

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30 November 2007

Work Programme Report

1.0 Purpose of Report

This report asks the Committee to:

- (a) note the information in this report
- (b) confirm, amend or add to the list of matters shown on the work programme (attached at Annex A)
- (c) comment on the draft Scrutiny Guidance (attached at Annex B)

2.0 Draft Scrutiny Guidance

At the meeting of the Scrutiny Board 30th January 2007 Members agreed to set up a working group (the initial membership of the group was expanded to include all members of Scrutiny Board) to look at the implications of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill and to start thinking about how NYCC could prepare for this future legislation.

The draft scrutiny guidance is now being taken to each of the overview and scrutiny committees for comment and/or amendment and is attached at Annex B.

3.0 Mid Cycle Briefing – 18th October 2007

The Mid Cycle Briefing was open to all Members of the Committee.

Topics covered included:

- Local Democracy and the establishment and further development of Youth Councils in Harrogate , Richmondshire, Ryedale and Selby.
- HyBRid - North Yorkshire's Youth Participation Self – Assessment Tool
Members were briefed on the Self Assessment and Quality Assurance Tool being developed by the Councils 4Youth Service and Voice Influence and Participation team from an original concept used by Sunderland.

HyBRid's main function will be to support the implementation of the Children & Young Peoples Plan, develop quality assurance processes and improve the Positive Engagement of young people with young people across North Yorkshire.

Members have asked to be kept informed of HyBRid's development and will be interested to learn the views of young people on the use of this assessment tool.

- Youth Work Area Plans – Members were advised that all Area Youth Work Plans are now complete. The Area Plans very much mirror the lines of the Children & Young Peoples Plan and include project profiles, milestones and outcomes.

The Chairman requested a copy of all Youth Work Area Plans be placed in the Members Room to raise awareness with all members of the County Council.

- Developing a Children & Young Peoples Art Strategy
Briefing and overview on the development of the Children and Young People's Arts Strategy and discuss the development of a C&YP Art Strategy and possible involvement of members of the committee. (Briefing Report attached at Annex C)

4.0 Scrutiny Review – 'A Sporting Chance'

The Task Group met to confirm and amend the content of the draft report following the useful comments made by Members of the Committee at the last meeting. The necessary adjustments and amendments have been made to the draft Final Report which is attached at Annex D

5.0 Next In-depth Scrutiny Review

The first meeting of the School Meals Task Group was held on the 13th November. Officers from the Children & Young Peoples Service/ North Yorkshire County Caterers briefed the Task Group on the current service provision and on the impact of job evaluation. The Task Group are in the process of drawing up the focus and scope of this review.

There is a particularly tight timeframe for this scrutiny project. A draft report will therefore be brought to the Committee for their consideration in January 2008.

6.0 Environment & Heritage Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Task Group on Reducing Corporate Waste

The Environment & Heritage O&S Committee has set up a task group to look into how the County Council can

- a) reduce the amount of waste it produces as an organisation, and
- b) increase, re-use or recycling on council premises and in schools.

The terms of reference for the project are attached at Annex E.

An email has been sent to all North Yorkshire schools asking for examples of good practice in re-use and recycling, and any barriers that schools are experiencing. In December the task group will be visiting schools in the Harrogate area that have, or are introducing, effective recycling schemes.

For further information please contact rachel.rushforth@northyorks.gov.uk,
Scrutiny Support Officer for Environment & Heritage Overview & Scrutiny
Committee.

Recommendation

6.0 The Committee is recommended to:

- note the information in this report
- confirm, amend, or add to the list of matters shown on the work programme (attached at Annex A)
- comment on the draft Scrutiny Guidance
- comment

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Date: 21 November 2007

Annexes: Annex A Work Programme
B Draft Scrutiny Guidance
C Developing a Children & Young Peoples Art Strategy
D Scrutiny Review – ‘A Sporting Chance’
E Terms of Reference

For information:

Future Meeting Dates 2008:		
Month	Dates printed in 2008 Diary	Amendments & Comments
January		
February	19 – Agenda Briefing 14.00 22 – Committee now 10.30	Dates remain the same but please note change of start time for Committee
March	28 – Mid Cycle Briefing 10.30	
April	30 – Agenda Briefing 14.00 10.30	Change in time only
May	2 - Committee now 10.30	Date remains the same but please note change of start time for Committee
June	06 – Reserve Committee 10.30 20 – Mid Cycle Briefing 14.00 10.30	Add date/time to your diary Change in time only
July	9 – Agenda Briefing 14.00 10.30 11 – Committee now 10.30	Change in time only Please note change of start time for Committee
August	22 – Mid Cycle Briefing 10.30	Cancelled
September	05 - Mid Cycle Briefing 10.30 22 - Briefing 14.00 10.30 26 – Committee now 10.30	Change in time only Date remains the same but please note change of start time for Committee
October	10 - Mid Cycle Briefing 10.30 24 – Mid Cycle Briefing 10.30 31 – Reserve Committee 10.30	Cancelled Add date/time to your diary
November	24 – Briefing 14.00 10.30 28 – Committee now 10.30	Change in time only Please note change of start time for Committee
December		

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME – 2007/2008 (updated November 2007)

Every Child Matters Outcomes

1 Be Healthy

2 Stay Safe

3 Enjoy & Achieve

4 Make a positive contribution

5 Achieve Economic Well-Being

In-depth Scrutiny Projects

SUBJECT	AIMS/TERMS OF REFERENCE	ACTION/BY WHOM	TIMESCALES
Sports Provision and participation for Young People in North Yorkshire	To consider how the County Council works with partner organisations to improve and increase the percentage of 5 – 16 year olds accessing two hours or more of high quality PE and School Sport within and beyond the curriculum each week; understand the importance and benefits of physical education and sport for young people.	Briefing Seminar and Scoping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Group Meeting • Consultations • Draft Report to Committee • Final draft Report to Committee 	March/April/June September 07 November 07
School Meals	Following the job evaluation review and the increase in pay rates for Cooks the Committee agreed to work with the Catering Board and consider the alternative options available.	Task Group - Draft Report to autumn meeting of the committee	November - December 2007
Children as Victims of Domestic Violence	Proposed that the next in-depth scrutiny review looks into the support offered and provided to children, young people and their families as victims of domestic violence. Included in this review would be the role of Children's Centre's and partnership working.	Briefing Seminar and Scoping Exercise with Scrutiny Review Group and Officers from the Children & Young Peoples Service	Jan 2008 April/May 2008
OVERVIEW REPORTS			
Monitoring Pupil Numbers	Members of the committee requested an Overview report , on a purely theoretical and no commitment basis, which explores the options of the local formula for schools funding in the light of falling rolls	Corporate Director of Children & Young Peoples Service	November 07

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME – 2007/2008 (updated November 2007)

1 Be Healthy	2 Stay Safe	3 Enjoy & Achieve	4 Make a positive contribution	5 Achieve Economic Well-Being
SUBJECT	AIMS/TERMS OF REFERENCE		ACTION/BY WHOM	TIMESCALES
Health Related Behaviour Survey	Overview Report on the actions taken against the outcomes and recommendations arising from Health Related Behaviour Survey undertaken on behalf of NYCC and NY&Y PCT		Officer from the Children & Young Peoples Service	November 07
Anti Bullying	Overview Report on the take up of Anti Bullying practices by Schools in North Yorkshire and the actions being taken in relation to the findings in the Health Related Survey		Officer from the Children & Young Peoples Service	November 07
14-19 year olds Education & Skills	Briefing on the radical reform of the system for 14.-19 education and plans to transform secondary and post-secondary education so that all young people achieve and continue in learning until at least the age of 18.		Corporate Director of the Children & Young Peoples Service	February 08
Youth Offending Team	Briefing on the newly developed Education Training and Employment Strategy		Lesley Ingleson	February 2008
Young People and diversity	Children and young people from minority group backgrounds		To be advised	February 2008
Drug and Alcohol Treatments and services	Members to be briefed on the services, treatments and partnership arrangements available to young people with drug and alcohol problems.		To be advised	May 2008
Multi Agency Looked After Partnership	Responsibilities towards other LA's Children who live in North Yorkshire.		Paul Nixon and Nigel Ogley	May 2008
Commissioning for the Children's Health Agenda	Update from the North Yorkshire and York PCT on Childrens Services		Director of Commissioning and Director of Operations NY & Y PCT	May 2008

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME – 2007/2008 (updated November 2007)

1 Be Healthy	2 Stay Safe	3 Enjoy & Achieve	4 Make a positive contribution	5 Achieve Economic Well-Being
SUBJECT	AIMS/TERMS OF REFERENCE		ACTION/BY WHOM	TIMESCALES
Public Health Agenda for Children & Young People in North Yorkshire	Briefing by the Public Health Directorate on young people health related issues and the standards associated to the National Service Framework for Children and Maternity Services.		Director of Public Health	May 2008
Young Carers	Overview and clarification on the support and funding arrangements for this vulnerable group of young people		Director of C&YPS and Director of Adult Social Care	July 2008
Delegated Resources	Progress Report on the processes for Monitoring, Challenging and Supporting Schools who use delegated resources for children with special needs and underachieving gifted and talented children		John Bell	July 2008
C&YPS Partner organisations	Fire Service and Voluntary sector to be invited to explain their contribution to the Every Child Matters agenda		To be advised	July 2008
Children with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities	Transition planning for children & young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.			Sept 2008
Contact Point	Progress report on the policy guidance for users of Contact Point		Andrew Whittaker and Lynette Wise, Integrated Childrens Systems	Sept 2008
Extended Schools agenda	Progress report on the development of the Extended Schools programme		Bernadette Jones and Carolyn Bird	Sept 2008

This is a working document therefore topics and timeframes could alter

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***Your Guide to Overview and Scrutiny
in North Yorkshire County Council***

Insert picture for front cover



September 2007

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Purpose of this Guide

The aim of this scrutiny guide is to provide Councillors, partners of the County Council, Health Partners County Council Officers and members of the public with the tools to offer effective scrutiny for the County of North Yorkshire. Within this guide you will find information on how scrutiny is arranged, the process of scrutiny and useful hints and tips to enable effective scrutiny.

Introduction

North Yorkshire County Council is comprised of 72 elected County Councillors.

The Local Government Act 2000 requires Local Authorities to have executive arrangements, which means that decisions are taken on behalf of the Council, on most major issues, by the Executive which is made up of 8 Councillors. The Executive make their decisions within the pre-approved Council policies.

To ensure that the decisions taken by the Executive are in the best interests of the people of North Yorkshire, Overview and Scrutiny Committees were established. Scrutiny is undertaken by Councillors who do not hold Executive posts within the Council. It is used to ensure that the work of North Yorkshire County Council is accountable, open and transparent. It also makes sure that decisions made by the Executive are in the best interests of the residents of North Yorkshire.

Scrutiny has a dual role; it is used to scrutinise the decisions taken by the Executive and also looks at issues, researches good practice and makes recommendations based on research, which can include a recommendation to the Executive to revise a policy. Scrutiny is an internal function of the Council, there is, however, the possibility of investigating external agencies that work in partnership with the County Council to deliver services for example within the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Scrutiny of Health has a specific power to scrutinise local health provision.

The Centre of Public Scrutiny propose that there are four principles to effective public scrutiny, these are:

- to be a 'critical friend' in challenging executives as well as external authorities and agencies;
- to reflect the voice and concerns of local people and communities;
- to lead and own the scrutiny process on behalf of the public;
- to make an impact on the delivery of public services.

The role of Overview and Scrutiny

This section describes how overview and scrutiny is organised, how it fits in with the political structure and is part of the Council's decision making process

There are nine overview and scrutiny committees whose job it is to look into how effectively the Council is serving the needs of its communities. The aims of these Committees are:

- * To hold the Executive to account.
- * To assist the Executive in ensuring the continuous improvement of services in North Yorkshire, with a particular focus on outcomes for the community.
- * To ensure that the experience and knowledge of businesses, community groups, service providers and service users are used to develop the County Council's services.
- * To help the County Council better fulfil its community leadership role by looking beyond services provided by the County Council to consider issues affecting the wider community, e.g. health services.

In other words, the purpose of overview and scrutiny is to examine how well the Executive and the authority are performing. Wherever possible it will concentrate on outcomes for the community, not on inputs. It is a mechanism for promoting the best interests and wellbeing of the County. In-depth Scrutiny Reviews therefore adopt the role of 'critical friend' and focus on strategic issues.

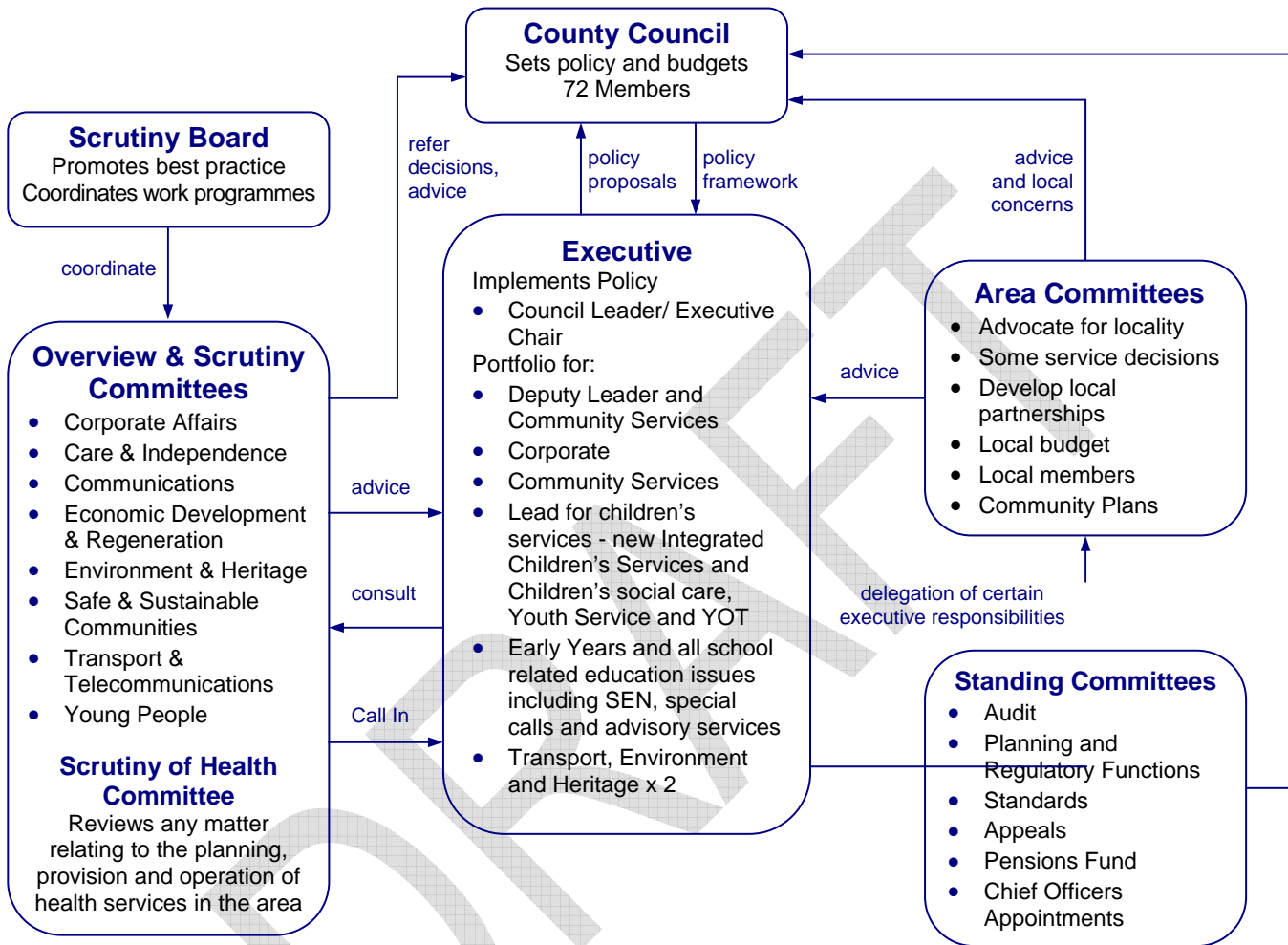
They produce reports and recommendations which advise the Executive and the Council as a whole on its policies and service delivery, as well as looking at reviews of individual services to see if they provide best value for local people. Overview and Scrutiny committees also monitor the decisions of the Executive. They may also be consulted by the Executive or the Council on forthcoming decisions and the development of policy.

The remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees are:

COMMITTEE	SCOPE
Safe and Sustainable Communities	Community development, community safety, community strategies and the accessibility of Council Services to communities.
Young People	The interests of young people, including education, care and protection and family support.
Care and Independence	The needs of vulnerable adults and older people and people whose independence needs to be supported by intervention from the public or voluntary sector.
Transport and Telecommunications Services	Transport and communications infrastructure of all kinds, however owned or provided, and how the transport needs of the community are met.

COMMITTEE	SCOPE
Economic Development and Regeneration	Supporting business, helping people develop their skills, including lifelong learning and regeneration of the economic infrastructure of North Yorkshire.
Environment and Heritage	Sustainable development, countryside management, waste management, environmental conservation and enhancement and cultural issues.
Corporate Affairs	The Council's corporate organisation and structure, resource allocation, asset management, procurement policy, equalities, people strategy, performance management and the implementation of corporate initiatives.
Communications	How the Council listens to and communicates with partners, stakeholders and the public; how it tells them how it plans to meet their needs and what it is doing, communications and information services delivered through libraries; and electronic communications.
Scrutiny of Health	<p>To review any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the County, including Ambulance Trusts and the policies of the Strategic Health Authority.</p> <p>The aim is to ensure that the needs of the local people are considered as an integral part of the delivery and development of health services.</p> <p>To focus on action to achieve health improvement; to examine health care in the context of the wider determinants of health; to examine how health services address the needs of local communities; especially to address health inequalities; to ensure that local health and health related issues are being tackled jointly and in a co-ordinated way across agencies</p> <p>As part of the Healthcare Commission process of annual health checks to comment on the performance of all NHS Trusts serving North Yorkshire.</p>

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
POLITICAL STRUCTURE
(May 2006)



How do scrutiny committees work?

This section explains how the Overview and Scrutiny Committees undertake their work.

There are several ways in which the Overview and Scrutiny Committees undertake Scrutiny activities. Having a mixture of Scrutiny activities, more searching In-depth Reviews and shorter task-and-finish project groups to look into specific problems, will allow Scrutiny to demonstrate some 'quick wins' while still dealing with issues of substance. It is important to remember that Overview and Scrutiny Committees, as well as making suggestions for improvements to council services, can acknowledge good practice, strong performance and commitment within the authority.

Meetings:

Committee A formal County Council meeting involving members of the committee asking questions of partner agencies and individuals. It is open to the public and takes into account issues that have been raised by the public within the 3 day notice period required.

It is the responsibility of the Committee Members to declare an interest in any particular matter under discussion. If further guidance is required, this can be sought from the Committee Administrator or Monitoring Officer.

Fact Finding The committee calls a meeting with members of the public to consult with them on a particular issue.

Forum 'Question time' style of meeting which involves partner agencies participating and being prepared to answer questions from the Committee and members of the public without the 3 day notification period. (Subject to partner agreement to this approach.)

Task Group An informal meeting between key Councillors of the Committee, stakeholders and/or partners to gather information.

Call in: Challenging Executive decisions

To 'call in' a decision means to review a decision made by the Executive or an officer with delegated responsibility, before it is implemented. This should involve a discussion of the reasons behind the decision, and consideration of alternatives. There is a limited time-scale during which an Executive decision can be called-in. This process should be used to make sure that the Executive is making decisions based on the best available evidence, and that the outcomes will be beneficial for local people. More information on the 'call in' process can be found in the Scrutiny Information Sheet number 6.

Select Committee Scrutiny working

This refers to a particular approach to Scrutiny work, where an Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee works as a whole Committee to address a particular

issue. This includes deciding on the scope of the topic, framing questions, and calling in witnesses. Where appropriate, Committees involve other interested parties and stakeholders in determining what are the most important questions that need answering. The Committees are solely responsible for making recommendations to the Executive. This type of activity is particularly useful when there is a specific service area or activity that Councillors want to check is performing well or otherwise be held to account. Select Committee working can be a very effective way of gathering evidence and tackling issues of community concern in a time efficient manner.

Question and answer session

When an issue is quite discrete and contained, when time is short, or when initial concerns have yet to be clarified, O&S Committees can choose to conduct a short question and answer session involving one or two people with a particular expertise in, or knowledge of, the topic. Committees discourage such representatives from giving stock presentations and instead concentrate on building up information through probing questions. This enables the O&S Committee to conduct a relatively quick and straightforward piece of work. However, it is not just 'fact-finding', as Committees conclude by making specific comments and recommendations for consideration by the Executive or for other relevant agencies to act upon.

Small Task and Finish Group

Small task and finish groups are set up by O&S Committees to carry out research into an issue to help inform the whole Committee's discussion at a later point. The task group is usually made up of three or four members of the Committee and is responsible for reviewing key documents, understanding relevant legislation, and where appropriate interviewing key officers, external experts or members of the public. This type of activity is particularly useful when the Committee knows it has a detailed or lengthy plan coming to it for Scrutiny and would benefit from some guidance as to what are the key issues to explore, before the meeting takes place. Such preparation allows the Committee to make the best use of its limited time and resources during the meeting to concentrate on the key points.

The Task and Finish Group report its findings back to the originating O&S Committee. The Chairman of the O&S Committee and/or a representative of the Task and Finish Group then present the report and any recommendations to the Executive or Executive Member.

Policy Development and Review

This identifies a topic for Scrutiny to look at in detail. This work is often carried out as an In-depth Scrutiny Review undertaken by a small group of Scrutiny Councillors tasked by a particular O&S Committee. Scrutiny Reviews involve taking up issues that are important to the community, evaluating council policies and services, and measuring North Yorkshire's performance against the council's own standards and the performance of other local authorities. It does this with a view to involving local people, and responding to their concerns. This process is more time-consuming for Scrutiny Councillors than other Committee activities, and Scrutiny Reviews usually require a longer time-scale than other, less detailed pieces of Scrutiny work. Given the time involved and the limited resources at Scrutiny's disposal, it is unlikely that

any given Scrutiny Committee can succeed in doing more than one or two Reviews in a year. Topics for Scrutiny Reviews are therefore carefully prioritised.

In order to make sure that the Review is as effective as possible, it is vital that the scope of the Review is well defined, and that the project is well run. For this reason each Review starts with a 'scoping template' which outlines the time-scale, key sources of information, principal witnesses and public involvement. See information sheet 5 for further information on scoping the review.

The Task Group can interview expert witnesses and stakeholders, service users, managers and Executive Members. This questioning process is a significant element of the Review and can provide important evidence from both the 'front line', as well as a strategic overview. The Financial and Central Services Directorate should first sign off any financial implications outlined in the review before the Task Group presents the evidence collected to the full Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Committee signs off the report.

The report and recommendations are then considered by the Executive which is required to respond to the Scrutiny proposals. The outcome of the Review process should be a significant influence on Executive decisions concerning policy in important areas of service provision and council management.

Overview

It is important for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to monitor service areas within their remit, this is done through; one off 'for information' reports from officers on a specific topic requested by the Committee or progress and performance reports brought forward from the Directorates

Monitoring external agencies

Scrutiny work can be undertaken to address issues that affect local people and involve services which are delivered by external agencies. This could include the police and criminal justice agencies, the voluntary sector, health services, utility companies and others. The County Council is engaged with agencies to provide a range of services and it is important that these partnership arrangements are transparent and accountable.

Councillor Call for Action

A Councillor can bring forward local issues to be considered by the relevant overview and scrutiny committee. The o&s committee will take a view on whether the matter can be included within the work programme.

How are the public and partners involved in scrutiny?

This section sets out how individuals and external groups can be involved with the overview and scrutiny function.

External organisations and individuals can bring a new perspective to an issue and an in depth day to day knowledge of a policy and/or service area. North Yorkshire County Council is committed to making scrutiny meetings accessible to all sections of the community wherever possible and to remove barriers to participation.

Agendas (which include the minutes of the previous meeting) are always published 8 days ahead of the Committee meeting and are available on the NYCC website or on request from Committee Services.

If members of the public have a particular question to ask or statement to make they are requested to inform the Committee Administrator at least 3 working days before the meeting. In exceptional circumstances, however, the Committee Chairman may use his discretion to allow public questions at the meeting.

There are several ways of engaging the public:

- ◆ contributors to the work programmes;
- ◆ as participants at meetings of the committees;
- ◆ as co-opted Members;
- ◆ as experts and witnesses;

To develop effective participation we need to be:

- ◆ clear about the goals in order to select the most appropriate participation technique;
- ◆ let people inside and outside the authority know what we're doing;
- ◆ invite as broad a range of people to participate rather than wait for people to come forward;
- ◆ be alert to the barriers affecting the participation of particular groups;
- ◆ have clear and achievable timetables where participation is to play a part.

In order to make this work, participation needs to:

- ◆ have an impact on decision-making;
- ◆ clearly identify contributor involvement and influence;
- ◆ ensure appropriate methods of involvement;
- ◆ use plain English;
- ◆ ensure equal status for participants.

Some possible approaches:

- ◆ change the physical environment (appropriate venue or room layout)
- ◆ encourage participation
- ◆ greater use of press releases and media launches

- ◆ utilise links with partner and other agencies e.g. joint working parties, workshops, research
- ◆ site visits
- ◆ Co-option of representatives.

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How is scrutiny work monitored?

This section explains how Scrutiny recommendations are followed up to ensure the function is having an impact.

After a scrutiny review report has been reported to the Executive (or to the full council or some other external body such as an NHS Trust, a voluntary sector organisation, or a local strategic partnership) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is entitled to expect a response from the recipient to clearly state which of the recommendations it is going to put into action. This response should also set out an explanation for any recommendations that have not been accepted. This statement can then form the basis of any follow-up work the Committee might undertake.

For Overview and Scrutiny to have credibility with local people they need to know that it leads to improvements. O&S Committees therefore track the outcome of the scrutiny review recommendations. Each O&S in-depth review is revisited 6 to 12 months after the presentation of the final report to the Executive. This allows the O&S Committee to assess what progress has been made.

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We hope you find this guide to overview and scrutiny at North Yorkshire County Council useful. If you have any suggestions about how we could improve it further please do not hesitate to contact us.

We would like to thank Oxfordshire County Council and Leeds City Council for allowing us to use their scrutiny guidance and to our own Scrutiny Board Working Group who played a significant role in its content and design.

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Overview and Scrutiny Information leaflets

This section lists all the additional information sheets referred to throughout this guide which contain more detailed information to better understand specific aspects of overview and scrutiny and include lots of tips and hints to make overview and scrutiny more effective.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	Questioning Techniques
2	Guidance notes for external witnesses
3	Guidance notes for County Council officers called as witnesses
4	Choosing scrutiny topics
5	Scoping an in-depth review
6	What is call-in?
7	What is a councillor call for action?
8	Guidance notes for public sector partners
9	Guidance notes for Scrutiny of Health

If you would like a copy of any of the leaflets please contact the Scrutiny Team.

To get in touch with the Scrutiny Team:



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If you would like this information in another language or format, please ask us

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje
w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać.

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔

Questioning Techniques

Introduction

This document applies particularly to In-depth Scrutiny Reviews but the principles and techniques set out can be adopted for use at all Overview and Scrutiny Committees. As 'witnesses', Members, officers and interest groups may be called on to respond to questions from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or the Task Group on their behalf), which aims to collect evidence relevant to the In-depth Scrutiny Review. The focus of this paper is on the principles and techniques to be employed when considering what questions are appropriate for witnesses, to ensure that the interview session is useful and effective.

Preparation

Before 'witnesses' are called they will be sent a copy of the relevant guidance for witnesses and be given an idea of the questions they will be asked. The purpose of questioning is to elicit useful information and not to try to catch people out. Councillors ask questions and pursue a point but there should be no hostility in the process. Questioning needs to be probing but not destructive – incisive but constructive. The most powerful questions can often be the simplest and provoke the most interesting response.

The Styles of Questioning

When questioning witnesses, different techniques can be used to elicit the most useful responses. For easy reference, these have been divided into "do's" and "don't's".

The Do's Open questions

Open questions have the greatest potential. Information is requested in a neutral way and the witness is encouraged to do most of the talking and to expand on relevant points.

- Q** What do you consider is best about....e.g., .the service?
- Q** How did you establish x, y priority(ies) in the service?
- Q** How did you decide which aspects of the service to delegate/ to focus on as a key priority etc?

The key prefixes are What? How? Why? The following phrases are also useful: -

- Q** Tell me about a time when ...
- Q** Explain to me about how you ...

Follow up responses with probing questions to yield additional clarity. This technique can also be used to help you get beyond superficial or rehearsed answers to questions. It may even be necessary to help you to form a balanced picture by seeking contrary evidence. Probing questions use the answer received for one question as the basis for taking the discussion further with your next question. For example: -

- Q You say that you did ... Can you give me a specific example of how you carried that out?
- Q I was interested to hear you say ... can you tell me more about that?
- Q Can you enlarge on the statement you made about ...?

Hypothetical Questions

This can be useful in obtaining good evidence for the Review, as well as testing possibilities to formulate new ideas and solutions. They can be valid in testing knowledge such as whether someone is familiar with a certain procedure or process.

- Q How would you set about changing your/Council's strategy for doing X?

Behavioural questions

This sort of question can provide guidance as to how a service provider or an organisation might do a task (which may be central to the Review) in future. The question obtains an accurate example of past behaviour.

- Q What did your organisation do on this issue before, to ensure outcomes x, y, z?

The Don't's Closed questions

A question which can be answered in a single word, can actually be very useful in clearing up points of fact. However if it is over-used, it will close down the witness and restrict the amount of information which the witness may be able to give.

- Q Did you know/are you aware that x priority identified in this service was achieved/will be achieved?

Leading questions

These questions are phrased in such a way as to make it clear to the respondee what answer is expected. The technique is poor because it may force people into a false position because they are aware how they are expected to respond.

- Q Presumably, from knowledge of your organisation's position, you agree that service/policy x successfully achieves.....?

Double-Headed questions

These ask more than one question at a time and should be avoided as they are confusing. Moreover they offer witnesses an easy strategy to defend themselves by simply selecting the bit of the question they are comfortable answering whilst ignoring the rest.

- Q** In your role/your organisation's role there is a responsibility for doing/achieving/monitoring etc X,Y ,.... and what is the system for communicating these to the Authority in relation to the service or policy under review?

Whilst these "two questions in one" might both be valid lines of enquiry, they would be more productive if presented one at a time.

Multiple Choice questions

The witness is presented here not only with a question but also 2 possible answers, neither of which may provide a real explanation.

- Q** Do you or does your organisation believe/do etc x, y or do you/your organisation instead do x, y, z,?

Discriminatory questions

- Q** How would you react to this service being managed by women only?

As well as being a leading question, it runs counter to equal opportunity considerations, and this type of question is unacceptable.

Five ways to ask difficult questions

Asking challenging questions is a skill that comes from practice and experience and works best when you can simultaneously create a relaxed and comfortable environment. The following pointers may help you probe what people actually say to uncover the real meaning behind it.

