessed grades (CAGs) or the grade calculated by the exam board during the standardisation process, whichever is higher. Schools followed rigorous guidance in order to make sure that their CAGs were as accurate as possible. Since government guidance states that 2020 outcomes must not be used for monitoring and accountability purposes, the Local Authority will not be publishing 2020 examination results or outcomes at any key stage. With regard to Ofsted, inspections have ceased and will not be reinstated until January 2021 although Ofsted 'visits' will be undertaken during the Autumn term in order to gather information about how schools across the country are managing the full return to school. Guidelines to Ofsted inspectors say that the data and information will be based on 2019 exam results.

Both primary and secondary attainment in the constituency is above all benchmarks.

3.3 The following sections provide 2019 outcomes on:

- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile – assessment at the end of reception (4-5 year olds)
- Key Stage 2 – assessment at the end of primary school (10-11 year olds)
- Key Stage 4 – assessment at the end of secondary school (15-16 year olds)
- Key Stage 5 – assessment at the end of sixth form college (17-18 year olds)

3.4 Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

73.2% of children in the constituency area achieved a Good Level of Development. The level of performance has reduced since 2017 but is slightly higher than the North Yorkshire and national average.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile – percentage achieving a good level of development			
	Harrogate & Knaresborough	North Yorkshire	National
2017	73.7%	71.6%	70.7%
2018	75.6%	72.5%	71.6%
2019	73.2%	72.8%	71.8%

3.5 Key Stage 2

69.4% of children in the constituency area achieved the expected level or above in reading, writing and maths combined, which is above the North Yorkshire and national benchmarks. The level of performance has increased by 3.6% since 2017, which is a slightly lower improvement than North Yorkshire and nationally.

Key Stage 2 - percentage achieving the expected standard or above in reading, writing and maths combined.			
	Harrogate & Knaresborough	North Yorkshire	National
2017	65.8%	58.7%	61.1%
2018	66.8%	62.2%	64.4%
2019	69.4%	63.3%	65.0%

3.6 Key Stage 4

The average Attainment 8 score, which measures the achievement of a pupil across eight qualifications, was 52.9. This is higher than the North Yorkshire and National average. Performance has increased slightly in the constituency since 2017.

KS4 – Average Attainment 8 Score			
	Harrogate & Knaresborough	North Yorkshire	National
2017	52.1	49.6	46.3
2018	52.1	48.3	46.6
2019	52.9	48.7	46.7

3.7 The Progress 8 score, which measures a pupil's progress from the end of primary school to the end of secondary school, was 0.25 which is also significantly above all benchmarks (0 is the national average).

KS4 – Average Progress 8 Score			
	Harrogate & Knaresborough	North Yorkshire	National
2017	0.24	0.17	0.00
2018	0.26	0.13	0.00
2019	0.25	0.09	0.00

- 3.8** The percentage achieving a grade 5 or above (grading is 9-1) in English and Maths was 55%. This is higher than the National average and the North Yorkshire average. The results in this constituency increased slightly between 2018 and 2019 whereas there was a more modest decrease across North Yorkshire and a small increase in scores Nationally.

KS4 – Percentage achieving a grade 5 or above in English and Maths			
	Harrogate & Knaresborough	North Yorkshire	National
2017	56.6%	50.4%	42.6%
2018	54.1%	47.7%	43%
2019	55.0%	47.4%	43.2%

3.9 Key Stage 5

The A-level average point score per entry in the constituency was 34.2, which is higher than the North Yorkshire and National averages.

KS5 – A-level average point score per entry			
	Harrogate & Knaresborough	North Yorkshire	National
2017	33.0	33.9	32.3
2018	32.9	32.8	31.8
2019	34.2	33.4	32.2

3.10 Not in education, employment or training

There were 1428 young people recorded in Year 11 in this constituency in May 2019 and of this cohort only 8 (0.56%) were not in education, employment or training after leaving school as of January 2020.

4.0 Fixed-term and Permanent Exclusions

4.1 Fixed-term exclusion incidents

The table below shows the number of fixed-term exclusion incidents for the 2019/20 academic year to 23rd March (lockdown).

Fixed term exclusions				
Academic year	Harrogate and Knaresborough	North Yorkshire	Percentage of North Yorkshire total	Most common reason
2019/20 (up to 23rd March Covid-19 lockdown)	571	4111	13.9%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (35%)
2018/19	1010	5962	16.9%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (43.2%)
2017/18	784	6,005	13.1%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (39.8%)
2016/17	591	4,583	12.9%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (32.3%)

In the 2019/20 school year up to Covid-19 lockdown (23rd March 2020) school year, 571 of the 4111 incidences of fixed-term exclusions in mainstream schools across the county were applied to 240 children and young people who went to schools in the constituency. The current rate of children fixed-term excluded at least once in the year is 1.4% of the mainstream school population in the constituency.

