

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTS

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Introduction

1. Looking after children should always prove to be an evolving process, change is a necessary pre-requisite if we are always to challenge our parental skills. Unfortunately, this gradual metamorphosis had to become drastic in the aftermath of the tragic Victoria Climbié case. North Yorkshire was no exception as we set about transforming the internal structures of the Social Services and Education Directorates. It effectively meant that the formal meetings of the Corporate Parent's Committee were placed on hold until such time that the reorganisation was complete.
2. The result was that on the 14th February 2006, a year after their last meeting, the new look Corporate Parent's Committee was ordained, designated to be a Working Group responsible for reporting to the Young Peoples' Scrutiny Committee on the standard of care that we, as Corporate parents, are providing for all our Looked After Children. The guiding principle dictating the thoughts of Members being 'would the care be good enough for my child?' After all the children do not want anything fantastic, merely a normal life in which they are Cared About, not just Cared For.

Committee's Work

3. Many Members were new to the role of Corporate parenting (there had been an election during the recess), which meant that the first meetings were very much necessary briefing exercises to acquaint Members with the role that they were expected to perform; acquiring knowledge as to the workings of both the Officers and the Department in carrying out the care needed to achieve a safe and supporting environment for the children, and finally instigating an agreement as to the terms of reference and development of a working framework for the Committee.
4. Since the middle to the latter part of the year work has progressed at a steady pace, covering overviews of such topics as:
 1. The advocacy of Looked After Children.
 2. Current educational achievements.
 3. Regulation 33 inspections of Children's homes.
 4. The Government's Green paper 'CARE MATTERS'.As well as our regular updates on current Looked After Children, and Member feed-back on inspections of Children's Homes.

Activities

5. During the year, the Corporate Parent's Committee hosted a Member's seminar, which proved to be a very enlightening and thought provoking presentation, certainly the Member's feed-back was charged with stimulation, to the point that there may well be another event scheduled in the future. There were two 'C' (celebration) Days, during the year, times when many of the children come together to meet; show their individual skills; partake in wholesome party food; listen to home grown rock bands and kicking the living day lights out of Members who innocently volunteer to play football. The children are rewarded by the giving of individual Award Certificates, which acknowledge any success that they have achieved during the year, and then they wind their way home in the comforting satisfaction that they have crippled a North Yorkshire County Councillor!
6. The final event of the year was held at Thirsk Racecourse in November when a conference was held entitled 'No Roof No Job', during which Officers, Social Workers, Members and Children highlighted the difficulties of obtaining accommodation suited to their needs, as well as the earmarking the many obstacles confronted by the children who seek work.
7. In order to acquaint Members more fully with the mainstream activities and provide additional essential reading, the Officers have kindly agreed to append further categorical reports. (See Annexes 1 – 3).

The Future

8. The task of monitoring the welfare of our children is inexhaustible, however, in addition to the Committees' regular overview we will be giving extra attention to:
 1. The reduction of children in care.
 2. Greater access to leisure and health facilities.
 3. The attainment of improved exam results, particularly in the realm of the five subjects A*--C, GCSE exam.
 4. Look to improving the transition and the leaving care procedures of our children.
 5. Improving opportunities of children acquiring apprenticeships and main stream work.
9. In helping us to achieve our aims we hope to have a variation of venues for meetings and more involvement by children.
10. The Government has recently published a Green Paper, 'Care Matters', which is the discussion document concerning transforming the lives of children and young people in Care. This Green Paper endorses much of what we in North Yorkshire are already achieving, nevertheless it does contain areas which provide 'food for thought' to improving the Lot of the children, and raising the profile of the Corporate Parents Working Group, to that of a full Committee within the Councils' Committee structure.

Appreciation

11. I would sincerely like to thank the Members of the Committee for learning so quickly and for their massive contribution to both debate and activity. It seems churlish to single out officers for special mention when many have been helpful, nevertheless, I would like to thank Paul Nixon; Nigel Ogly; Jerry Barnes and not least David Molesworth, for all their co-operation during the year. As a whole the 'Team' has bonded exceptionally well, which should bode well for the future of all our children.

**Author of Report:
Paul Richardson
Chairman of the Corporate Parent's Working Group**

**County Hall
NORTHALLERTON**

18th December 2006

Background Documents: None

Annexes: Annex 1: David Molesworth
Annex 2: Nigel Ogley
Annex 3: Jerry Barnes

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CORPORATE PARENTING

9TH JANUARY 2007

Looked After Children in North Yorkshire

The attached paper sets out details about children and young people in care in North Yorkshire, excluding children who receive regular short breaks.

The number of children looked after in North Yorkshire has risen over the autumn period to a total of 441 although the rate of children looked after remains relatively low in the county as a whole, with a very low rate in the west and nowhere does the rate approach the average rate for the whole of England. More children are cared for on a voluntary basis in North Yorkshire compared to the national picture (36% against 30%): there is a corresponding lower proportion of children subject to care orders (57% against 65%). There is a variation in the use of care orders or voluntary care arrangements across the county: the west corresponds most nearly to the England picture. The centre has a higher use of voluntary arrangements. The east low use of care orders is explained by the higher proportion of children freed for adoption. Adoption activity is varied across the county. Overall, the use of foster care in North Yorkshire is better than in England as a whole (72% against 67% nationally); in addition, smaller numbers of children living in foster care are placed outside the council's boundary (18% against 22%) and, of these, 4% are living with a relative or family friend. Residential care for children sees a much lower rate than in England (less than 5% compared to 11 %). A relatively large number of children remain placed with their parents under a care order, 48 children or 11 % of the total. These children are subject to visiting and review requirements like any other child in care. This proportion has remained stable over several years and, in the majority of cases, these arrangements are of recent origin and all are closely monitored.