1) Open wide and close in

When you begin to ask questions make them as open as possible. The object of an open question is to get the other person to say as much as possible. Ask it in an open and friendly way. Then use subsequent questions to focus in on the detail.

2) Listen for avoidance words

One way people deal with difficult questions is to use phrases to duck the question and avoid answering it fully. Examples include, 'we are looking into', 'we are considering', 'we will do this in the future'. Focus on these avoidance techniques and force the other person to define what they mean by each of

the phrases they use – when are you looking into this, how, who is doing it, how will you know, etc.

3) Listen for doubt

One of the reasons people avoid difficult questions is that they expose the truth. And the truth is often that we say one thing and really think another. It takes a very polished performer to avoid giving away true feelings about a subject. It's just a question of actively listening and carefully watching.

4) Be charming

Recognising the hard work that people do can help create a rapport. Disarming techniques will open up people keen to keep certain issues at a distance. We are more likely to reveal our true feeling when we can empathise with the questioner.

5) Repeat the question & be silent

Two very powerful techniques are repetition and silence. Repeating the question says, "I am not prepared to take no for an answer and I will keep on asking this until I get a reasonable answer to my question". Be careful as this technique is likely to annoy or intimidate the other person. And finally using silence can be golden. Ask a question and say nothing. Just listen and wait. What you'll find (probably after practice) is that the other person will speak, stop, speak some more, stop, and then say all sorts of really interesting things that they probably hadn't planned to say.

Key Questions for Scrutiny work

The following issues provide a list of some of the potentially key points to consider when formulating questions for witnesses. This list is in no way comprehensive and will not fit for all Scrutiny work. Before any witness session ask yourself two questions: (i) What information do I want? (ii) What questions do I need to ask to get it?

Good listening behaviour

Messages are conveyed not only with words but also through non-verbal cues. Reading body-language means you are much more likely to get the whole message. Active listening builds rapport and involves:

- Looking Attentive – the Task Group will need to show that they are listening through appropriate "body language".
- Giving Encouragement – give appropriate verbal and non-verbal responses.
- Keeping an Open Mind – Councillors should seek not to over-react to initial responses! Continue to pay attention as the witnesses develop their responses and probe as necessary.
- Controlling the Flow – when sufficient information has been received.
- Not Thinking Ahead – everyone thinks more quickly than they can talk. Good listeners listen carefully to hear what the witnesses say rather than allow themselves to run ahead and make assumptions.

- Checking it Out – effective listening involves understanding by paraphrasing and reflecting what has been said by witnesses.
- “Listening Between the Lines” – this involves not only listening to the words but also to the way that they are said and to the feelings behind them. This will lead to a clearer understanding of the responses.
- Summarising – at the end of the main element of a response to a question the Task Group may find it is useful to summarise the main points that the witness has made.

Summary of Guidelines for Questioning

1. Decide what type of question will get the information you want.
2. Think about the specific question you need to ask.
3. Establish lines of questioning prior to a meeting.
4. Ask specific, clear open or closed questions – probably using the former more often.
5. Avoid leading, multiple and judgemental questions.
6. Give the other person time to hear and understand the question, and think of the response.
7. Live with the silence, a silence is often an indication that a thoughtful question has been asked.
8. Concentrate on listening to answers rather than thinking of your next question. It is often very effective to summarise the response as a way of checking understanding.
9. Remember the power of - How? Where? What? Why? When? Who?

Guidance Notes for External Witnesses

What are Witnesses?

Being invited to come to meet Scrutiny Councillors as a 'witness', simply means coming to talk to some Councillors. This is because they feel that you have valuable opinions and/or expertise that will help them gain a better understanding of an issue they are looking at. Councillors are lay members of the community and need to hear contributions from a wide range of people with a connection to the topic being scrutinised, if they are to come to a well considered decision. Being a 'witness' simply means coming along to answer some questions and to tell the Councillors what you think about a particular issue.

What are Overview and Scrutiny Committees?

Overview and Scrutiny Committees assist the Executive (the decision making body of the County Council) in improving and developing North Yorkshire County Council's services. The Committees can examine all functions and responsibilities of the Council. To fulfil the Council's community leadership role Overview and Scrutiny Committees look at issues affecting the wider community, e.g. health services. Overview and Scrutiny Committees consist of elected Councillors who are not members of North Yorkshire's decision-making Executive.

What are the aims of Overview and Scrutiny Committees?

- * To hold the Executive to account and to examine specific areas with a view to influencing the development of policies (it is important to understand that it is the Executive that takes the decisions).
- * To ensure the continuous improvement of services in North Yorkshire, with a particular focus on outcomes for the community.
- * To ensure that the experience and knowledge of businesses, community groups, service providers and service users are used to develop the County Council's services.
- * Overview and Scrutiny is about increasing accountability, improving performance and engaging local people in the organisations whose decisions and actions shape their communities.

How do Overview and Scrutiny Committees work?

Overview and Scrutiny Committees collect evidence from a wide variety of sources, including:

Questioning 'witnesses'/ experts

Conducting literature reviews and undertaking surveys

Taking written submissions from professionals, businesses and community groups.

For convenience these guidance notes assume all Scrutiny work is done by the whole Committee, in fact sometimes functions are delegated to a sub-set of Councillors who then form a Task and Finish Group. This guide also refers to 'witnesses' and the 'giving of evidence', but this does not imply that Overview and Scrutiny Committees are courts or bodies convened with any legal power over those who attend them.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees perform an essential function on behalf of the people of North Yorkshire in looking at council policy and practice. It is hoped that those invited to give evidence will agree to do so in the interests of the community, which is intended to benefit by the activity of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Although at times the Overview and Scrutiny Committees will have difficult questions to ask they are always grateful for the help and co-operation they receive.

'Witnesses' can include: -

Voluntary sector representatives
Professional experts
Service users
Community Groups
Local employers
Councillors and officers

The Committees consider all the evidence they have collected before making recommendations to the Executive on how services could be improved or developed to best meet the needs of North Yorkshire's residents and businesses.

If I am asked to attend what will Councillors ask me?

You will receive a written invitation to the meeting and this will include details of the areas you will be asked questions on. Some Overview and Scrutiny Committees will prepare lists of questions in advance but witnesses should not expect the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to restrict itself to these. The Committee will have invited you along to provide them with information that will help them make evidence-based recommendations on the further development of services. You won't have to answer questions which you feel unhappy answering and it's fine to tell the committee when you don't know the answer to a question. The meeting is ordinarily open to the public, if for any reason you want to give some or all of your evidence in private please contact one of the Scrutiny Support Officers or speak to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discuss. If you would like to have the support of another person when you meet the Councillors please let the Scrutiny Support Officer know.

How should I prepare to be an Overview and Scrutiny Committee 'witness'?

Following these easy steps will mean you use your time at the meeting to maximum effect: -

- * Read all the papers for the Committee meeting you have been sent. This will ensure that you have knowledge of the key concerns or developments being explored by the Committee.

- * Prepare a list of information you would like to provide to the Committee, but do not bring prepared presentations (unless the Committee has specially requested one).
- * As time for oral evidence may be limited, all witnesses are invited to submit written evidence beforehand. This helps to make oral evidence more productive, as Councillors have the witnesses' statements in front of them. Written evidence should be restricted to any factual information they have to offer from which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee might be able to draw conclusions (or which could be put to other witnesses for their reactions).
- * Recognise that Committee Councillors may not be experts in your area. Try to avoid jargon/ professional speak when giving answers.
- * Talk to Scrutiny Support Officers supporting the Committee. These officers will be able to tell you the Committee's expectations of you.
- * Remember attending a Scrutiny Committee offers a good opportunity to present your organisation's knowledge and experiences directly to County Councillors.

Further information

There are several pages relating to Overview and Scrutiny on the County Council website. These pages not only describe the role of the Overview and Scrutiny function and the individual Scrutiny Committees, but provide links to completed Scrutiny Reports. Scrutiny Committees meet in public at least five times a year. If a member of the public wishes to come to any of these meetings, they can check the schedule of meetings to find out when and where they take place. The web pages also make agendas available for downloading.

The County Council website provides information about how members of the public can address council meetings and get involved with overview and scrutiny both in terms of the issues it is examining currently, and by suggesting an item for future scrutiny work. When we invite you to attend please let us know if there is anything we can do to make it easier for you to attend and participate. If you have any suggestions for improving the process or if you want any further information on Overview and Scrutiny Committees please contact a member of the Scrutiny Support team.

Guidance Notes for County Council officers called as witnesses

What are the aims of Overview and Scrutiny Committees?

- * To hold the Executive to account.
- * To assist the Executive in ensuring the continuous improvement of services in North Yorkshire, with a particular focus on outcomes for the community.
- * To ensure that the experience and knowledge of businesses, community groups, service providers and service users are used to develop the County Council's services.
- * To help the County Council better fulfil its community leadership role by looking beyond services provided by the County Council to consider issues affecting the wider community, e.g. health services.

In other words, the purpose of overview and scrutiny is to examine how well the Executive and the authority are performing. Wherever possible it will concentrate on outcomes for the community, not on inputs. It is a mechanism for promoting the best interests and wellbeing of the County. In-depth Scrutiny Reviews therefore adopt the role of 'critical friend' and focus on strategic issues.

How do Overview and Scrutiny Committees work?

Overview and Scrutiny Committees collect evidence from a wide variety of sources, including: -

- * Questioning 'witnesses'/ experts
- * Literature searches/ deskbound reviews
- * Undertaking surveys and utilising focus groups
- * Taking written submissions from professionals, businesses and community groups.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees perform an essential function on behalf of the people of North Yorkshire in looking at policy and practice which will often have a vital part to play in services provided to the community. It is hoped that those called to give evidence will do so in a non-defensive manner in the interests of the community which it is intended to benefit by the debate that ensues.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees consider all the evidence they have collected before preparing a formal report making recommendations to the Executive on how services could be improved or developed to best meet the needs of North Yorkshire's residents.

For convenience these guidance notes assume all Scrutiny work is done by the whole Committee, in fact sometimes functions are delegated to a sub-set of Councillors who then form a Task and Finish Group.

How will I know when an Overview and Scrutiny Committee is looking at a service I manage?

During the scoping process, the Scrutiny Support Officer will have approached the relevant Corporate Director of a service or services. This will have provided an opportunity to clarify any misconceptions and ensured that the Councillors involved are aware of some of the views of the service at the outset. Moreover, Overview and Scrutiny Committees will periodically agree work programmes and copies of these work programmes will be forwarded to the relevant Corporate Directors. Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee has an identified Scrutiny Support Officer to act as a conduit for exchanging information, and you may wish to have a chat with them too.

What information will I be asked to provide?

For convenience this guide refers to 'witnesses' and the 'giving of evidence', but this does not imply that Overview and Scrutiny Committees like courts. They are simply seeking information. Indeed many managers and chief officers may welcome the opportunity provided by an In-depth Scrutiny Review to inform Councillors and the public about their services performance and may find it instructive to hear how it is perceived by others. Reviews are key to meeting the local authority agenda of continuous improvement.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee members will identify the people they wish to hear from at their meetings. Officers attending Scrutiny Committees must abide by the Code of Conduct in the Constitution governing officers of the Council.

Councillors should always conduct their relations with courtesy and respect for officers and seek information not confrontation.

If I am asked to attend what will Councillors ask me?

Your invitation will be arranged with the agreement of the relevant Corporate Director. Some Scrutiny Committees will prepare lists of questions in advance but witnesses should not expect the Scrutiny Committee to restrict itself to these. The committee will have invited you along to provide them with information that will help them make evidence-based recommendations on the further development of services. You must use your best endeavours to answer questions as fully as possible. Where information which would assist the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is not immediately available, you should draw the attention of the Chairman to the existence of information, or another person, which might or who may be able to answer the question posed if this is known to them. In keeping with the spirit of transparency and openness Overview and Scrutiny Committees are required to meet in public save in exceptional circumstances specifically authorised by law. Likewise, evidence submitted may also be referred to or commented upon in public. If you want to give some or all of your evidence in private because you feel confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed please contact the Scrutiny Support Officer to discuss this.

How should I prepare to be a 'witness'?

Following these few easy steps will ensure that you use your time at the meeting to maximum effect: -

- * Remember that attending an Overview and Scrutiny Committee offers a good opportunity to present your Directorate's knowledge and experiences directly to County Councillors.
- * Read all the papers for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting you have been invited to. This will ensure that you have knowledge of the key concerns or developments being explored by the Committee.
- * Check with other officers in your department working on similar areas to ensure that the views you are bringing to the Committee are representative of your Directorate's work.
- * Do not bring prepared presentations (unless this has been specially requested).
- * As time for oral evidence may be limited, all witnesses are invited to submit written evidence beforehand. This helps to make oral evidence more productive, as Councillors have the witnesses' statements in front of them. Written evidence should be restricted to any factual information they have to offer from which the Scrutiny Committee might be able to draw conclusions (or which could be put to other witnesses for their reactions).
- * Be prepared to give your views candidly and openly and contribute to the debate or discussion
- * Recognise that Committee Members may not be experts in your area. Try to avoid jargon/ professional speak when giving answers.

Choosing scrutiny topics

Introduction

Overview and Scrutiny Committees should use effective processes to select topics that will contribute towards the best possible Work Programme. This means looking at the sources of information that may help and using them to choose the right topics. This involves:

- a) Understanding what information is available to help identify potential issues.
- b) Drawing out and discussing what matters most to Councillors and to the community at large.
- c) Finding out about any research that has been completed or that is planned, by way of the dedicated scrutiny support staff.
- d) Prioritising topics.
- e) Looking at what Scrutiny has done before.
- f) Planning how to get the best from the Committee meetings themselves.

Sources of work programme ideas

Numerous sources of information can help to inform topic selection, including:

- The Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) (Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2006) can refer issues to O&S Committees. The O&S Committee must provide a reason if it decides not to look into the issue brought forward by the LINKs.
- The concerns that have been raised with Councillors on the doorstep, in surgeries, in their divisions or through Councillor Calls for Action.
- Experience with PTA groups, School Governing Bodies, Parish Councils/ Forums.
- Issues that have been flagged up by audits and inspections (past and present).
- Consultations and interviews.
- What the local community is concerned about and what is raised via the Scrutiny Suggestions form.
- Poor performance – not meeting targets.
- “Stakeholders” concerns – raised by the Council’s partners and the users of services - who may feel that the Executive is neglecting important priorities.
- Strategic gaps shown up by plans and performance monitoring reports.
- Executive Members and Directors’ presentations about the pertinent issues that are emerging and any opportunities or threats on the horizon.
- Central government priority changes.

- The County Council's Forward Plan.
- Scrutiny Forums
- Call – in
- Pre and post Executive decisions

Deciding upon Scrutiny topics?

Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee has its own independent work programme. Overview and Scrutiny is also encouraged to think about external Scrutiny and the monitoring of other public bodies, and how its activities will engage partner organisations, the media and the public.

Criteria for examining and testing possible areas of Scrutiny work include:

- Considering risk – we have to try to prioritise competing demands, especially given finite time and resources, and there may be risks involved in either doing or not doing a piece of Scrutiny work on any given subject.
- Cost and Duration - how feasible is any in-depth Scrutiny endeavour in terms of cost and in terms of how timely such work might be?
- Duplication of activity – Some potential topics may duplicate others suggested that are circulating within the Scrutiny process. Some issues for Scrutiny may be cross cutting; others may have already been identified for other Scrutiny Committees, or duplicate Internal Audit work.
- Methods of working - it is also important to consider what is the best method to deal with any given Scrutiny topic. These might include:
 - (i) whole Scrutiny Committee investigations in one special 'select committee' session,
 - (ii) 'Q & A sessions' during an ordinary Scrutiny Committee meeting,
 - (iii) Scrutiny commissioned small task groups to do initial preparation before reporting back to a Scrutiny Committee meeting, or
 - (iv) a full-blown In-depth Scrutiny Review.
 - (v) Joint working with other O&S Committees through meetings or joint Task and Finish Groups.