The most common reason for a fixed-term exclusion in the constituency has consistently been 'persistent disruptive behaviour'.

In 2018/19 schools in the constituency area had a 20.7% share of the total schools population in North Yorkshire but only a 16.9% share of fixed term exclusions for the whole county, this has decreased to 13.9% in the 2019/20 academic year.

Fixed-term exclusions can be a useful sanction, but frequent use can place pressure on family and foster placements, impacts on achievement, and may lead to risky behaviour while the pupil is not in school during the day.

4.2 Permanent exclusions

The table below shows the number of permanent exclusions and the most common reasons for permanent exclusion:

Permanent exclusions				
Academic year	Harrogate & Knaresborough	North Yorkshire	Percentage of North Yorkshire total	Most common reason
2019/20 (up to 23rd March Covid-19 lockdown)	11	54	20.4%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (3 exclusions)
2018/19	14	87	16.9%	Drug and alcohol related (60%)
2017/18	19	103	18.4%	Physical assault against a pupils (26.7%). Drug and alcohol related (26.7%)
2016/17	19	86	22.1%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (40%)

4.3 From September 2020 the transition of the Pupil Referral Service (PRS) to provide preventative places to reduce the need for secondary exclusions has been introduced. Schools are able to request placements at the PRS as part of a joint education programme for children that are disengaging from mainstream school. The partnership approach between the PRS and school will ensure that children receive the necessary support without a permanent exclusion.

4.4 In April 2020 Wellspring Multi Academy Trust took over the running of the PRS that serves the Harrogate and Knaresborough area. The provision has had a significant capital investment delivered by the MAT and changed its name to Springwell Harrogate.

5.0 Special Education Needs and Disabilities

5.1 Reshaping of SEN Provision in Harrogate & Knaresborough over the 2019/20 Academic Year

5.1.1 Targeted Mainstream Provision

As part of the SEND Strategic Plan for Educational provision 2018-23, it was identified that there was a need to change the model for Enhanced Mainstream School (EMS) to provide greater numbers of full time places for children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan who were able to access mainstream schooling but with additional support to meet their special educational needs. A new model of provision, Targeted Mainstream Provision (TMP) has been developed which is intended to help the LA meet demand for full time education provision for children with SEND and who have an Education, Health and Care Plan. As the number of children with an EHC Plan continues to rise and demand increases on special school and high cost independent school places, the establishment of full time places in TMP will assist the LA in providing suitable local education provision to meet levels of demand.

Following the required statutory process the decision to implement these changes from September 2020 was approved in August 2020. The number of schools currently approved to operate TMP represents the first phase and it is intended that over the next year further schools will be brought on board to increase the total number of TMP across the county. Grove Road Community Primary School will be the first school to begin operating the new model in the Harrogate district and will be fully operational from January 2021.

Outreach support and intervention for children and young people with SEND will continue to be met by the new SEND multi-disciplinary hubs made up of with specialist staff employed directly by the Local Authority including specialist teachers, practitioners, educational psychologists and therapists. These Hubs have been operational since September 2020 and are working with schools to provide support to children as and when required.

5.2 SEN Statistics for Constituency Area

As of January 2020 there were 566 children living in the constituency with a North Yorkshire funded EHC plan, 18.4% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs for children with a North Yorkshire funded EHC plan living in the area are Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at 40.6% and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) at 16.6%, and Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD) at 13.1%.

As of January 2020 school census there were 1555 children recorded as SEN Support from schools in this constituency, 16.9% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs for children receiving SEN support in the area are Specific Learning Difficulties (e.g. dyslexia) at 21.3% and Social, Emotional and Mental Health at 21.0%.

6.0 School Finance

6.1 Schools in Financial Difficulty – the countywide position

As of March 2020 the overall position for North Yorkshire Schools was:

- 37 schools with accumulated deficits totalling £7.2M
- This was an increase of £2.2M from 2018/19 (after adjusting for school closures, amalgamations and academy conversions in 2019/20)
- Deficits range from £1k (small primary) up to £1.6M (special school)
- Average primary school in deficit is £45k
- Average secondary school in deficit is £521k
- Of the 37 schools, 19 are predicting that their position will deteriorate
- 18 schools are projected to improve their position, but only 9 are projected to get back into surplus.