**David Molesworth
General Manager
18th December 2006**

**North Yorkshire County Council
Children and Young People's Services
Looked After Children 30th November 2006**

	NYCC		England		West		Central		East	
All	441		60,300		113		169		159	
Rates	35 : 10,000		55 : 10,000		23 : 10,000		37 : 10,000		47 : 10,000	
Legal status										
C1	48	11%	9,700	16%	15	13%	22	13%	11	7%
C2	205	46%	29,600	49%	55	49%	78	46%	72	45%
C1/C2	253	57%	39,300	65%	70	62%	100	59%	83	52%
D1	21	5%	2,100	3%	7	6%	-		14	9%
E1	7	1.5%	-		2	2%	-		5	3%
V2	159	36%	18,300	30%	34	30%	69	41%	56	35%
Placement arrangements Adoption										
A1	9	2%			6	5%	-		3	2%
A4	6	1.5%			-		-		6	4%
A6	9	2%			2	2%	-		7	4%
	24	5.5%	2,900	5%	8	7%			16	10%
Placement arrangements Fostering										
Placed inside NYCC										
F1	45	10%			19	17%	14	8%	12	8%
F2	185	42%			45	40%	75	44%	65	41%
F2S	2	0.5%	<i>Treatment Fostering</i>		-		1		1	
F3	6	1.5%			-		3	2%	3	2%
	238	54%	26,700	44%	64	57%	93	54%	81	51%
Placed outside NYCC										
F4	16	4%			3	3%	7	4%	6	4%
F5	19	4%			2	2%	11	6.5%	6	4%
F6	43	10%			6	5%	20	12%	17	11%
	78	18%	13,100	22%	11	10%	38	22.5%	29	19%
Fostering totals										
	316	72%	41,700	68.5%	75	67%	131	76.5%	110	70%
Placement arrangements Residential										
H2	1				-		-		1	
H3	15	3%			4	4%	4	2%	7	4%
H4	7	1.5%	6,600	11%	4	4%	1		2	
J3	1				-		-		1	
P1	48	11%	5,300	9%	11	10%	19	11%	18	11%
P2	3				1		1		1	
S1	14	3%	3,600	6%	5	4%	6	4%	3	2%
R1	4				3	3%	1		-	
R3	2				2		-		-	
Residential and other totals										
	95	22%	15,500	26%	30	27%	32	19%	33	21%

England figures at 31st March 2006 released November 2006; England adoption figures not differentiated. Codings explained on attached sheet. Percentages rounded in some instances. North Yorkshire data as on SWIFT at 30th November 2006.

Definitions of codes used for DfES returns for looked after children

Legal status codes:

- C1 interim care order
- C2 full care order
- D1 freeing order (for adoption) granted
- E1 placement order
- V2 single period of accommodation under s 20 (voluntary care)
- V3 agreed series of short breaks

Youth justice codes:

- J1 on remand or committed to trial, accommodated by local authority
- J2 detailed under PACE in local authority accommodation
- J3 sentenced under supervision order with residence requirement

Placement codes:

Foster placements

Inside local authority boundary

- F1 placement with relative or friend
- F2 placement with local authority foster carer
- F3 placement with agency foster carer

Outside local authority boundary

- F4 placement with relative or friend
- F5 placement with local authority foster carer
- F6 placement with agency foster carer

Placed for adoption

- A1 placed for adoption (not with former foster carers)
- A2 placed for adoption (with their former foster carers)
- A4 placed for adoption (not current foster carers)
- A6 placed for adoption with placement order (not current foster carers)

- P1 placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility
- P2 independent living without formal support staff
- P3 residential employment

Residential placements

- H1 secure unit inside local authority
- H2 secure unit outside local authority
- H3 homes and hostels inside local authority
- H4 homes and hostels outside local authority
- H5 residential accommodation not subject to *Children's Homes Regulations*

- R1 residential care home
- R2 NHS or other establishment providing medical or health care
- R3 family centre or mother and baby unit
- R5 Young offender institution or prison

- S1 all residential schools except where dual registered as school and children's home

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING GROUP

21 December 2006

Promoting the Educational Achievement of Looked After Children (LAC)

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the progress made by the Local Authority to improve the participation and achievement in education of Look After Children.
- 1.2 To review/evaluate the current ELAC action plan in order to further improve provision.
- 1.3 To evaluate pupil progress specifically at the end of Key Stages.
- 1.4 To ensure that LAC have access to a suitable range of care and education placement options.
- 1.5 To ensure that all statutory duties are met.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Statutory guidance (A Better Education for Children in Care – Social Exclusion Unit Report – September 2003) identified instability, absence, poor support, limited awareness and unmet emotional, mental and physical needs as the main factors influencing Looked After Children under achieve.
- 2.2 The Government has published the Green Paper “Care Matters: Transforming The Lives of Children and Young People in Care” (October 2006). It makes the following key proposals:-
 - Local Authorities will have the power to direct admissions for LAC
 - Local Authorities should provide free access for LAC to all their facilities (i.e. leisure activities)
 - A “Headteacher” for children in care in local areas (to raise standards for LAC) could be established
 - OFSTED should be asked to assess how each Local Authority is meeting the educational needs of LAC
 - Further support (including financial) should be given to young people in care as they move towards adulthood

A consultation alongside the Green Paper runs until 15 January 2007.

- 2.3 In order to promote the educational achievement of LAC the Local Authority should have the highest expectation for all LAC, expecting comparable outcomes to their peers. However, both locally and nationally vast improvements in current achievements are still required.

2.4 North Yorkshire aims to encourage all LAC to have the highest expectations of themselves and to provide training, development and support for all carers and local authority staff in order to appreciate more fully individual Looked After Children's Needs.