The choice may depend on the nature of the activity being undertaken, but the capacity of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's members to carry out the work, and the balance of the Committee's activities must also be considered. The final decision whether to undertake a piece of scrutiny work rests with the O&S Committee.

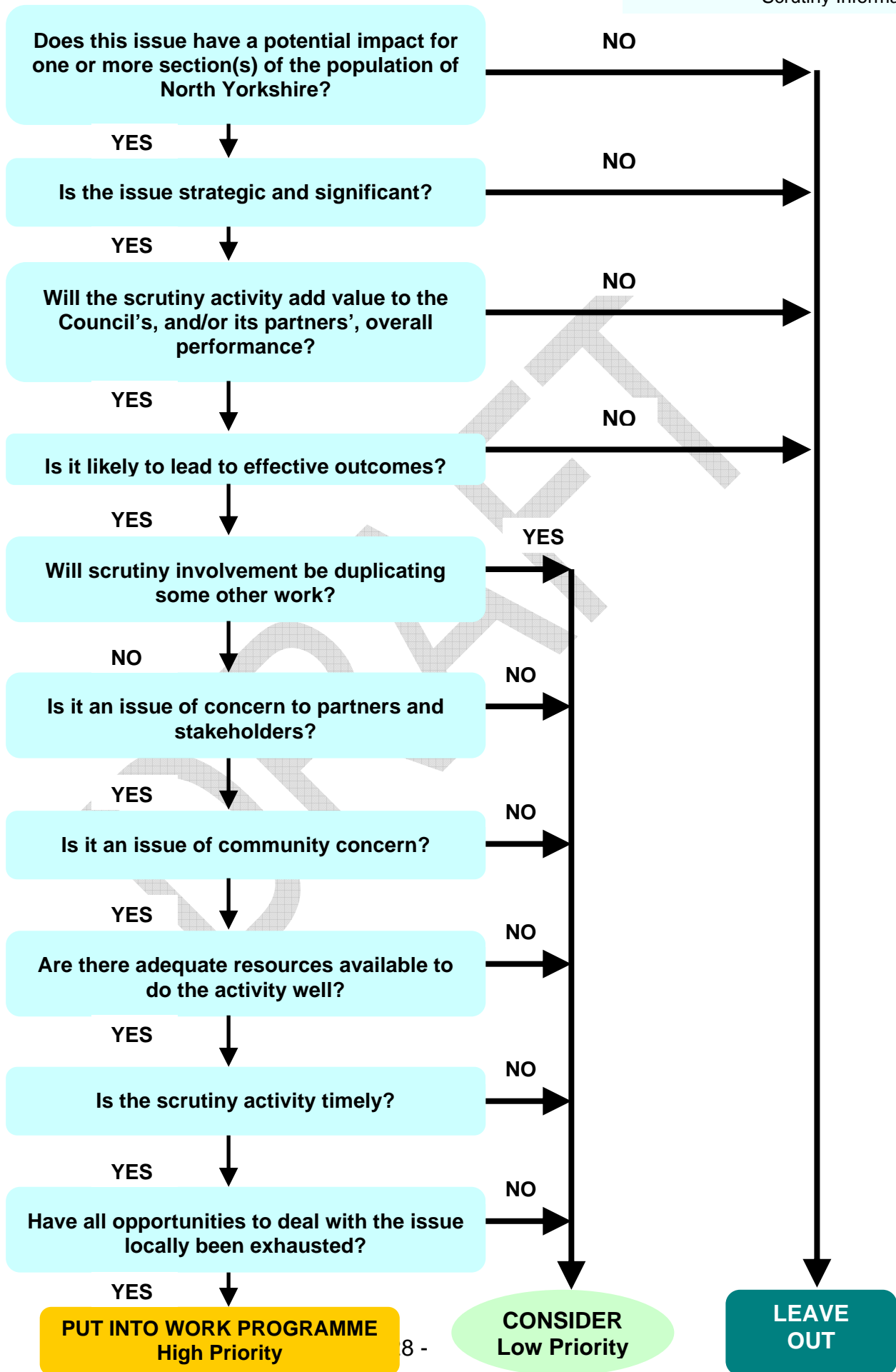
Deciding priorities

It is not possible for Overview and Scrutiny to do everything that might be suggested by Councillors and the community.

Overview and Scrutiny Councillors must be selective and should apply criteria to their decision-making to be certain that the very best topics are chosen. As Scrutiny succeeds in increasing local community involvement and more and more issues are suggested by the public it becomes increasingly important to be able to show why

and how decisions have been reached. Councillors should be prepared to put the arguments in favour of including a topic, or outlining the potential risks and disadvantages. It requires careful analysis and planning to prioritise those topics that will add the most value to the work programme and have the greatest impact.

DRAFT



Scrutiny Information Sheet

Scoping an In-depth Scrutiny Review

In order to be effective, every in-depth scrutiny review must be properly project managed. This is to make sure that the review achieves its aims and has measurable outcomes. One of the most important ways to make sure that a review goes well is to ensure that it is well defined at the outset.

The scoping template has been designed to help each Committee undertaking an in-depth review to think through the purpose of a review. A good scoping document is also a great communication tool in helping others to understand what the review is about. Once agreed, the scope should be circulated to relevant officers, partners, stakeholders and potential witnesses.

???????????????????? Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Plan of Scrutiny Review

Review Title

Background

Provide background information on which the decision to undertake the review is based.

Include relevant corporate objectives

Objective

Outline the aims of the review.

Methodology

Outline the research methods to be used.
Determine Task Group or whole Committee approach.
Identify possible site visits.

Participants & Stakeholders

Outline the individuals and groups who will inform or provide evidence for the review

Proposed Work plan

Outline the timescale for the review

Meeting Date	Meeting	Focus

What is call-in?

Call-in is the process by which non-executive members of the Council can have recommendations of the Executive (or senior officers with delegated responsibility) considered by a scrutiny committee. Call-in should not be used trivially.

A request to call-in a decision must give reasons, but no guidelines have been developed in relation to the appropriate reasons for call-in, because councillors need to have the freedom to use the process where they feel it is right. Councillors calling in a matter will be responsible for presenting their own case to the scrutiny committee. The role of officers in this is to advise them on how best to set out their case.

Generally, Councillors will need to be able to argue that a Council policy has been contravened; that some significant information relating to the issue has not been considered; or that undue or insufficient importance has been attached to some information that has been considered or that relevant information has not been considered. Call in can also be used where information has only become available after the decision was made.

The aim is to facilitate a full and open discussion at the meeting so that Councillors are in the best position to take a view on the decision taken by the Executive which has prompted the call in. So that participants are clear about what will happen at the meeting and how they might contribute committees are recommended to adhere to the following order of business

Public questions or statements of a general nature after the Minutes and notification of Substitutions but individuals are asked not to raise any points which relate to the main item on the agenda.

1. Portfolio Holder and/or Corporate Director explain circumstances and reasons for the decision.
2. Signatories of Call-in invited to explain their position and reasons for request for scrutiny committee to consider the issue.
3. Portfolio Holder and/or Corporate Director be given opportunity to respond.
4. Representatives of the public or interested/affected organisations be invited to comment.
5. Any further comments from the public (duration limited to 15 minutes, and no members of the public being entitled to speak for more than 3 minutes)
6. Committee discussion and questioning by committee members.
7. Summing up by Spokesperson of Call in request and Executive decision takers.
8. Committee agrees its recommendation to Executive decision takers.

What is a Councillor Call for Action (CCA)?

The Councillor Call for Action empowers Councillors to bring forward local issues to be considered by an appropriate overview and scrutiny committee.

In practice, this means that:

- members of the public will not be able to raise CCAs directly (and thus ward Councillors will not be under a duty to respond to them on a CCA issue)
- there will be no right of appeal via the council's executive or policy committees
- County Councillors can raise Calls for Action in relation to crime and disorder matters

The intention is that any issue is dealt with at the most appropriate level. Overview and Scrutiny is identified as the route once all other avenues have failed.

Guidance Notes for Public Sector Partners

Introduction

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill 2007 extends the powers that local authorities already have to scrutinise health services within their areas, to the activities of a number of partners, as part of their wider community leadership role for the county.

The purpose of this guide is to provide advice and develop a common understanding for how scrutiny of statutory public sector partners will operate in North Yorkshire when the new powers are enacted. This guidance has been drawn up during the early stages of the new arrangements and may be amended and further developed as the relationship between overview and scrutiny and public sector partners develops. The aim is for all parties to help ensure that the process of overview and scrutiny is a positive yet challenging experience. It is important that scrutiny is regarded as a critical friend from the outset and wherever possible it should be based on advanced notification and discussion of the issues it wishes to review.

What is the role of Overview and Scrutiny?

It is a mechanism for promoting the best interests and wellbeing of the people who live, work and visit the County. The aims of scrutiny are:

- * To hold the County Council Executive to account.
- * To assist the County Council Executive in ensuring the continuous improvement of services in North Yorkshire, with a particular focus on outcomes for the community.
- * To ensure that the experience and knowledge of businesses, community groups, service providers and service users are used to develop the County Council's services.
- * To help the County Council better fulfil its community leadership role by looking beyond services provided by the County Council to consider issues affecting the wider community.

Public Sector Partners

The public sector partners outlined in the Local Government and Public involvement in Health Bill, 2007, covered by this guidance are:-

- District authorities
- Chief Officer of Police
- Police authorities
- Local Probation Boards
- Youth Offending Teams
- Primary Care Trusts
- NHS Foundation Trusts
- NHS Health Trusts
- The Learning and Skills Council in England
- Jobcentre Plus
- Health and Safety Executive
- Fire and rescue authorities
- Metropolitan Passenger Transport Authorities
- The Highways Agency

- The Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Regional Development Agencies

Scrutiny of the partners in North Yorkshire will cover activities undertaken by them to deliver improvement targets in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). This includes the planning, provision and operation of services commissioned and provided by the partners.

Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committees will not inspect, audit or manage the performance of the partners in the county, although performance information may be requested by a Committee to inform a scrutiny review. Arrangements for inspection, audit and performance management of the partners will continue to be carried out by the appropriate regulatory bodies or agencies and will not be affected by the scrutiny function of the County Council. O&S Committees will not duplicate advocacy arrangements on behalf of customers, clients, or other service users for the partners.

How do Overview and Scrutiny Committees work?

O&S Committees collect evidence from a wide variety of sources, including: -

- * Public Sector Partners
- * Questioning 'witnesses'/ experts
- * Literature searches/ desk top reviews
- * Undertaking surveys and utilising focus groups
- * Taking written submissions from professionals, businesses and community groups.

O&S Committees perform an essential function on behalf of the people of North Yorkshire in looking at policy and practice, which will often have a vital part to play in services provided to the community. It is hoped that those called to give evidence will do so in an open manner in the interests of the community that it is intended to benefit.

What information will I be asked to provide?

The Government sees the extension of scrutiny powers to overview and scrutiny of partners as a way of enhancing community leadership and improving outcomes in local areas.

The work of the O&S Committees will involve a combination of maintaining an overview of developments within the county; being aware of the activities of the partner bodies and undertaking in-depth scrutiny reviews.

To support and enable this work, O&S Committees will require information from the partners. The information expected by the O&S Committee will need to be of sufficient detail to enable the Committee to discharge its scrutiny duties. Some of this may include information currently covered by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Usually a written report will be required by the Committee. This will provide a basis for discussion between representatives of the partners and members of the Committee. The Scrutiny Support Team can advise you on the particular information required.

Scrutiny Reviews have agreed terms of reference outlined in a scoping document. This document identifies the subject areas members of the Committee wish to pursue. These will be used to inform you of the emphasis of a particular inquiry. Officers from the Scrutiny Support Team will liaise with you during the preparation of scoping document to ensure that the focus of the inquiry is relevant and the timing of it appropriate.

For convenience this guide refers to 'witnesses' and the 'giving of evidence', but this does not imply that O&S Committees are like courts. They are simply seeking information in a reasonably informal setting. Indeed many partners welcome the opportunity provided by an In-depth Scrutiny Review to inform Councillors and the public about their services performance and may find it instructive to hear how it is perceived by others.

O&S Committees do not have decision-making powers but are able to make recommendations to partners and other organisations as well as the County Council. O&S Committees monitor the decisions made by the Council's Executive and Officers, contribute to the development of policies and scrutinise the work of the council, partners and local NHS bodies. They have an important function in providing checks and balances on performance and decision making and act as a critical friend. Once it is set up in 2008 the Local Involvement Network (LINK) can refer issues to overview and scrutiny committees.

Confidentiality

In keeping with the spirit of transparency and openness O&S Committees are required to meet in public save in exceptional circumstances specifically authorised by law. Where confidential information has been requested by an O&S Committee, you should take all reasonable steps to anonymise this information. Where this is not possible the public will be excluded from the meeting whilst the Committee considers the confidential information provided.

If you want to give some or all of your evidence in private because it is confidential, or exempt from publication please contact the Scrutiny Support Officer to discuss this.

If I am asked to attend what will Councillors ask me?

Although matters sometimes arise at short notice, each O&S Committee publishes a forward work programme. Where information or attendance of a partner at an O&S Committee meeting is requested, the Scrutiny Support Team will make every effort to provide a reasonable notice period. Where attendance will require the partner to produce a report, sufficient notice will be given for the preparation of that report to comply with the publication deadline of the Committee's public agenda. Partners may also be requested to attend as a witness during an inquiry in the services of another partner agency.

Some O&S Committees will prepare lists of questions in advance but partners should not expect the Committee to restrict itself to these. The Committee will have invited you along to provide them with information that will help them make evidence-based recommendations. Where information which would assist the Committee is not immediately available, you should draw the attention of the Chairman to the existence of information, or another person, which might or who may be able to answer the question posed if this is known to them. If you do not immediately know the answer to the question you are asked, the Chairman will be happy to receive a written response at a later date.

How should I prepare to be a 'witness'?

Following these few easy steps will ensure that you use your time at the meeting to maximum effect: -

- * Remember that attending an Overview and Scrutiny Committee offers a good opportunity to present your organisation's knowledge and experiences directly to County Councillors.
- * Read all the papers for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting you have been invited to. This will ensure that you have knowledge of the key concerns or developments being explored by the Committee.
- * Be prepared to give your views candidly and openly, to contribute to the debate or discussion and to bring forward ideas and suggestions of your own.

- * Recognise that Committee Members may not be experts in your area. Try to avoid jargon/ professional speak when giving answers.

Final Report and recommendations

At the conclusion of a Scrutiny Review, O&S Committees usually produce a final report. This will contain a summary of the evidence submitted and the Committee's conclusions and recommendations. Where an O&S Committee is considering making recommendations to a partner it will invite advice from the partner prior to finalising its recommendations.

Once an O&S Committee has completed its review, it may make recommendations to the partner. The partner will then have two months to respond to any recommendations. In addition, the O&S Committee will publish and circulate its report and make it available to the public.

The O&S Committee will ask the partner to set out their response to the recommendations made, including:-

- the views of the partner; and
- proposed action and timescales; or
- reasons for not progressing recommendations.

This response will be published by the O&S Committee and the implementation of any agreed scrutiny recommendations will be monitored within a timescale agreed with the partner.

Guidance Notes for Scrutiny of Health

Introduction

Scrutiny of Health is an important part of the Government's commitment to place patients and the public at the centre of health services. Under the Health and Social Care Act 2001 local authorities with social services responsibilities are required to ensure that their overview and scrutiny committee or committees have the power to scrutinise the planning, provision and operation of health services. The legislation provides the Scrutiny of Health Committee with specific powers and places duties on NHS bodies to engage with the Scrutiny of Health Committee.