6.2 School Projections - Based on May 2020/21 Start budgets

- 115 LA maintained schools (49%) are projecting an in-year deficit in 2020/21
- 7 schools will move from a surplus balance to a deficit balance by March 2021
- 15% of LA maintained schools are in deficit – that is projected to rise to just over one in five by 2021/22 and two out of every five by March 2023.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of Schools in Deficit	54	47	37	35	55	93
Value of Deficit	£4.4M	£6.0M	£7.2M	£9.4M	£12.5M	£18.3M
Proportion of schools in deficit	19%	18%	15%	15%	23%	40%

6.3 Funding

- Concern around overall quantum of funding given cost pressures (e.g. future pay awards, additional expenditure and income loss associated with Covid-19)
- North Yorkshire secondary schools are placed 133 out of 149 local authorities in terms of funding. On average, a school in North Yorkshire will receive £5,151 per pupil in 2020-21 compared to a national average of £5,496. Comparing the funding for a 1,500 pupil secondary school this equates to a difference in funding of £0.5m
- For primary schools, a North Yorkshire school will receive on average £4,347 per pupil compared to a national average of £4279.
- Concern over impact of continued high needs financial pressures on school budgets
- North Yorkshire has a number of schools that, geographically, are vital in serving their local communities. Inadequate sparsity funding and general financial pressures, particularly for smaller secondary schools, continue to be a significant concern.

6.4 Schools in Financial Difficulty – Harrogate & Knaresborough

2020/21	2022/23
4 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2021; 28.6% schools in Harrogate and Knaresborough	5 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2023; 36% schools in Harrogate and Knaresborough
2 primaries; 1 secondary and 1 special	4 primaries; 1 secondary
Total value of deficits = £1,136k	Total value of deficits = £1,631k
Average primary deficit = £126k; Average secondary deficit = £872k Average special deficit = £11k	Average primary deficit = £92k; Average secondary deficit = £1,262k

7.0 Planning school places

7.1 School sustainability

The sustainability of schools is largely influenced by three key factors which are usually closely related to each other:

- Falling pupil rolls
- School standards
- Financial difficulty

Where school closures have regrettably occurred in North Yorkshire all of these factors have been relevant. There have been 10 closures in the county over the last 3 years but none in the constituency area.

7.2 Collaborative working

Collaborative working is two or more schools working together to the mutual benefit of their pupils with the overall aim of improving outcomes for all. This has the potential to broaden opportunities and contribute to efficiencies. There are three primary federations in the Harrogate and Knaresborough area. In two of these federations there are 2 maintained schools with a single governing body and Headteacher and the third is a federation of three primary schools.

King James's and Boroughbridge High Secondary Schools are currently considering federation to enable them to build further on the post-16 collaboration that has been in place for some time between the two schools.

7.3 Pupil rolls – current and future

The County Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available for every child under the Education Act 1996. For this purpose, it groups schools together into planning areas in accordance with the requirements of the

Education and Skills Funding Agency. Appendix 1 shows the planning areas together with:

- Capacity in the planning area
- Current numbers on roll
- Projected future numbers
- Projected impact of approved housing developments

The County Council is carefully monitoring pupil numbers across the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency area. A large proportion of the constituency is rural and served by small schools located within villages. Across the constituency schools have worked innovatively to mitigate these challenges including forming local federations. Like all small schools the fluctuation of pupil numbers exacerbates the already challenging nature of school funding.

The general picture across the whole of the County shows projected growth in the urban areas contrasting with declining numbers in rural locations. A falling birth rate combined with changing demographics means that a number of small schools are facing financial challenges associated with low numbers on roll. There are several social and economic reasons for the rural pupil number issue including the availability and price of housing and employment factors.

The picture in the constituency area (Appendix 1) however shows a generally high take up of places and therefore lower surplus capacity across the board. The LA groups schools together into planning areas in accordance with the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Only two primary planning areas differ from the low surplus capacity picture. They are the primary aged groupings known as Harrogate Urban Central and Boroughbridge Outer.

Appendix 1 does not include projections of pupil yield from sites proposed in the recently adopted Harrogate Borough Council Local Plan that do not yet have planning approval. Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon will accommodate most of the housing growth over the Local Plan Period.

The key points to note within LA planning areas across the constituency area are:

7.4 Primary

Harrogate Primary West – Members will be aware of the significant housing development planned/underway in the Harrogate west area. The LA has secured additional sites for education use at Bluecoat Park and Penny Pot Lane. Development has started at Penny Pot Lane and we are currently monitoring the pace of housing and the impact on the need for additional school places. Additional capacity has recently been added to Oatlands Junior CoE School.

The LA (Education and Highways) continue to be involved in strategic discussions with Harrogate Borough Council and site promoters regarding the significant urban extension to Harrogate west and the associated educational infrastructure required to meet the expected increase in demand for school places.