2.5 Two Local Authority groups significantly champion the educational need of LAC. These are the Corporate Parenting group (a joint group of elected members and officers) and the Presence, Participation and Achievement of LAC group (comprising of officers from all involved agencies). Both groups are keen to monitor progress.

3.0 THE CURRENT POSITION IN NORTH YORKSHIRE

3.1 A self review has been carried out and action plan developed (linked with statutory guidance). This was reported to C & YPLT and Executive Members in April/May 2006 in order to secure appropriate education for all LAC.

3.2 JAR Action Plan

The recent JAR indicates that we should ensure that all Looked After Children should have a completed Personal Education Plan (PEP). *(3. The Council should ensure that all Looked After Children have a completed PEP).* The enclosed Action Plan (Appendix 1) specifically recognises the importance of this action. Currently 100% of pre-school children have PEP's but only 85% of LAC overall. This is improving and specific actions to improve further are in place (Appendix 1)

3.3 An updated Action Plan is enclosed (Appendix 1). The plan recognises the importance of

- Pre-school educational planning (PEPS)
- Closer alignment between access to resources and educational provision
- Prioritising LAC in admission arrangements
- Effective Personal Educational Plan (PEPs)
- Smooth transition between PEP and Pathway Plan.
- Improved information sharing
- Training/development awareness raising for all involved
- Developing inter-authority protocols.

3.4 Action to date

- LAC have priority in local admissions arrangements (September 2006)
- Support workers are meeting regularly to forge more effective transitions from PEP to Pathway Plan
- We are currently reviewing our position regarding our support to LAC from other Local Authorities recognising the need for additional help in this arena. We recognise the need of our responsibility for all LAC in our schools/settings not just North Yorkshire LAC
- Specific training is ongoing, support from School Improvement Partners (SIP) is invaluable
- Clearer liaison is developing with the access to care resources panel

3.5 Evaluation

- Pre-school PEP's are now fully in place (September 2006)
- In July 2006, 76% of LAC had PEP's. Currently 85% of LAC have PEP's (Target 100%)
- The overall evaluation of training delivered is good

3.6 An evaluation of LAC progress at the end of each Key Stage may be seen in Appendix 2 A and B.

4.0 STATISTICAL NEIGHBOURS

4.1 North Yorkshire's position when compared to our statistical neighbours is favourable. This position may be seen in Appendix 3. Appendix 5 shows national comparators for LAC.

4.2 North Yorkshire LPSA targets and achievements against them are set out in Appendix 4.

The measures for success is the collation of results for 2005/06. Two of the five targets have been fully met. 60% (threshold met) of a third target. Significantly the 5 x A*-C target was not met.

5.0 CORPORATE AWARENESS

5.1 The Children and Young People's Service and Health are jointly raising Corporate awareness of Children Looked After. Nationally and locally, however, we still make insufficient progress with this vulnerable group. The ELAC Team is improving provision for school and pre statutory school age (Primary PEP). A similar development is now required post statutory schooling. Only a few LAC gain any advanced educational qualification or attend university however, it is good to qualitatively report that one LAC obtained a first class degree and another a Law degree. However, in order to improve this situation the officer group (Preserve, Participation and Achievement of LAC) are discussing provision/support/developments in this specific area along with the "care leavers" group.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 That the CYPLT consider the Action Plan.

6.2 It is acknowledged that the Presence, Participation and Achievement of LAC Group recognise the need for additional support to Looked After Children from other Local Authorities attending schools in North Yorkshire. The Group are developing a specific action plan. This information will follow.