The purpose of this guide is to provide advice and develop a common understanding for how the County Council's scrutiny of health will operate in North Yorkshire. The aim is for all parties to help ensure that overview and scrutiny is a positive yet challenging experience. It is important that scrutiny is regarded as a critical friend from the outset and wherever possible it should be based on advanced notification and discussion of the issues it wishes to review.

What is the role of the Scrutiny of Health Committee?

It is a mechanism for promoting the best interests and wellbeing of the people who live, work and visit the County. The aims of scrutiny of health are:

- * To ensure that people's needs for health and health related services have been identified so as to move towards health improvements
- * To ensure that these services meet the needs of all the population (including minorities, socially excluded and other target groups)
- * To scrutinise whether services that impact on health are accessible to all parts of the community
- * To scrutinise whether the outcomes of intervention (whether through services or other intervention designed to impact on health) are positive for all groups/sections of the population
- * To look beyond health care services at the wider determinants of health such as housing, employment and lifestyle, and act as an advocate of public health messages.

What are the powers of the Scrutiny of Health?

The strength of scrutiny is in its independence and ability to take on board differing perspectives.

(Dept of Health O&S of Health Guidance 2003)

The Scrutiny of Health Committee may:

- * Review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the County;
- * Require the attendance of a representative of local NHS body to answer questions and provide explanations about the planning, provision and operation of health services in the County;
- * Require a local NHS body to provide information about the planning provision and operation of health services in the County;
- * Make reports and recommendations to local NHS bodies and the County Council on any matter scrutinised by the Committee;

- * Establish a joint committee with other local authorities to undertake scrutiny of health services;
- * Delegate functions of health scrutiny to another local authority committee;
- * Contribute to the Health Care Commission's process of Annual Health Checks;
- * Refer to the Secretary of State for Health:
 - Where the committee is concerned that consultation with the Scrutiny of Health Committee, on a substantial variation or development of services has been inadequate; or
 - Where the committee considers that, a proposal for a substantial variation or development of services is not in the best interests of the public.

(This is a power not expected to be used frequently.)

The Scrutiny of Health Committee will not inspect, audit or manage the performance of health partners in the County, although performance information may be requested by a Committee to inform a scrutiny review. Arrangements for inspection, audit and performance management of the partners will continue to be carried out by the appropriate regulatory bodies or agencies and will not be affected by the scrutiny function of the County Council. The Scrutiny of Health Committee will not duplicate advocacy arrangements on behalf of patients, or other service users for the health partners but rather complement the work of advocates by receiving reports and endorsing findings where appropriate.

How do Overview and Scrutiny Committees work?

O&S Committees collect evidence from a wide variety of sources, including: -

- * Members of the public
- * Health Partners (including Strategic Health Authority (SHA), Primary care Trusts (PCT) and Hospital Trusts)
- * Other Public Sector Partners
- * Questioning 'witnesses'/ experts
- * Literature searches/ desktop reviews
- * Undertaking surveys and utilising focus groups
- * Taking written submissions from professionals, businesses and community groups.
- * Networking

Evidence can be collected in a variety of ways, for example:

- * Committee meeting – A formal County Council meeting involving members of the committee asking questions of partner agencies and individuals. It is open to the public and takes into account issues that have been raised by the public within the 3 day notice period required.
- * Fact finding – the committee calls a meeting with members of the public to consult with them on a particular issue.
- * Forum meeting – 'Question time' style of meeting which involves the partner agencies participating and being prepared to answer questions from the Committee and members of the public without the 3 day prior notification period. (Subject to partner agreement to this approach.)
- * Task Group meeting – an informal meeting between key Councillors of the Committee with stakeholders and/or partners to gather information.
- * Networking – informal information gathering on a day to day basis

The Scrutiny of Health Committee performs an essential function on behalf of the people of North Yorkshire in looking at the planning, provision and operation of health services in the County.

What information will I be asked to provide?

The work of the Scrutiny of Health Committee will involve a combination of maintaining an overview of developments within the County; being aware of the activities of Health partner bodies and undertaking in-depth scrutiny reviews.

To support and enable this work, the Scrutiny of Health Committee will require information from the partners. The information expected by the Scrutiny of Health Committee will need to be of sufficient detail to enable the Committee to discharge its scrutiny duties. Some of this may include information currently covered by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Usually a written report will be required by the Committee. This will provide a basis for discussion between representatives of the partners and members of the Committee. The Scrutiny Support Team can advise you on the particular information required.

Scrutiny Reviews have agreed terms of reference. The scoping document identifies the subject areas members of the Committee wish to pursue. These will be used to inform you of the emphasis of a particular inquiry. Officers from the Scrutiny Support Team will liaise with you during the preparation of terms of reference to ensure that the focus of the inquiry is relevant and the timing of it appropriate. This may involve preliminary meetings and discussions between the Committee and the partner.

For convenience this guide refers to 'witnesses' and the 'giving of evidence', but this does not imply that O&S Committees are like courts. They are simply seeking information. Indeed many partners welcome the opportunity provided by an In-depth Scrutiny Review to inform Councillors and the public about their services performance and may find it instructive to hear how it is perceived by others.

O&S Committees do not have decision-making powers but are able to make recommendations to Health and public sector partners and other organisations as well as the County Council. O&S Committees monitor the decisions made by the Council's Executive and Officers, contribute to the development of policies and scrutinise the work of the council, public sector partners and local NHS bodies. They have an important function in providing checks and balances on performance and decision making and act as a critical friend. Patient and Public Involvement Forums and their successor from 2008, the Local Involvement Network (LINK), can refer issues to the Scrutiny of Health Committee.

Confidentiality

In keeping with the spirit of transparency and openness O&S Committees are required to meet in public save in exceptional circumstances specifically authorised by law. Where confidential information has been requested by an O&S Committee, you should take all reasonable steps to anonymise this information. Where this is not possible the public will be excluded from the meeting whilst the Committee considers the confidential information provided.

If you want to give some or all of your evidence in private because it is confidential, or exempt from publication please contact the Scrutiny Support Officer to discuss this.

If I am asked to attend what will Councillors ask me?

Although matters sometimes arise at short notice, each O&S Committee publishes a forward work programme. Where information or attendance of a representative of a Health partner at a Committee meeting is required, the Scrutiny Support Team will make every effort to

provide a reasonable notice period. Where attendance will require the Health partner to produce a report, sufficient notice will be given for the preparation of that report to comply with the publication deadline of the Committee's public agenda.

The Committee will have invited you along to provide them with information that will help them make evidence-based recommendations. Where information which would assist the Committee is not immediately available, you should draw the attention of the Chairman to the existence of information, or another person, which might or who may be able to answer the question posed if this is known to them. If you do not immediately know the answer to the question you are asked, the Chairman will be happy to receive a written response at a later date.

How should I prepare to be a 'witness'?

Following these few easy steps will ensure that you use your time at the meeting to maximum effect: -

- * Remember that attending a Scrutiny of Health Committee offers a good opportunity to present your organisation's knowledge and experiences directly to County Councillors.
- * Read all the papers for the Committee meeting you have been invited to. This will ensure that you have knowledge of the key concerns or developments being explored by the Committee.
- * Be prepared to give your views candidly and openly, to contribute to the debate or discussion and to bring forward ideas and suggestions of your own.
- * Recognise that Committee Members may not be experts in your area. Try to avoid jargon/ professional speak when giving answers.

Final Report and recommendations

At the conclusion of a Scrutiny Review, the Scrutiny of Health Committee will produce a final report. This contains an explanation of the issue considered, a summary of the evidence submitted, a list of participants and the Committee's conclusions and recommendations. The draft final report will be forwarded to the NHS bodies who have been the subject of the review to check for factual accuracy.

The Scrutiny of Health Committee will ask the Health partner to set out their response to the recommendations made, these should be received within 28 days and include:-

- * the views of the partner; and
- * proposed action and timescales; or
- * reasons for not progressing recommendations.

This response will be published by the Scrutiny of Health Committee and the implementation of any agreed scrutiny recommendations will be monitored within a timescale agreed as appropriate.

North Yorkshire County Council
Children and Young People's Service
Working towards a Children and Young People's Arts Strategy

1 Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview on the development of the Children and Young People's Arts Strategy and discuss the development of a C&YP Art Strategy and possible involvement of members of the committee

2. Background

The Arts and Cultural Development Officer and Steering Group¹, began working towards an arts strategy across a number of C&YP service areas in April 2007.²

3. The Context

Nationally there is growing recognition by statutory and voluntary sectors that the arts have a positive impact on communities. The Government increasingly recognises the arts and its positive contribution in reducing crime, improving education standards, health, community cohesion and economics, all factors towards the wellbeing of society.

North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) has led on significant developments for Arts and Cultural Development. The NYCC: Cultural Strategy and Action Plan (2003-2008) sets out NYCC's priorities for culture over a 5- year period in relation to the sub-regional cultural strategy. It has five priorities that are aligned to the county council's corporate priorities. Specific contribution continues to be made by C&YP Services in developing specific actions within the cultural priorities of Learning: Education in Schools, Inclusiveness: Young People and Joining Development Programmes. NYCC Cultural Strategy 2003- 2008 is currently undertaking a review and planning process to develop a strategy beyond 2008 and the C&YP Arts Strategy will form a key part.³ NYCC Cultural Strategy is set within the context of a two tier authority. The sub regional framework that includes that of the North Yorkshire Cultural Officer Group (NYCOG) brings together shared vision and delivery of District/Borough Councils and partners.

4. The Strategy

The first stage in the process of developing the strategy has been to identify complementary policies, principals, shared values and how the arts can strategically contribute to service priorities. Specifically in contributing to inclusion issues working with hard to reach and vulnerable groups in helping them to achieve. This strategy is timely and able to respond to the number of strategies citing Arts, Sports, Leisure and Culture as positive contributors to ECM.⁴

¹ The steering group includes representatives from NYCC's C&YP's Service's Q&I, NYCC's Business and Environmental Services Arts Officer and Arts Officer from Arts Council – Yorkshire

² Appendix 1 Consultation

³ Appendix 2 North Yorkshire Policy Context

⁴ Appendix 3 National Policy Context

First Findings

In North Yorkshire there are many services involved in a range of innovative and exemplary arts programmes. Whilst there is much to celebrate in relation to arts with children and young people, there is far more to do.

In the early stages of research it became apparent that there is no overall vision, long term plan or co-ordination of arts opportunities for children and young people. In order to respond effectively and efficiently the C&YP Arts Strategy is positioned well in drawing together a number of initiatives under an overall vision with shared values, actions and clear goals into one document.

Emerging Vision

There is shared recognition that the arts are crucial in engaging and motivating children and young people to reach their full potential at this significant time of their lives.

Emerging Shared Values

There are a number of common principals emerging that identify that the arts:

- positively contribute to personal and social development
- intervene positively at critical times in children and young peoples lives
- progress children and young people's formal learning and raise life aspirations for their futures
- provide a platform for children and young people to work in a safe environment to take positive risks, express themselves and articulate their feelings, thoughts, ideas and issues
- develops skills that leads to their ability to take progressive routes, accessing other opportunities they may not normally take
- contribute to raising aspiration towards gaining access to higher education, improved career development and life skill progression
- bridge the gaps in communication towards understanding differences leading toward community cohesion
- positively contribute to workforce development

There is also agreement that the arts contributes directly to the C&YP plan particularly in regards to goals set under Making a Positive Contribution and Enjoying and Achieving. It also has the potential to cut across all five outcomes when focusing on the spectrum of individual needs of children and young people:

- Universal
- Prevention
- Intervention
- Acute

Suggested Framework and Priority Outcomes

The process so far has identified the following priorities in developing personalised pathways, diverse and flexible delivery and offering positive activities across services.

The four main themes are:

1. Social Cohesion and Social Messages
2. Wider Opportunities and Access to Arts Provision
3. Developmental Pathways
4. Performance Management

By investing in the arts, the significant benefits and outcomes are:

1. Social Cohesion and Social Messages

Delivery of arts activities that contribute to **preventative and intervention** work across services. Effectively engaging with hard to reach children and young people that supports them in gaining personal skills which unlocks their potential back into learning and community life.

Arts activities that encourages children and young people's self expression through different mediums contributing to their **Emotional Well Being**. Providing access to arts therapists, as well as collaborations between physiologists, key professionals and artists; contribute to children and young people's mental health and emotional well being.

Community Cohesion arts activities that supports and promotes the building of local identity, ownership, understanding and celebrates differences, amongst the wider community with children and young people's needs being the main focus.

Providing access for **Families and Parents** to arts activities that encourages positive interaction between parents and their children contributing towards family well being.

2. Wider Opportunities and Access to Arts Provision

More access to **Positive Arts and Culture Activities** for children and young people in North Yorkshire to gain new opportunities and celebrate achievements.

Increase **Access and Inclusion** to arts, cultural and leisure activities. Developing networks, partnerships and programmes that include the voluntary arts and professional arts sector increasing access for children and young people.

Work Force Development training programmes that develops creative practice, problem solving, confidence building and supports the promotion and delivery of positive activities for children and young people

3. Developmental Pathways

Career Development for young people who want to gain a professional career in the arts and creative industry sectors through work placements, apprenticeships and work opportunities as well access to arts accreditation i.e. the Arts Award

Provide new **work experiences** for children and young people who have little access or opportunities due to their personal and social circumstances.

4. Performance Management

The arts promote **Children and Young People's Voices**, enabling them to find forms of expression, to share their views and participate in the shaping of their services.

Performance Management will underpin the strategy and embed effective evaluation to measure the impact that includes children and young people.

5. Next Steps

- Involvement of Members – first meeting is on the 18th October at the mid cycle Children and Young People Overview Scrutiny Committee
- Map out services consultation findings already taken with children, young people and their families. Identify their needs in relation to arts activities as well as any gaps in representation or geographical location. Carry out creative consultation where required.
- Consult with key stakeholders on the action plan
- Develop a Map with performance indicators
- Develop links and joint delivery plans with Sports England
- Develop links and join action within NYCC's Cultural Strategy 2008
- Complete strategy by April 2007

Action Plan – Oct 2007

Action	Comment	Date
Members involvement	Attend the mid cycle meeting	18 th Oct 2007
Further membership on the C&YP Arts Strategy Steering Group	Identity and invite other key professionals to attend the cycle of meetings	Oct 2007
Consultation with C&YP	Involve key professionals in services – include CYC	End Jan 2008
Consult on Action Plan		End Jan 2008
Consult and develop map	Working with GIS	End of Feb 2008
Draft Strategy		End March 2008
Complete Strategy		April 2008

Consultation

The following people and organisations have contributed to this study to date:

Quality & Improvement

Heather Newman – Advisor
Dianne McConnell - Equality and Diversity
Cathy Roberts – Music Advisor
Jonathan Shardlow – Acting Head of Music Service
Jo York – Visual Arts Consultant
Joan Ashmore – Principal Advisor

Schools

Ryedale School
St John Fishers
Selby High School
Spring Head School

Learning Youth and Skills

David Walker – Education Officer Inclusion
Sarah Hartley – C&YP Community Cohesion Co-ordinator
Terry Begley – Principal Youth Officer
Paul Carswell – Youth Officer 4Youth and CYC
John Rose – CYC Support Manager
Fran Lett – Adult Services
Andy White – Curriculum Development Manager

Access and Inclusion

Access and Inclusion Senior Management Team
Margaret Bennett
Nigel Ogilvy
Mike Cotton
Ros Kendrew

Children Social Care

Paul Dixon – Children Social Care
Martin Kelly – Children Care Home Manager
Children Home Managers Group
Jerry Barnes – Performance and Quality Officer
Cathy Peacock – Children's Rights Officer
Deborah Sandles – Centre Manager

Extended Services

Carolyn Bird – Service Development Manager
Stuart Gregory – Integrated Service Manager

Members Committees

Stephanie Bratcher – Scrutiny Support Officer

NYCOG Arts Sub Group

District and Borough Councils

Kate Staines – Arts Officer Hambleton District Council
Rowena Marsdon – Arts Officer Scarborough
Gill Copper and Arts Service Team – York City Council
Yvette Turnbull – Arts Officer – Ryedale District Council
Catherine Evans – Arts Officer, Craven District Council

Arts Organisations

Chrysalis Arts
Blaize
Georgian Theatre, Richmond
North Country Theatre
CREATE
Get Moving!