Harrogate Primary Outer Area – In response to the significant housing developments in Killinghall, the LA have added three classrooms at Killinghall CE School since 2017 increasing the school's capacity to that of a one form entry school (210 places).

Knaresborough Primary Town – A site for education provision has been secured at Manse Farm to primarily serve the Manse Farm development in Knaresborough and the proposed Highfield Farm development. Planning approval was granted earlier this

year. It is intended that the new school (with nursery provision) will be a free school (a state-funded school, operating as an academy, independent of the local authority). The proposed new school is therefore expected to be a mainstream free school under the DfE free school presumption process.

The age range of the school will be 3-11, providing places for 210 pupils (one form of entry) with the ability to expand to 420 places (two forms of entry) should that be required in the future. The school will provide places for boys and girls (mixed). The expected opening date is September 2022. The school will also support general school place sufficiency in the Knaresborough area and will be opened in a phased approach to avoid destabilising existing provision.

As part of the presumption route process, a stakeholder consultation ran for four weeks to 23 October 2020. The responses received by the closing date will be included in a report to the Children and Young People's Service Executive Members on 10 November 2020 and a decision will be made whether to approve the commencement of the Presumption Route process for the establishment of a new school at Manse Farm. If approved, NYCC will run a competition to identify the Academy Trust who will operate the school. Under this process NYCC is responsible for delivery and funding of the school using a combination of Basic Need Grant and developer contributions.

7.5 Secondary

Harrogate Secondary – Following discussions in 2019 with the local secondary schools additional capacity has been added at both Rossett School (2 additional classrooms) and Harrogate Grammar School (3 additional classrooms, nearing completion). Both will assist to meet the expected rise in demand for places as a result of housing growth.

8.0 Recommendation

- 8.1** That Members note the report and consider how they can influence the factors that affect School sustainability in the Harrogate and Knaresborough area.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Planning Areas and forecast surplus/shortfall school places

Appendix 1

	Places available as at 2019/20	Number on roll 2015/ 16	Number on roll 2019/ 20	Surplus capacity 2019/20	Forecast pupils as at 2024/25	Pupils from current permissions until 2024/25	Surplus capacity 2024/25
Boroughbridge Primary Area Boroughbridge Primary Kirkby Hill CE Roecliffe CE	474	379	330	144	324	154	-4
Boroughbridge Primary Outer Area Dishforth Airfield CP Great Ouseburn CP Green Hammerton CE Kirk Hammerton CE Marton-cum-Grafton CE Nun Monkton Primary St Peter's Brafferton CE Staveley CP	784	496	551	233	553	47	184
	1258	875	881	377	877	201	180
Harrogate Primary Urban Central Bilton Grange CP Coppice Valley Primary Saltergate Community Junior Saltergate Infant Starbeck Primary Academy New Park Primary Academy St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Harrogate, A Voluntary Academy Willow Tree CP Woodfield Primary	2399	2067	2010	389	1876	87	436
Harrogate Primary Urban East Grove Road CP Hookstone Chase Primary Richard Taylor CE St Robert's Catholic	1153	1122	1160	-7	1164	15	-26
Harrogate Primary Urban West Oatlands Infant Oatlands Junior Pannal Primary Rossett Acre Primary St Peter's CE Primary Western Primary	2115	2040	2098	17	2007	168	-60
Harrogate Primary Outer Area All Saint's CE School Askwith CP Beckwithshaw CP Birstwith CE Admiral Long CE Darley CP Follifoot CE Hampsthwaite CE Kettlesing Felliscliffe CP Killinghall CE North Rigton CE Ripley Endowed Sicklinghall CE Spofforth CE	1268	1118	1198	70	1199	136	-67
	6935	6347	6499	436	6246	406	283
Knaresborough Primary Aspin Park Academy Meadowside Academy St John's CE Primary St Mary's Primary School Knaresborough, A Voluntary Catholic Academy	1190	1190	1146	44	1132	110	-52

Knarborough Primary Outer Area Goldsborough CE Long Marston CE Scotton Lingerfield Primary Tockwith CE	433	399	428	5	427	84	-78
	1623	1589	1574	49	1559	194	-130
Boroughbridge Secondary Boroughbridge High School	763	673	480	283	447	54	262
Harrogate & Rural Secondary Harrogate Grammar Rossett School Harrogate High St John Fisher Catholic High St Aidan's CE High Nidderdale High*	7685	7610	7879	-194	8200	208	-723
Knarborough Secondary King James's School	1705	1564	1545	160	1568	94	43

* some of these areas serve schools outside the constituency area

* figures above take into account outstanding housing permissions but not Local Plan proposals.