6.3 That progress in overall delivery is noted.

Nigel Ogley
Head of Behaviour Support Service
13 November, 2006

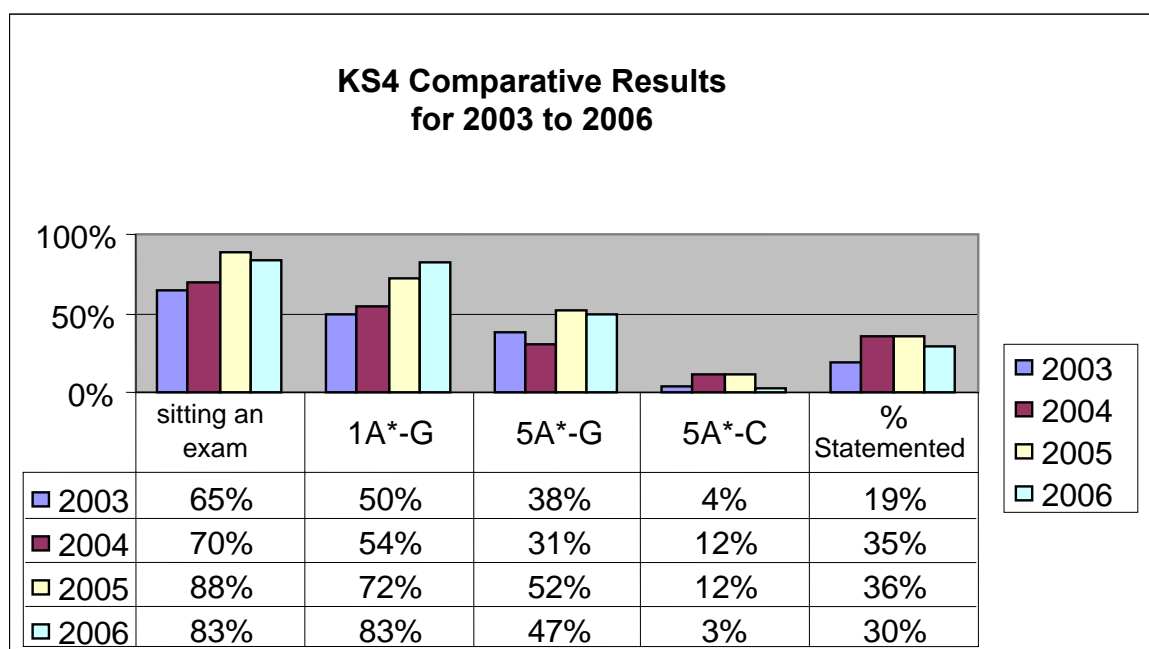
ACTION PLAN

Guidance Duty	Action	How	Who	When	Evaluation
31.2 31.4 31.5 32.1 32.2 32.3	<p>Supporting Educational Achievement and Aspirations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise education in pre-care assessment • Implement pre-school PEPs • Improve educational standards across fostering/residential services 	Provide guidance and create pre-school PEPs Train/develop/ implement in all early years settings	<p>a) ELAC Team (to include additional responsibilities/ funding)</p> <p>b) Early Years Key workers</p> <p>c) All settings involved</p>	<p>a) September 2006</p> <p>b) Training/ involvement Early Years, Key Workers, completed by Spring Term 2007</p> <p>c) All settings aware by September 2007</p>	<p>Pre-school PEP's in place.</p> <p>Training evaluation successful</p> <p>Training complete</p>
35.1 35.2 39.1 39.4 40.1	<p>Secure Appropriate Education Including Schools Admissions and Exclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always ensure that educational provision is a priority in placement planning/monitoring and that the placement meets the child's educational needs • Improve awareness of the admissions process • Work with oversubscribed schools (admissions) to admit looked after children 	<p>All planning prioritises education at strategic and operational levels</p> <p>Via training</p> <p>Via inclusion at admission</p> <p>Ensure carers prioritise education (via Resources Panel).</p> <p>Via admission arrangements (Regulations 128/2006).</p> <p>Work with schools</p>	<p>Social Worker/ELAC Child Placement/ELAC Admission Officers</p> <p>Policy and Development/ Admissions Officers</p>	<p>September 2006</p> <p>September 2006</p> <p>Legally we will gain admission to oversubscribed schools – September 2007 (Education Bill)</p>	<p>Admissions Procedure in place</p> <p>Admissions and Exclusions Procedure in place</p> <p>Evaluation is currently with CAMAS/PPS (inclusion SIP agendas)</p>

Guidance Duty	Action	How	Who	When	Evaluation
45.2 50.3	<p>Ensure That All LAC Have an Effective, High quality Personal Education Plan (PEP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that there is no delay in the initiation of PEPs or in the implementation of actions • Support the educational achievement of Young People Leaving Care 	Via priority planning linking PEP and Accommodation Pack (PEP roles carried out) via Pathway Planning prioritising education	Social Worker/ELAC/Schools/ Settings PEP Co-ordinator Leaving Care Personal Advisers	New System (PEP) in place from October 2006. Electronic PEP also proposed (January 2007)	All LAC's should have a PEP (currently 85%)
55.1 55.4 56.1	<p>Actively Support Schools and Raise Their Awareness About the Needs of Looked After Children</p> <p>Further raise awareness of schools' governing bodies regarding LAC Provide additional training for designated teachers</p>	<p>Training/development opportunities for named school staff and governors</p> <p>INSET</p>	CAMAS/ELAC/Social Care Teams (LAC Teams)	<p>SIP visits to school (CAMAS)</p> <p>Governing Body Training (ongoing)</p> <p>Specific training for school based staff planned throughout the year</p>	<p>More inclusive schools</p> <p>Evaluation sheets</p> <p>Evaluation sheets</p>
59.1 59.2	<p>Share Information Effectively Through Interagency and Inter-Authority Co-operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve information sharing protocols 	In line with statutory guidance (Sections 10/11/12 Children Act 2004). Information sharing protocols.	Information sharing and assessment project managers	No sharing protocols in place but developments expected 2007/08. Issues remain re LAC from other LAs.	We intend to review our positions re LAC supporting LAC from other LAs

Guidance Duty	Action	How	Who	When	Evaluation
62.1	Out of Authority Placements LAC have an opportunity to visit both care placements and educational placements before they move.	Visits arranged/Childrens Services Authority and Primary Care Trust notified	Social Worker	We have obtained a place on the Social Care Resource Panel from July 2006	Clearer strategy of joint visits in place. Placements are more secure before LAC move.
67.6	Provide Training, Development and Support for Carers and Local Authority Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve front line delivery and Staffs' knowledge of the education of LAC • To encourage effective joint/interagency support for LAC 	Specific/appropriate training/development via a multi agency approach. Awareness raising at all levels. Targeted training to "preparation for carers".	Input from ELAC/CAMAS/Social Care/ Schools/Settings Health Corporate Parents	South West teams Training on-going. Designated "teacher" training on-going. Corporate Parenting Group on-going	Training evaluations Feedback

Looked After Children GCSE Results 2006



There are some significant improvements in LAC GCSE examination results overall.

In 2006 25 out of 30 pupils (83%) sat GCSE's. Last year (2005) out of 25 pupils only 18 sat GCSE's (72%). We focus on all pupils achieving at all levels but it is significant to report on improved GCSE's or equivalent.

In 2006 we had more pupils exhibiting severe learning difficulties (SEN) although fewer overall statements of SEN. 9 out of 30 children received statements of SEN, of these 6 (66%) exhibited severe learning difficulties and, therefore, sat no exams.