North Yorkshire Policy Context

In the last four years there have been several initiatives that need consideration in order to give a wider context and frame work to the strategy.

This is by no means a comprehensive list and a further review is required in order to ensure all relevant initiatives are captured.

- 2.1 A cultural framework for North Yorkshire was produced in 2002 by the North Yorkshire Cultural Officer Group consisting of representatives from North Yorkshire County Council the Borough and District Councils, York City Council, ALMC, North Yorkshire Sports and Yorkshire Culture and the two National Parks. It provides an action plan until 2010 with medium and short term goals. The overall vision is that by 2010 York and North Yorkshire will be a region of high quality accessible cultural activity. The vision has five transformational themes; Outdoor Adventure, Creative Industries, Yorkshire's People, Heritage Landscape, Festival and Events
- 2.2 North Yorkshire County Council's sub regional initiatives are the Voluntary Arts and Arts in Education development plans.
- 2.3 North Yorkshire County Council produced a Cultural Strategy (2003 -2008) that drew together in one document the Council's service targets with regards to its lead priorities on cultural activities. Arts with Children and Young People were sited in the document under three of its five main priorities; Creative Industries; School and Communities Working Together; and Young People and Vulnerable Adults. One of the main tangible outcomes was the establishment of a dedicated Arts Officer for NYCC.
- 2.4 The Youth Service '4Youth' also developed a Youth Arts Strategy (2001-2003). There were five main priorities; opportunities, partnerships, good quality arts resource, training and continuing professional development (CPD), career and communications and networking.
- 2.5 Over the last 12 years North Yorkshire County Council's Youth Service has developed a specialist youth arts unit "Connecting Youth Culture" (CYC). CYC is highly regarded countywide, regionally and nationally. The work of Connecting Youth Culture's Connect Course has won two regional awards; North East Prison Aftercare Award and Yorkshire and Humberside Staff Team Awards in Education and Work Skills. It reached Level 1 in all three categories of the Regionally Assurance Inspection. Connecting Youth Culture as a whole has been sited in Joint Area Review and received exceptional praise. CYC has also contributed in National reports such as "Taking it seriously – youth arts in the real world' published by National Youth Agency. It is considered as a strategic enabler in working across organisations in both the youth and arts sector in order to deliver arts programmes that have a social and economic impact for young people in North Yorkshire. CYC is integral in strategies that embrace culture as a key for transforming organisations in developing delivery methods that impact young people's lives, embracing their culture and impacting the wider community and employment trends.
- 2.6 CYC developments include:-
 - Youth Services' arts programmes and projects
 - NYCC internal and also external arts projects across Children and Young People's Service
 - Connect - arts and basic skills activity in Northallerton Remand Centre
 - The Vibe – the out of school performing arts provision
 - Dance development
 - 6k – music development
- 2.7 The Quality and Improvement service area in the Children and Young People's Service (formally CAMAS) sited the arts in their Education Development Plan (2003 – 2008) under Priority 8 – Creative, arts, sports and play.

2.8 Q & I developments include:-

- Providing High Quality Music Curriculum Provision across North Yorkshire Schools including a diverse range for equal opportunities for children and young people to access music making
- Increasing access for children and young people to play an instrument through Music Service Centres
- CPD through Top Dance
- LAA – ‘Stretch Targets ‘ – has enabled new funding to enable a Action Research Project in Schools with Year 10 Students with goals towards encouraging innovative activity – outside the curriculum
- An established network of Arts Specialist Schools
- Arts in Education plan
- Visual Arts within schools and on CPD led by Arts Consultant
- Representation on the X Directorate Cultural Group

National Context

The arts along with sport and play activities provide "things to do, places to go" for children and young people, but they also have an important role to play in delivering the Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme. They contribute to the achievement of the five outcomes - being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being.

Other Key documents that cite the arts

- Aiming High for Young People: a ten year strategy for positive activities (AHYP)
- Music Manifesto
- Care Matters

The following list are key policies that are influencing current thinking, discourse and planning of services that need to be born in mind to develop strategic links and to strengthen the value of the C&YP arts. This is not a comprehensive list and further scoping needs to be applied.

"All our Futures: Creativity, Culture and Education"
National Advisory Committee on Creative and Cultural Education
(1999)

"Nurturing Creativity in Young People"
Paul Roberts
(2006)

"Culture and Creativity"
Department of Culture, Media and Sport
(2007)

Qualification and Curriculum Authority
14 – 19 Curriculum and Qualifications reform working group
"Creativity find it, promote it"

Arts Council policies and reports including:-

'Agenda for the Arts'
'Children and Young People'
'Response to Youth Matters'
'Arts in the Youth Justice System'
'Arts in Health'
Arts Awards.

'Dramatic Learning in Primary Schools and Visual Learning In the Community School', 2005
Shirley Brice Heath and Shelby Wolf

'Youth Arts Development and the Arts in Non school Hours by Shirley Brice Heath and Elisabeth Soep (Grant makers in the arts, Volume 9, Number 1 Spring 1998

Report of the Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee

'A Sporting Chance'

- A Short Scrutiny Study on increased opportunities and participation by children & young people in sport and physical activities**

November 2007

Foreword

In recent years there has been a growing national debate regarding the state of the nation's health, highlighted by poor rates of public participation in sporting activities, growing concerns around levels of obesity and poor sporting success at an international level.

These were brought into sharp focus by not only Jamie Oliver's crusade for better school food which highlighted this, but also the poor state of children's health and the winning bid for the 2012 Olympics which focussed the nation's attention on success at these Games.

Nationally, it is a government priority to increase participation at school level whilst developing opportunities for those more gifted to compete at a national level. Since starting this Scrutiny Review the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown has called for a united team effort in the run up to 2012 and to make sport a part of every child's day to build a greater sporting nation and a fitter nation.

However, sporting accomplishment at whatever level also has much wider implications. It boosts self esteem and confidence, encourages team working and breaks down social barriers. Thus it is a critical tool for a much wider agenda such as community cohesion and social inclusion.

The complexities and how important this in-depth scrutiny review has become clearer as the Task Group began to understand and piece together the structures of the School Sports Partnerships, the links with North Yorkshire Sport, the Community Sports Networks and the links with sports clubs. With the assistance of Officers and the Schools Partnership Development Managers we saw an enormous jig saw puzzle come together before our very eyes. We learnt how innovative and good practice initiatives can provide children with more purposeful playtimes and have an enormous positive impact on groups of disaffected and disengaged young people and be a turning point in their life.

We hope this scrutiny review highlights the importance of encouraging and supporting children and young people to participate in high quality PE and sport and the benefits this can bring.

I would like to personally thank all those people involved in this scrutiny review; the young people who provided us with their views, the Schools Partnership Development Managers, Executive Officer-North Yorkshire Sport, the officers of NYCC especially those in the Curriculum and Advisory Management team, Stephanie Bratcher our scrutiny support officer and finally my colleagues, members of the Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee.



*Liz Casling
Task Group Chairman and
Member of the Young Peoples Overview & Scrutiny
Committee*

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Introduction and Scope of Review

North Yorkshire has approximately 120,000 children and young people aged between 0 – 19, which is approximately 21% of the North Yorkshire population. The Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognises that children and young people, whatever their circumstances or abilities, should be able to participate in and enjoy physical education (PE) and sport regardless of their social, geographic and economic diversity.

The national Physical Education School Sports and Club Links Strategy (**PESSCL**) was developed to support the need to encourage young people to become more physically active, raise awareness, improve standards and increase participation. The means for delivering this initiative has been through a coordinated approach using Sports Colleges, School Sports Partnerships, Community Sports Networks, Sports Clubs and Leisure Services.

Through this co-ordinated approach the main drive has been to enhance the take-up of sporting opportunities for all 5-16 year olds nationally. This is being achieved by increasing the percentage of school children who spend a minimum of two hours a week on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum.

The overall objective of the PESSCL Strategy is to enhance the take up of sporting opportunities by 5-16 year olds so that the percentage of school children in England who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum from:-

- 25% in 2002 to 75% by 2006 and to
- 85% by 2008 and to 100% by 2010
- With at least 75% in each School Sport Partnership by 2008

Here in North Yorkshire the County Council through the Local Area Agreement set a stretch target under the Children & Young People thematic partnership which aims to increase participation in PE and School Sport for all young people in the County to:

- 75% in 2006
- 85% in 2007
- 92% in 2008 and
- 97% in 2009.

Scope of the Scrutiny Review

The Task Group considered the national drivers for change and set out the following objectives for this Scrutiny Review:

1. To consider how the County Council together with its partners are delivering against the local area agreement stretch targets and the national target and include:
 - Gain an understanding of the Partnership arrangements
 - Links with the Voluntary Sector
 - Links with the 4Youth Service
 - Gather evidence and examples of innovative and good practice:

2. In a local context, find out what the barriers to increased participation in sport and physical education are for young people, with particular reference to children and young people who are either
 - in the care system
 - from black and minority ethnic communities
 - who have learning difficulties.
 - or excluded from mainstream education
3. What are the links with Extended Schools
4. The role of Outdoor Education¹
5. Parents views on sports and physical activities
6. How do other County School sports Partnerships promote their work

Members of the Task Group:

Cllr Liz Casling Task Group Chairman
Cllr Heather Garnett
Cllr Caroline Seymour
Cllr Michelle Andrew
Cllr Chris Pearson
Cllr Andrew Backhouse

Links to the Children & Young Peoples Plan

Objective 1.1

encourage and enable children and young people to take physical exercise and to participate in sport and leisure

Links to Corporate Objectives:

- Security for all – by promoting safe, healthy and sustainable communities.
- Growing up prepared for the future – through good education, care and protection
- Independence – through employment, opportunity and appropriate support.

1. Visits to each of the Outdoor Education Centres highlighted several issues which included whether there were other learning opportunities which could be developed, whether the customer base might be broadened and the financial issues facing the service and whether the Service could be made more cohesive and reflect the educational climate.

Members of the Task Group agreed that a separate discrete scrutiny review of the Outdoor Education Service should be undertaken which was to run concurrently with this scrutiny review on Sports Provision. The findings from this review are consolidated in a separate report but the recommendations are included at the back of this report.

Executive Summary

This Scrutiny Review is a strategic overview of the links between North Yorkshire County Council and its partners in this field. Task Group Members worked closely with North Yorkshire Sport and the Schools Sports Partnership Development Managers to look at achievement and delivery against the national and local targets.

At the top end of the sports spectrum there are the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympics Games. These events are “the biggest celebration of sport on the planet¹” and encourage everyone to nurture and support talented young athletes to help them reach the very top.

Good partnership links exist between the County Council and North Yorkshire Sport who share ongoing opportunities for developing and increasing the participation of young people in PE and sport within and beyond the school day.

All are in agreement that encouraging children and young people to increase the amount of physical exercise they do each week is a national priority. Everyone is clear that obesity levels in adults, children and young people is a growing problem and must be tackled. The latest figures show that 17 percent of boys and girls aged two to ten in England are classified obese and are at risk of developing health related problems as they move into adulthood. If there is no reversal in this trend the Government is predicting that 50% of the population will be obese by 2050.

Since 2003 the Children & Young People’s Service in North Yorkshire have had a strategic role in forming, implementing and monitoring the strategy for Physical Education and School Sports and Club Links (PESSCL) across the County. The County Council has developed 8 School Sports Partnerships and one Special Schools Sports Partnership.

Monitoring the progress of the School Sports Partnerships (SSP) in achieving the national PSA² target and the LAA stretch target is undertaken each year by the PESSCL survey. This survey requires all schools in a SSP to report on the total curriculum time that ALL pupils spend taking part in PE and school sport.

From the latest data it is clear that the Council together with its partners have exceeded the 2006 target of 75% and are well placed to reach the 2007 stretch target of 85%. However, whilst the majority of schools ensure that pupils, in each year group, participate in PE in a typical week, there are a number of Schools who are not achieving the minimum 2 hours of curriculum time taking part in PE and this is an area that requires further monitoring. (*recommendation 1*)

The PESSCL survey data is not currently used to measure the positive affect that increased participation in physical activities has in relation to improved outcomes such as attainment, improved behaviour and/or attendance. The Task Group consider that perhaps this is an area that should be examined further by North Yorkshire Sport. (*recommendation 2*)

PESSCL information on the performance of Schools Sports Partnerships is not readily available and the Task Group suggest that this could be developed by including the data in the Inclusion Quality Mark scheme. (*recommendation 3*)

At present it would appear that only a few of the Sports Partnerships actively promote their activities, work and achievements. For example, only a small number of SSP’s have a dedicated website. The websites could for instance provide information on forthcoming events, activities and the availability of professional training courses. (*recommendation 4*)

There is a view that there needs to be improved clarity around the role of an Extended School in sport with partner organisations and ensure there are adequate linkages made with Area Committees, Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and Community Safety Partnerships. The Task Group felt that there may be an opportunity here to promote and enhance partnership working. (*recommendation 5*)

The impact a high profile sporting celebrity has in encouraging participation cannot be underestimated. Increasing participation is a challenge requiring sustained imagination and investment. The involvement and engagement of young people is crucial which can pay dividends to changes in lifestyles, and improved health and fitness of young people. Additionally, talented young athletes can be encouraged through the example set by a sporting celebrity to develop their skills to reach the top of their chosen sport (*recommendation 6*).

Children and young people who are looked after or are in the care system identified several issues such as difficulties joining a local club, involving their friends in leisure activities and in finding funding for Gym memberships, sports equipment/clothing, trips etc. The Task Group suggest that these concerns are passed to the Corporate Parenting Group. (*recommendation 7*)

The integration and participation of young people living in the Skipton area from black & ethnic backgrounds into school sports activities is generally good, which extends and includes parents/families. (*recommendation 8*)

Many young people identified several areas which they see as potential barriers and reasons why they are 'put off' taking part in PE and sport. These potential barriers included the ambiance of the location of their PE lessons, mentioning specifically changing facilities that lack privacy, the condition of the equipment and the range and type of sports activities on offer. Additionally, North Yorkshire's rurality often means there are transport problems that restrict young people from taking part in after school clubs or sporting activities. Using the idea of the initiative 'Girls Active' would appear to be a proactive approach to engage and involve young people in sport and physical activity. (*recommendation 9*)

Similarly, Schools identified challenges which they face and relate to the lack of facilities, lack of available sports coaches, difficulties in involving parents in activities.