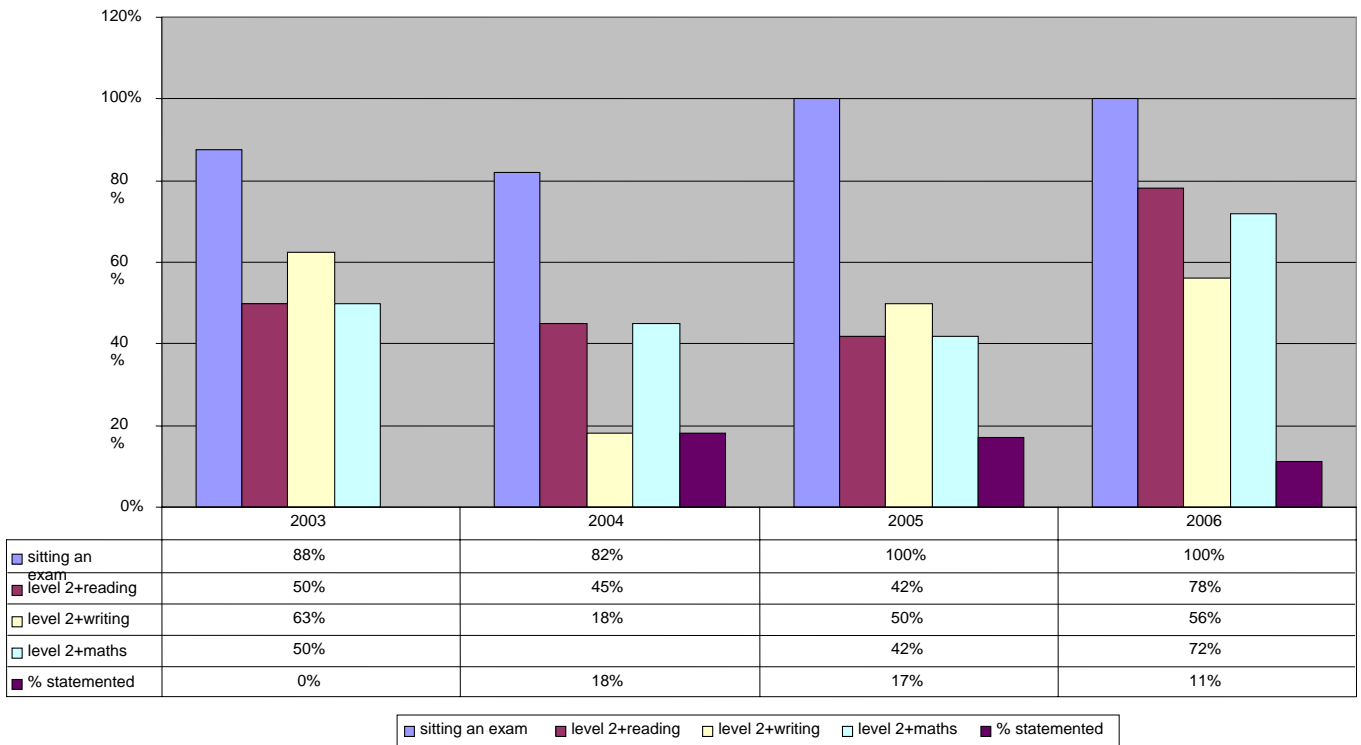
In 2006 there were significantly 4 pregnant schoolgirls (close to term) who prioritised preparing for parenthood over GCSE exams. (In 2005 there was 1).

Year 10 pupils have passed GCSE's this year, but these results will not count until next year.

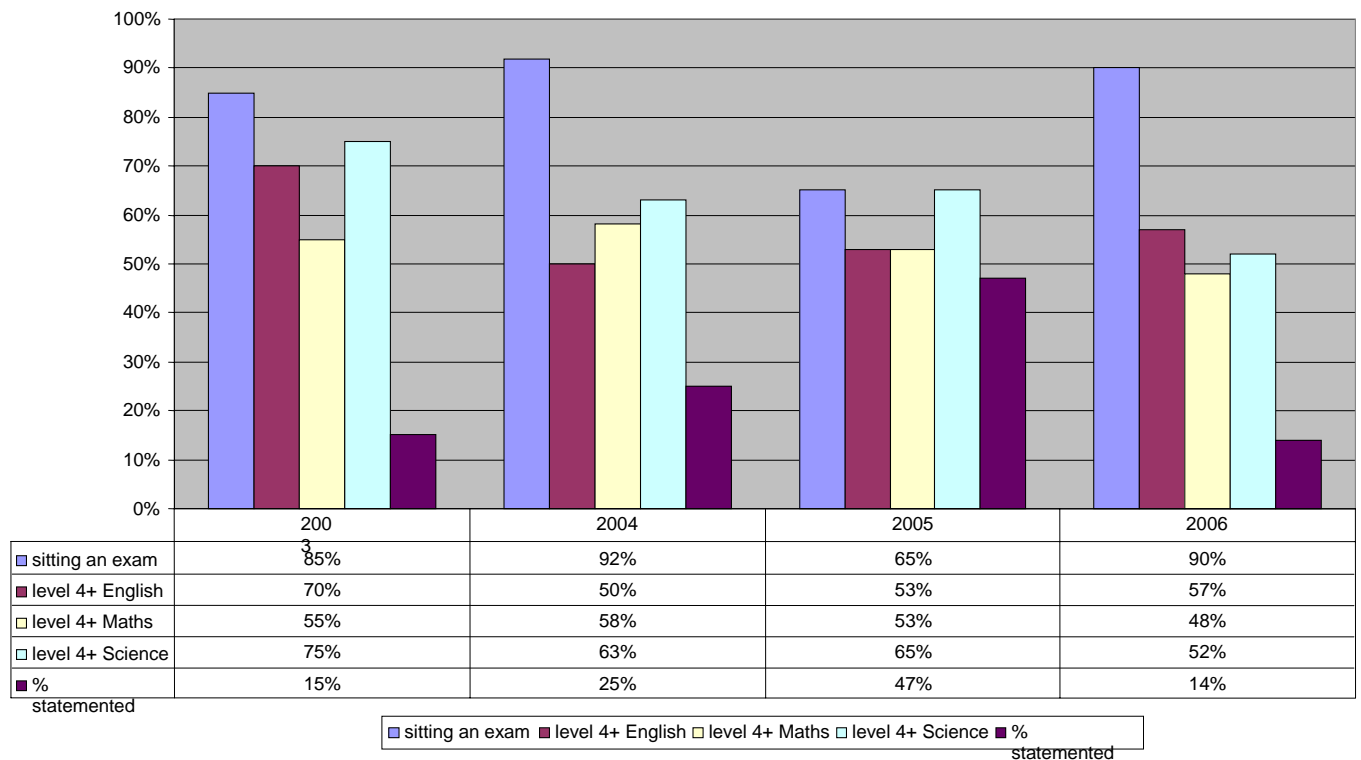
However 5A* - C GCSEs continue to be weak.

Nigel Ogley
5/10/06

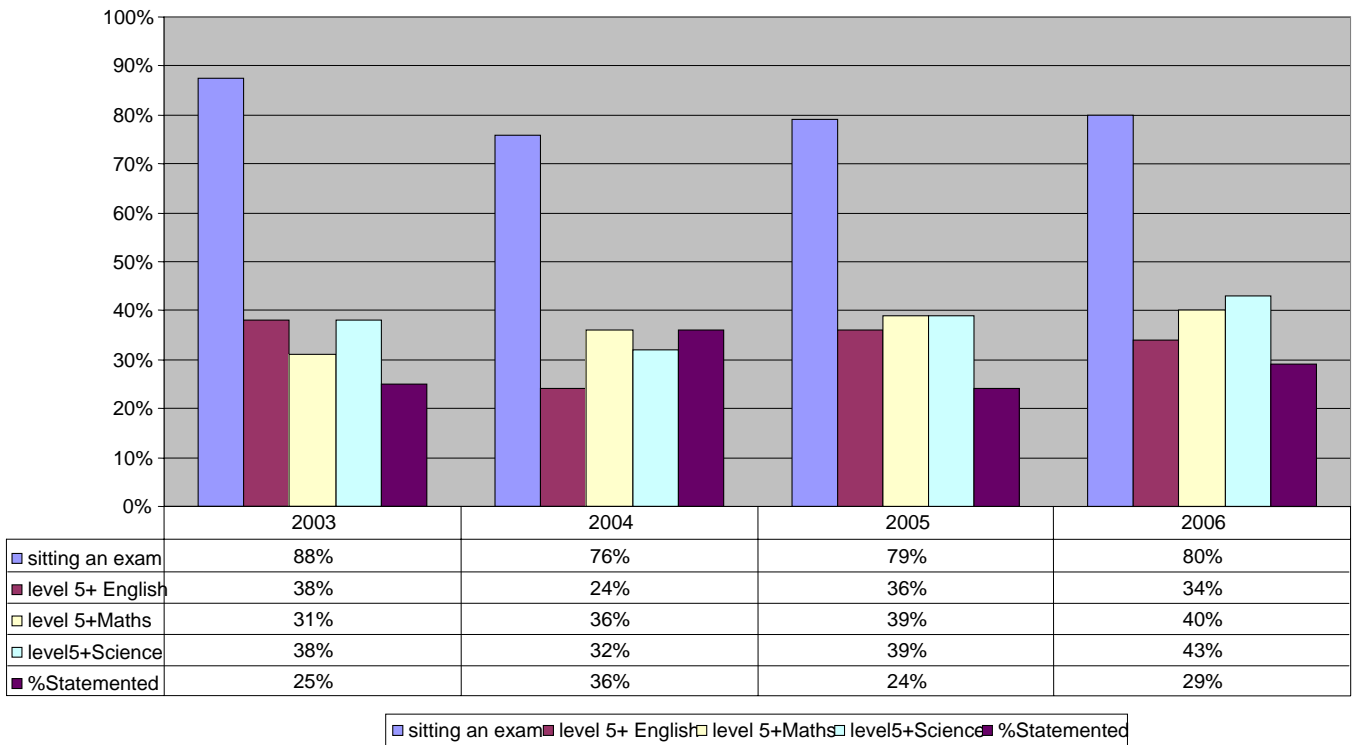
Key Stage 1 LAC Reaching Minimum Levels 2003 - 2006