There are no direct lines of accountability between North Yorkshire Sport, the PESSCL Strategy Group and the School Sports Partnerships. Joint working between each of the School Sports Partnership would seem to be through the Partnership Development Managers Meeting which includes the School Improvement Partner. The Task Group felt that it would be useful to clarify the reporting mechanisms which are in place to monitor the achievements and developments of the Schools Sports Partnership from a North Yorkshire perspective. (*recommendation 10*)

Members were pleased to note that the proposals set out in SEN/Behaviour Review include that all new Special Schools will have levels of accommodation in accordance with modern standards and suitable internal and external areas for PE and sport and informal activities. (*recommendation 11*)

1. Yorkshire Gold – Yorkshire & Humber's Strategy for London 2010 Olympic Games and Paralympics Games.
2. PSA target – to further enhance access to culture and sport for children and give them the opportunity to develop their talents to the full and enjoy the full benefits of participation – responsibility of Secretary of Culture, Media and Sport

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. LAA stretch target – County Council Officers continue to work with School Governing bodies and School Sports Partnerships to strengthen the case for increasing participation in PE and sport for all young people.
2. The PESSCL data base is developed further to help measure the impact that increased participation in sport and physical activity has had on children and young people in North Yorkshire. YPOSC monitors the outcomes on a regular basis.
3. That the PESSCL data should be included as part of the Inclusion Quality Mark scheme
4. Each Schools Sports Partnership considers developing a dedicated website with links to North Yorkshire Sport and Community Sports Networks.
5. The role of an Extended School to promote and enhance sporting participation should be clarified with partner organisations and linkages made with Area Committees, LSPs and Community Safety Partnerships to encourage closer more effective partnership working
6. Consideration should be given to holding a County event to raise awareness and promote PE and sport in North Yorkshire to which a high profile sporting Ambassador would be invited
7. That the issues raised by the Looked After Children Sports Audit are brought to the attention of the Corporate Parenting Group.
8. Efforts are maintained to develop good links with ethnic minority communities and to encourage participation in PE and sport wherever possible.
9. Consideration is given to rolling out similar initiatives such as the 'GirlsActive' across all School Sport Partnerships to proactively involve and engage young people in a range of sporting activities of their choice.
10. Clarification of the reporting mechanisms in place for monitoring the achievements and developments of the Schools Sports Partnership from a North Yorkshire perspective.
11. That the SEN & BESD Review continues with its proposals to develop facilities for sporting and physical activity needs of children & young people with learning difficulties.

National Drivers for Change

Physical education and sport should be a fundamental part of the education of all young people. Offering opportunities to take part in a range of sporting activities is important in itself, but it can help to develop important values like discipline, team working, creativity and responsibility.

Information gathered from the Young People and Sport National Survey findings in 1994 and 1999 found that the percentage of young people **not** taking part in any sport in school lessons on a regular basis was on the increase.

In October 2002 the Government launched the national **Physical Education School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) strategy**. This is jointly delivered by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) through eight programmes. Investment by Government since April 2003 has been in the region of £459 million which is on top of £686 million already invested to improve school sport facilities across England.



The national Physical Education School Sports and Club Links Strategy (**PESSCL**) was developed to support the need to encourage young people to become more physically active, raise awareness, improve standards and increase participation. The means for delivering this initiative has been through a coordinated approach using Sports Colleges, School Sports Partnerships, Community Sports Networks, Sports Clubs and Leisure Services.

The PESSCL Strategy is jointly delivered by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) through eight programmes. Investment by Government since April 2003 has been in the region of £459 million which is on top of £686 million already invested to improve school sport facilities across England.

The overall objective is a joint Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to enhance the take up of sporting opportunities by 5-16 year olds. The aim being to increase the percentage of school children in England who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum to 75% by 2006.

Its purpose has been was to establish 400 Specialist Sports Colleges and 400 School Sport Coordinator Partnerships by 2006 in communities of greatest need.

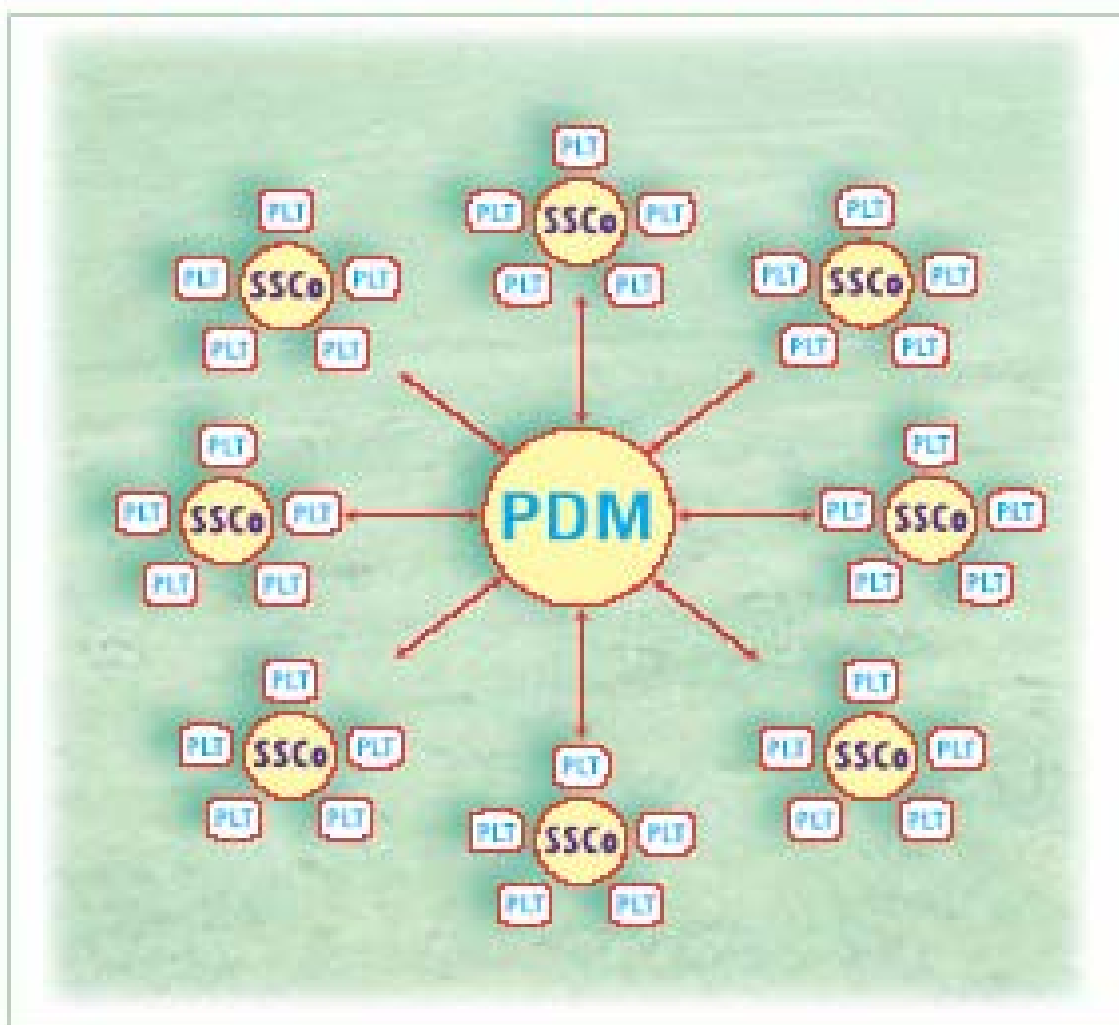
A **Specialist Sports College** is a maintained secondary school (in England) which receives additional funding from the Department for Education and Skills to raise standards in physical education and sport within its own school, in a local family of schools and in the wider community.



The **School Sport Partnership (SSP)** is based around groups of secondary, primary and special schools working together to develop and improve learning opportunities for all. The Specialist Sports College acting as the 'hub' of the family. The School Sport Partnership structure is:-

- The Partnership Development Manager (PDM) manages the partnership full time and is based in a sports college.
- The School Sport Coordinator (SSCo) - A teacher based in a secondary school who is released from timetable two days per week to work on the project. They work with their own school and cluster of feeder primary schools.
- Primary Link Teacher (PLT) or Link Teacher (LT) - A primary school teacher who is released 12 days per year to work on the project

Partnership Model for the School Sport Coordinator programme





The Youth Sport Trust plays a central role in supporting and overseeing delivery of the national strategy for PE, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL). The on going target being to increase the percentage of school children who spend a minimum of two hours a week on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum to 85% by 2008.

The long-term ambition, by 2010, is to offer all children at least four hours of sport every week made up of:

at least two hours of high quality PE and sport at schools — with the expectation that this will be delivered totally within the curriculum; and

an additional 2 or more hours beyond the school day delivered by a range of school, community and club providers.

Delivery of the strategy is through nine interlinked work strands; the first two are Sports Colleges and School Sport Coordinator Programmes.

The remaining seven workstrands are:

- Professional Development
- Step Into Sport
- Club Links
- Gifted & Talented
- Sporting Playgrounds
- Swimming
- The QCA's PE and School Sport Investigation

and are the tools the schools and partnerships draw on to enable children to take up their 2 hour entitlement and move towards the 2010 ambition.

Monitoring the aims of the PESSCL strategy is undertaken yearly by the PESSCL survey. All Schools involved in the SSP programme are responsible for completing the questionnaire accurately and in liaison with Partnership Development Managers. This survey forms part of the SSP's contractual agreement by which it receives funding. The data is collected and recorded by schools using many sources of information.

Sport England, Youth Sport Trust and UK Sport are national agencies who work together in what is called the sporting landscape.



Sport England is responsible for sustaining and increasing participation in community sport.

UK Sport is responsible for elite sport and world-class events.

The basic principles of high quality

High quality PE and sport always:

- enable all young people, whatever their circumstances or ability, to take part in and enjoy PE and sport
- promote young people's health, safety and well being
- enable all young people to improve and achieve in line with their age and potential.



SECTION ONE

Objective 1 - Delivering against the local and national targets

The population of children and young people aged between 0 – 19 living in North Yorkshire is approximately 120,000. Many experience good health and make good progress educationally. It therefore makes good sense for the County Council to encourage and support children and young people to have every opportunity to increase their levels of physical activity; supports them to take part in a range of sporting activities; encourages all young people to live a healthy and active lifestyle regardless of their social, geographic and economic diversity.

North Yorkshire County Council recognised the huge potential and impact school sports partnerships could have on successful outcomes for children in terms of improving their decision making and life chances. Taking a proactive and leading role the Council's next step was to raise awareness and, where possible, win the hearts and minds of Head Teachers to see the potentially positive impact on school improvement.

Consultations with other directorates in the Children & Young Peoples Service established which schools to approach as 'hub' sites and a strategy for implementation of the School Sports Partnerships was developed.

The proactive approach taken by the County Council is unlike other local authorities who either :

- * had some partnerships up and running which were originally just for areas of high deprivation, and therefore could not take an overall lead
- * or did not have the capacity for strategic leadership
- * or did not value the concept

The County Council has been instrumental in developing 8 School Sports Partnership (SSP) programmes from 2003 to 2006. The Sports Colleges or 'hub' schools as they are known are – Aireville, Barlby, Harrogate High, George Pindar, Lady Lumleys, Risedale, Upper Wharfedale, and Thirsk.

Each 'hub' has a Partnership Development Manager (PDM) who manages the partnership full time, is accountable to the Sports Director/Steering Group and is based in a sports college.

The latest partnership is the Special School Sports Partnership (Special SSP) which is first of its kind in the Country and places the partnership in an extremely innovative position. It is dedicated to improving the experience of PE and School Sport for every child with special needs through enhancing and extending opportunities both in curriculum time and during out of school hours learning. This special SSP consists of 13 special schools, 2 pupil referral units and includes SEN pupils from mainstream schools. The Partnership Development Manager is based at Mowbray School in Bedale.

The latest data from the PESSCL survey indicates that the Council together with its partners have exceeded the 2006 target of 75% and are well placed to reach the 2007 LAA stretch target of 85%. Results from the latest PESSCL 2005/06 shows that the North Yorkshire Schools Sports Partnerships average participation rate is 79.1% which shows good progress for 2006.

As always concerted efforts will need to be maintained if the Council and partner organisations are to achieve the 2010 target of 97%.

Ayreville	88%	North Yorkshire's School Sports Partnerships = <u>Average 79.1%</u>
Barlby	83%	
Harrogate	80%	
Lady Lumleys	89%	
George Pinder	76%	
Risedale	73%	
Thirsk	82%	

It is clear from this data that the majority of schools ensure that pupils, in each year group, participate in PE in a typical week. However, there are a number of Schools who are not achieving the minimum 2 hours of curriculum time taking part in PE and is therefore an area that requires monitoring.

Delving deeper into the PESSCL data provided a clearer picture on how individual schools were performing against the target:

Key stages 1 & 2 identified several schools who are not meeting the required minimum of 2 hours of PE in a typical per week. This may in part be due to the rurality of the County and the number and location of small schools. This is an area that the Task Group would suggest is monitor by the SSP's.

Years 7, 8 and 9 - the data shows that the majority of schools do ensure that pupils in each year group participate and spend 2 hours taking part in PE in a typical week.

Years 10 and 11 - this shows that at least half of the secondary school pupils, including Sports Colleges have difficulty in maintaining the 2 hours of curriculum time taking part in PE in a typical week for these year groups.

What has been difficult to evidence and evaluate is how the increase in participation is measured against improved outcomes for young people and whether this huge investment by the Government is achieving its main aim. Research tells us that increased levels of physical activity can help to improve attitudes to learning and attainment in generally underachieving children and young people.

However, the findings of the Task Group, in relation to the PESSCL survey data revealed that this data is not currently used to measure the positive affects that increased participation has had. For example increased levels of attainment, improved behaviour and attendance. This additional information would enhance the usefulness of the PESSCL survey, giving it extra depth and weight.

Interestingly, discussions with the Chief Officer, North Yorkshire Sport confirmed that there is work in progress to utilise and broaden the scope of the PESSCL data more effectively. This is an area the Task Group are keen to see developed and have agreed to remain actively involved and monitor progress.

Partnership Arrangements:

North Yorkshire Sport (NYS) is a partner organisation of the Children & Young Peoples Service and has the strategic lead for sport in North Yorkshire and York. NYS reports to Sport England and have their own set of targets; provides the link for sustaining and increasing community participation by ensuring that what is happening in the schools sports partnership is are also reflected back into the community through the Community Sports Networks; and that there is a competitive element between sports partnerships and sports colleges. Events such as the Youth Games which was held at Ampleforth College earlier this year.

Article in the July 2007 NY Times:

On starting blocks for Olympics – North Yorkshire Sport

Almost 1,500 children aged between 8 and 16 from across North Yorkshire competed in one of the most important fixtures in the County's sporting calendar.

"The level of competition was high and the standard of play was outstanding. North Yorkshire boasts some great up and coming young sportspeople".

Leon Taylor, Olympic silver medallist in synchronised diving attended the event as part of the Team B&Q.....

Another sporting champion Katie Crowley who starting playing through a basketball programme run at her school when she was 11 and made her international debut in 2001 also attended the event.

The Community Sports Network (CSN) plays an important role within each of the District Councils. Their aim is to consolidate existing sport and physical activity provision and develop new opportunities to enable young people (and the people within a district) to enjoy the benefits of leading a physically active life. The CSNs consists of a group of people from the public, private and voluntary sector who represent agencies involved in providing opportunities for sport and physical activity in each of the districts. Both North Yorkshire Sport and the Partnership Development Managers are involved with these networks.

Example of a Community Sports Network

The Selby Community Sport Network (CSN) was initially led by the local authority, predominantly the Selby Sports Development Officer. The group met for the first time in November 2006. Attendance at this meeting included the following agencies: -

- Sport Development
- Barlby School Sports Partnership
- Local Education
- Primary Care Trust
- Community Safety
- Selby College
- Abbey Leisure Centre
- Tadcaster Community Pool

Chief Officer North Yorkshire Sport attended this meeting and explained to the group the aims and objectives of the CSN. The predominant aim of the CSN is to develop an investment portfolio and to produce investment plans for the district. Those agencies that sit on the CSN have been asked to identify their key priorities. There is a significant amount of funding that can be drawn from Sport England from the Community Investment Fund (CIF) for each CSN across the country. Those projects that apply to the CSN must show that they increase participation in sport and physical activity, and reduce gaps. However, other plans and projects that have been identified for the district can also be included in the portfolio.