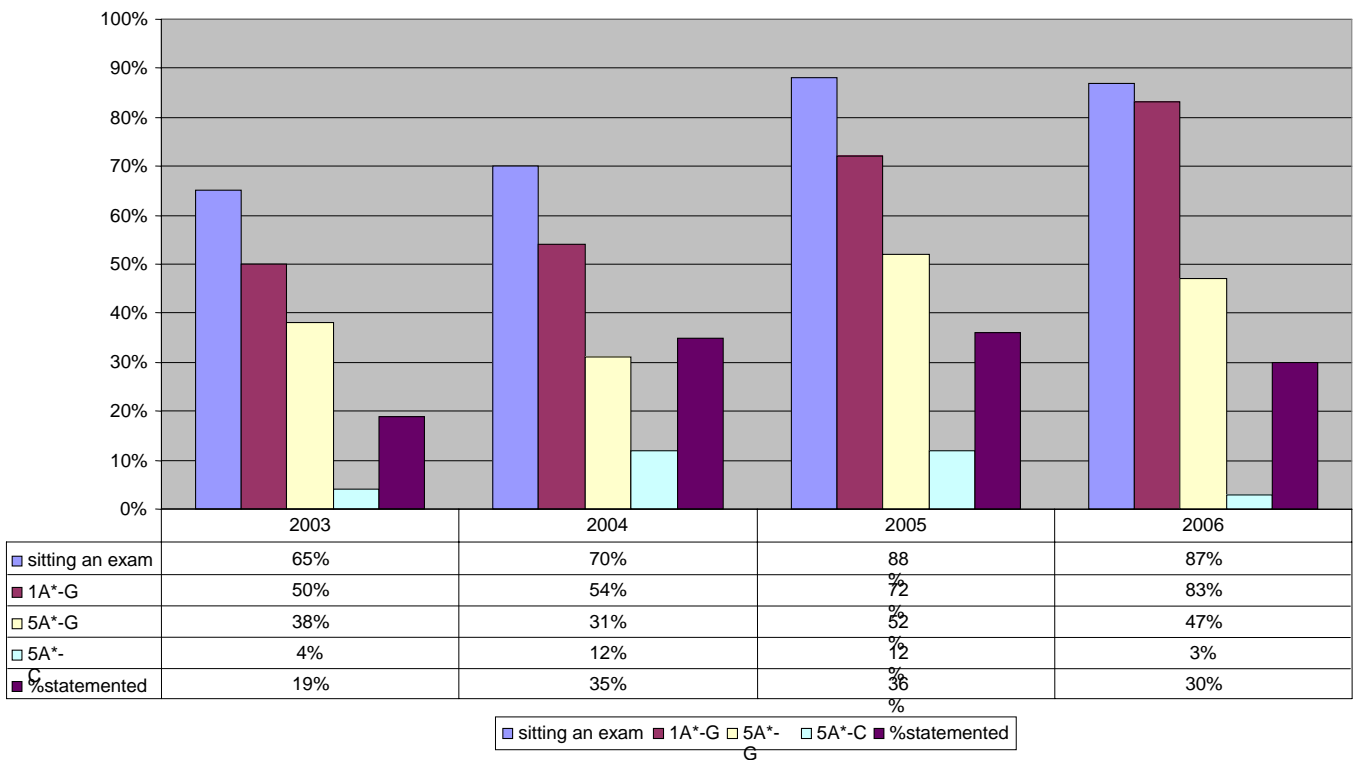
Key Stage 2 LAC Reaching Minimum Levels 2003-2006



Key Stage 3 LAC Reaching Minimum Levels 2003 -2006



Key Stage 4 LAC Results 2003 - 2006



Comparison of North Yorkshire LAC and Statistical Neighbours 2005 (based on 2005 returns)

Authority	% statemented	% permanent exclusion	% 25+ days absence	% ks12+read	% ks12+writ	% ks12+mat	% KS24+eng	% Gap(LAC/peers)	% KS24+mat	% Gap(LAC/peers)	% KS24+sc	% Gap(LAC/peers)	% Gap culm ks2	% KS35+eng	% Gap(LAC/peers)	% ks35+math	% Gap(LAC/peers)	% KS35+sci	% Gap(LAC/peers)	% Gap culm ks3	% KS41A-G	% Gap(LAC/peers)	% KS45A-G	% Gap(LAC/peers)	% KS4 5A-C	% Gap(LAC/peers)
North Yorks	32	0	6.5	_	40	_	47	36	47	32	53	36	35	36	42	39	43	36	44	43	72	26	52	40	12	51
Devon	40	2	14	33	_	56	52	28	44	32	56	32	31	27	48	31	45	31	42	45	73	25	45	46	_	
Somerset	25	0	10	_	_	_	_		_		_			31	44	31	45	31	43	44	29	68	25	66	_	
East Riding	28	_	12	_	_	_	_		_		_			_		_		_			63	35	58	36	_	
Dorset	38	_	15	_	_	_	_		_		_			_		_		_			65	32	42	50	_	
Cornwall	35	_	3	_	_	73	38	40	29	45	43	43	43	38	36	31	44	38	35	38	68	29	45	46	_	
Lincolnshire	38	4	4	47	42	53	26	54	30	45	37	50	50	28	50	_		25	51		58	40	33	58	_	
Cambridge	49	0	_	_	_	_	44	38	_		38	52		36	44	32	46	24	52	47	52	45	44	49	_	
Shropshire	35	0	11	_	_	_	_		_		_			_		_		_			83	15	56	37	_	
Herefordshire	34	0	9	_	_	_	_		_		55	33		37	54	37	40	47	26	40	82	16	65	27	11	
Norfolk	26	0	11	59	56	70	43	35	43	30	63	23	29	22	52	40	35	38	33	40	56	41	36	55	_	

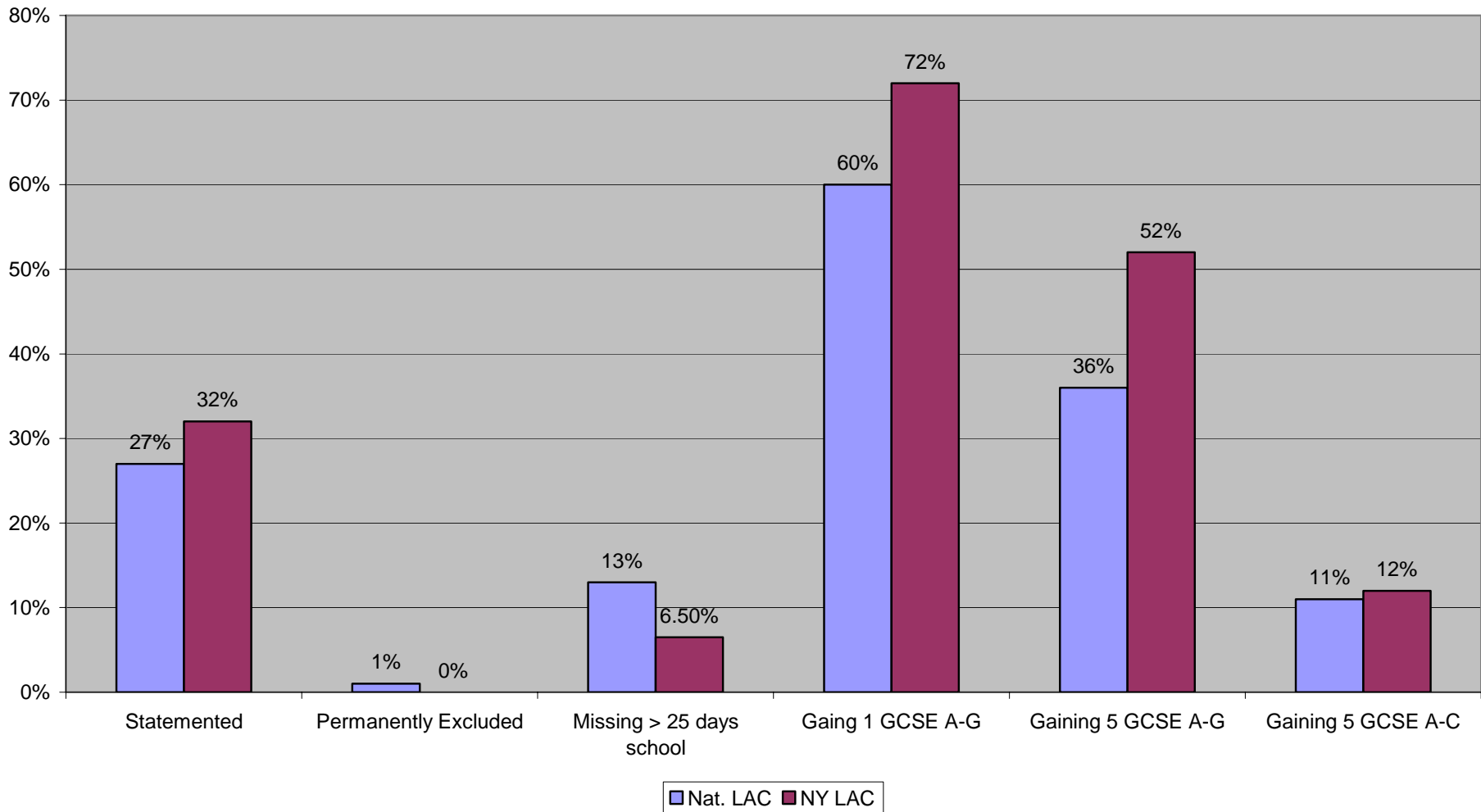
_ indicates small numbers suppressed to preserve confidentiality.

Normally this will be a number between 1 and 5 inclusive, or a percentage where either the numerator is between 1 and 5 or the denominator is between 1 and 10 inclusive

Looked After Children
LPSA Results 2005/06

Target	2006 Result	2005 Result	Average	Achieved
30% gaining 5 x A*-C	3	12	7.5	X
55% gaining 5 x A*-G	47	52	49.5	√ (60%)
65% gaining 1 x A*-G	83	72	77.5	√
61% gaining minimum levels @ Key Stages (56.2)	53	47	50	X
77% sat exam (73.4)	89	83	86	√

2005 LAC Result National v. North Yorkshire Comparison



Events involving listening to and responding to the views of looked after children and care leavers 2006.

Summary

North Yorkshire County Council has shown a commitment this year to listen to and respond to the views of those Looked After Children and care leavers which it has a Corporate Parenting responsibility towards.

The following events have involved direct interface between young people, senior managers and Councillors.

- At a local level, three groups for Looked After Children and one for care leavers has run throughout the year with the Harrogate group being most successful in terms of outcomes.
- Run by Social Workers and care leavers with experience of the system, these groups consist of 4 to 6 Looked After Children meeting on a monthly basis and discussing issues which are important to them.
- The young people have been involved in the development of various leaflets aimed at Looked After Children, in training for Foster Carers and in publicity campaigns and training for Foster Carers.
- A group is due to begin in Selby in the new year where managers have committed to restarting those groups in Scarborough and Richmond.
- At a county level, care leavers have helped to run two Celebration of Achievement days at Scarborough Graham School and Riccall Regen Centre. Over 70 young people have been involved in these events which have acted as consultations on their views and presentation of awards for achievements. Senior managers and Councillors have been actively involved in these.
- Other local events have included a Christmas card contest developed by Looked After Children, the outcome of which has been the development of a Christmas card for all Foster Carers and Councillors and consultation on bullying which has resulted in the development of an anti bullying poster available to all our Looked After Children and care leavers.
- Quarterly meetings continue to be held involving 6 to 8 Looked After Children and care leavers Assistant director Paul Nixon and Caroline Patmore out of which several positive outcomes have resulted

including consideration of an out of hours service for care leavers and increased access to computers for Looked After Children.

- One outcome of this was the No Roof No Job conference in November which involved 12 care leavers and focussed on improving accommodation for care leavers .This had several important outcomes including the provision of storage space, better transport and increased housing for our care leavers.
- Care leavers from North Yorkshire were actively involved in a recent government event in Newcastle which addressed the forthcoming green paper and will discuss this locally at a meeting with Caroline Patmore and Paul Nixon in late November.
- Looked After Children and care leavers are now involved in the recruitment of all Social care managers.
- A Children's Rights Officer has been appointed and will hopefully continue to progress the outstanding developments in terms of listening to these young peoples views in the future.

JERRY BARNES