The CSN has met three times since this initial meeting and now has several more agencies and organisations on board, including the Community Links Officer, and AVS. Selby's CSN has also appointed an independent chairperson, Andy Lancashire, and has been given the name 'Active Selby'. The next step for 'Active Selby' is to begin developing the investment portfolio. A project planning application form has therefore been distributed through those agencies that sit on the CSN to be completed. The next meeting has been scheduled for June, whereby the CSN will begin to assess the projects and begin to make funding applications to the CIF and through other funding streams.

The Schools Sports Partnerships (SSP) are establishing themselves well. The Partnership Development Managers (PDMs) meet regularly to share ideas and discuss events and future planning. They work closely with the Council's Service Improvement Partner and are in regular contact with the School Sports Co-ordinators and Primary Link Teachers. Important links to local sports clubs outside of school hours have been developed, but this area of work is ongoing. The PDM's feel there have been some major strides forward but all are in agreement that there is still more work to be done in support of their aims, objectives and partnership working.

The line management of PDM's by the nature of the structure is fragmented. In general they are line managed by the Sport lead within Sports Colleges but practice can differ from school to school.

From the County Councils perspective there is the PESSCL Strategy Group, chaired by an Officer from the County Council. This group has a strategic overview of the PESSCL targets. The fundamental purpose of this strategic group is to agree the direction of travel for the SSP's. They ensure there is a competitive element to the SSP programme and that gifted and talented students are supported, encouraged and pointed in the right direction. The PESSCL Strategy Group encourage and support partnership working. This meeting is regularly attended by the Chief Officer from North Yorkshire Sport.

It is worth mentioning however, that there are no direct lines of accountability between North Yorkshire Sport, the PESSCL Strategy Group and the School Sports Partnerships. The common thread and drive running through the heart of all the partner agencies is to increase participation and access to high quality PE and sport for all young people both within and beyond the school day. The only linkages between each of the School Sports Partnership would appear to be through the Partnership Development Managers Meeting which includes the School Improvement Partner. The Task Group felt that clarification would be useful to confirm the reporting mechanisms in place that undertaken monitoring and development of the Schools Sports Partnership from a North Yorkshire perspective.

The Task Group found little evidence to suggest that each of the School Sports Partnerships saw themselves as part of a much bigger picture ie. a North Yorkshire Schools Sports Collaborative and whether there are suitable linkages made to include SSP's and therefore the Partnership Development Managers in appropriate and relevant developments.

Links with the Voluntary Sector

All of the voluntary sector organisations work towards the Every Child Matters agenda and often have a key role in providing activities to children and young people not provided by the statutory sector. Often the services provided by the voluntary sector are funded via NYCC Young Money, NYCC 4 Youth Service or other charitable trusts i.e. Comic Relief, Big Lottery Sports Fund

Their role in providing sports provision may be around youth clubs running football, cricket, basketball courses, along side healthy eating and fitness workshops. The voluntary sector also provide weekend residentials', climbing, canoeing, caving, cycling, horse riding, offering young people a chance to try new opportunities and experiences which they may take up and enjoy as a hobby.

Recently young carers were introduced to Mark Schwarzner, the Middlesborough Football club/Australian goalie who, as a good role model, came to talk to them about health and fitness and working towards goals and achieving. The children and young people found this hugely inspiring and beneficial.

Voluntary organisations seek funding for events such as sending the children on sports camps in school holidays, which the statutory sectors are unable to access.

Links with the 4Youth Service

The purpose of Youth Work in North Yorkshire is to create opportunities, which encourage young people, through voluntary association to reach their full potential. Part of this is achieved through developing social development opportunities in a wide range of settings including sport, the arts and the community.

There are 11 Youth Work Area Teams in North Yorkshire each with an individual Area Plan that links to the Children & Young Peoples Plan and the five key outcomes under: **Every Children Matters**. In creating sporting opportunities the Area Teams will work closely for example with the Voluntary Sector, District Councils, Local Communities and Clubs, Outdoor Education Service and Community Sports Networks.

Some of the Projects developed include Outdoor Activity Residentials at Bewerley Park, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Young Leader Awards, football tournaments for both girls and boys, badminton and basketball competitions and multi-sports programmes to provide young people with an opportunity to experience different activities are to name but a few. The impact and evaluation of these projects is undertaken on a rolling basis with a Review of the Area Plan on a yearly basis.

Examples of innovative and good practice

Members of the Task Group were provided with many examples of innovative and good practice and are the evidence to show how the School Sports Partnerships are developing and progressing. The following are just two of the examples received:

“RAMP” Rural Area Motorbike Project Partnership Development Manager – Andy Clay

10 week project involving 20 Students from Year 10 (15 boys and 5 girls). Students were identified as disaffected; low self esteem; on the verge of exclusion; low attendance records; low in confidence; ‘trouble makers’.

All of the young people involved were low in confidence, their communication skills with each other and staff were very limited and they lacked any real desire to improve their quest for new experiences or knowledge.

Outcomes:

- Everyone completed the course; could confidently ride a motorbike and received a QCA accredited qualification in motorbike safety (most of whom were predicted to not achieve any GCSEs grades A-C).
- Attendance to the project was 100%.
- Attendance at school during the 10 weeks was 100% even on the days the project was not running.
- Staff commented on how ‘different’ individuals were within their lessons
- All young people understood the responsibilities of their own actions and were very aware motorbike health and safety procedures.
- At the end of the project Pupils put self confidence as very high and identified a sense of achievement and pride.
- By the end of the project young people said:-
 - a ‘team’ had been formed that shared ideas, communicated and encouraged one another
 - that they had all shared their experiences/enjoyment of the project with their teachers
 - how this was the ***‘best thing they had ever done at school’***

Case Study Evidence

Title of Programme/event/project	<i>Jumping Jacks Playground activities</i>
<p>Why did you want to do this? We wanted to provide the children with more purposeful playtimes. We had noticed that many 'issues' tended to present themselves at the end of playtime and needed to look at ways to make playtimes run more smoothly. We also like to involve the children in what happens at their school and results from a survey showed that many of them did not enjoy this time of the day. We were also conscious of the squeeze that maths and literacy was putting on delivery time for the other areas of the curriculum. Developing playtimes that would engage all the children seemed like the ideal solution.</p>	
<p>What were the key things you wanted to achieve?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the number of behaviour related incidents that occurred during and at the end of playtimes. • To make playtimes a happier time • To engage children in physical activity at break times. 	
<p>What key things did you do? Our starting point was meeting what had been arranged for schools with 'Localities funding'. The TA and myself went along to find out about 'Huff and Puff', a scheme that had been developed by Davies Sport. We liked their ideas and fed this back to staff at school. It was decided that some of our localities money could be used to fund this is due to the success criteria relating to improving standards amongst vulnerable children. We consulted the School Council about what activities and equipment they would like to see running and orders stock and storage. The playground was zoned to allow for quiet areas and spaces for ball games. We decided to issue each child with a key ring, which they would swap for a piece of equipment. This would allow the children to take more responsibility for the equipment. We discussed the notion of having playground leaders, a job which children have to apply for and be interviewed for. The response to this was overwhelming. We delivered assemblies to inform the children of the changes to playtimes and talk about how to use the equipment and what the role of the playground leaders was. TA's went on a course run by Davies Sport on how to use their equipment and ideas for developing playground games.</p>	
<p>What were the outcomes of your project? The end result has been better than we could imagine. Playtimes are now lovely at New Park School. Gone are the days of patrolling the yard and sorting out issues arising from playtime. Now the only dilemma you are faced with is whether to play catch with a group of children or master balancing on a Lola ball! There has been a noticeable improvement in the behaviour at playtimes and also the number of accidents, as play is less of a 'physical' nature. In summer 2005 the children were asked to comment on what they liked about New Park School and playtimes was their top like. A sharp contrast to the year before and its outcome.</p>	
<p>What do you think is still to be achieved? Every so often Jumping Jacks needs re-launching to keep the children's interest and enthusiasm levels high. The equipment we have is rotated and every so often we put something new out to again, keep the interest levels up. Our next step is to introduce Jumping Jacks to lunch times. We are currently planning a 'lunch time curriculum', where children will not only be engaged purposeful play but will be offered activities such as outdoor art, orienteering, sewing. We see Jumping Jacks fitting in with this perfectly.</p>	
<p>What would you do differently next time? The only difficulty we face is the cost of replacing equipment that gets worn out or damaged. Last year we had to fund this out of Key Stage budgets butt his year we are going to use Sainsbury's vouchers to replenish our stocks. Hopefully if this works and Sainsbury's continue with their scheme this will be a regular way to replace the stock.</p>	

SECTION TWO

Objective 2 – The barriers to increased participation

Despite the benefits of exercise, national trends show one-third of boys and between one-third and one-half of girls in England do not do the recommended amount of physical activity. So, what would encourage young people to do more PE and sport.

The National School Sport Champion Dame Kelly Holmes takes an impassioned interest in getting more young people active and involved in sport. Research consistently indicates that teenage girls are less active than boys of the same age and, are more likely to become disengaged and drop out of sport in their early teens.

Her response to this was to task teenage girls and their teachers from across the UK to develop Action Plans, demonstrating how they would like to tackle the issue of girls' disengagement with sport in their school.

In North Yorkshire the Aireville School Sports Partnership won an award for their 'GirlsActive' action plan which included a visit from Dame Kelly Holmes herself. This visit had a tremendous impact on the school, the partnership and the young people themselves. As a result of this initiative and Dame Kelly Holmes' visit 'Active Girl' steering groups have been set up in each secondary school in Craven.

National research shows teenage girls rated the environment for their PE lessons, the range of activities on offer and their PE kit as average or poor and believed that more girls would get active if alternative forms of physical activity, such as streetdance, boxercise and trampolining were introduced. These national indicators are no different to the responses received from North Yorkshire students who listed the following reasons why they are not engaged in PE and sport:

School issues:

- Type of activities on offer
- Distance from sports facilities
- Poor quality facilities/equipment
- Lack of specialist knowledge and confidence to deliver
- Pressure from other subject areas

Special Schools:

- limited PE facilities for both indoor and outdoor activities
- Hydrotherapy pools available in 4 schools.

Club Issues:

- Facilities
- Lack of coaches
- Lack of support from families/volunteers
- Lack of funding

Transport:

- A major issue for the majority of schools.

"There are not enough facilities for young people"

"I don't do any sport or physical activity – I can't be bothered"

'No one wants to use the showers when they come in after cross country running. We have no privacy'

'We've got no privacy, besides we only have 5 minutes to change anyway.'

"I know sport improves fitness but its boring"

- Children are bussed/taxied to and from school and therefore have fewer opportunities to stay and attend after school clubs/fixtures
- Bus services are limited for rural and deeply rural areas
- Finding volunteers to drive school bus for fixtures

Children in the Care System

A **Looked After Children** Sports Audit undertaken as part of this scrutiny review indicated that the majority of young people in the care system are involved in sport, most commonly on an informal basis.

Good support is given to both young people by carers, Social Workers and Family Support Workers.

This group of young people identified different reasons why they do not get involved in sport and these are as follows:

1. Eight young people had expressed an interest in football but surprisingly none played for a non school team, which would indicate that more work could be done to progress this.

'Most sports stuff stop when you're 13. I'd really liked to go on a football course.'
2. Young people, active in sports and in a long term placement can experience difficulties joining a local club to continue with their sports activity due to long waiting lists

'There is little to do in the holidays but I think that's the same for most kids of our age'
3. Only half had been swimming in the last couple of months and only 8 of the 13 were able to swim albeit a couple of lengths.
4. Funding for Gym memberships, trips away for sports teams events, or taking part in a range of sporting/leisure activities is an issue.

'My foster carers are great but I'm not sure who'd pay if my football team went on holiday.'
5. The provision of sports equipment/clothing is a further matter which seems to require clarification.
6. Young people living in a Children's Home said that they could not involve their friends in leisure activities as staff were not permitted to drive them and their friends to events.

'I can't afford to pay fully for my gym membership'

Children from black and minority ethnic communities

The Craven/Skipton area is home to the largest community of **black and minority ethnic** families in North Yorkshire. Integration and participation by young people, including their parents/families into local school sports is good and the Task Group were encouraged to learn about the progress being made.

1. Events are open to everyone and all groups of young people are encouraged to get involved and participate.
2. Integration of young people in the Craven area is good and an excellent example is Ings Primary School who have 80% of their pupils from BME backgrounds:

A Tennis tournament was organised last year between ten Skiptonbased primary schools for pupils in years 5&6. Ings Primary School won the tournament so the school took the pupils and their families to the final in Leeds. The School arranged the coach to Leeds for what was said to be a good day out by everyone.

3. Discussions which are in the preliminary stages with the local Imam are around exploring the possibilities of promoting a cricket project specifically for Asian girls, and/or the setting up of sports based activities in and around the local Mosque.
4. Participation in Secondary school outdoor education residential visits by young girls from ethnic backgrounds have not been very successful. It is hard to know exactly how many have taken part, but it is thought to be a minimal number.
5. Young men from the same BME backgrounds do not have the same issues and many have been on residential visits.

Children & Young People special needs

Exploring opportunities to enhance the participation in PE and sport for *children & young people with special needs* is supported in part through the Special Schools Sports Partnership (SSSP).

The existing special schools have all been in existence for many years. The levels of play and sports spaces vary. All new schools which are proposed to be developed as part of the SEN/Behaviour Review will have levels of accommodation in accordance with modern standards. The DCSF are currently developing a specific design guide for special schools. The Council's current vision for its new special school is based on the DCSF's draft new guidance. External areas will include pitches, grassed and hard surfaced informal area, games court and habitat area, to levels similar to primary and secondary schools. Internally, the briefs will include for a hall for PE & Sport (with separate space for dining to allow more use of the main hall for curricular and informal activities); and for appropriate schools, a hydrotherapy pool – along with proper storage, changing and ancillary spaces. In the proposed BESD residential school, the provision will also include a fully equipped three court sports hall.

Developments through the Special School Sports Partnership such as the *Sportability Clubs* have been a great success with positive feedback from parents/families. The purpose of this Club is to provide all young people with special needs with the opportunity to enjoy sporting activities.

Examples of the feedback received from parents:

"Just to say thank you for the sportability afternoons, my son really enjoys the sessions. Its also a welcome break for us and his brother.

Its a great opportunity for him to socialise and make friends with children nearer home as his school friends are at the forest school in Knaresborough.

If there wasn't anything like the sportability afternoons he would probably spend the majority of the weekend in his bedroom.

The venue is also excellent and familiar to my son which is important to him.

Thanks again"

"I would like to express my thanks to you and the whole team behind the Sportsability club to say a huge thank you for what you are doing for the children. My daughter, as you know has special needs, absolutely loves the club and has done so from the outset. From the first taster club it was clear that you guys have a passion for what you do and the kids respond to this. This club is a fantastic chance for her to widen her network of friends in a friendly and fun atmosphere and also provides her with the opportunity to have a couple of hours independence away from her usual surroundings. She is still talking about the fire engine visiting the club last Saturday which is brilliant....."

Pupils excluded from mainstream education

The two existing PRUs were set up some years ago, which, in conformity with the School Premises Regulations at the time, did not have external play area (nor indeed do the premises in which they were established lend themselves to such). The new PRUs proposed to be established following the County Council Review will have external play facilities. The brief requires access to external spaces; a courtyard type sitting out area, and a play area suitable for five a side/basketball.

The two existing PRUs (Harrogate and Scarborough) make use of a wide range of local sports facilities and opportunities. For instance, in Scarborough they hire the Scarborough Sports Centre and Falsgrave Community Centre. They also undertake a range of outdoor activities which provide opportunities for all students. The Harrogate PRU makes use of Knaresborough Community Centre, the Squash Club and Leeds Climbing Wall. They too organise a range of outdoor activities.

SECTION THREE

What are the links with Extended Schools

An extended school acts as a focal point within their community for a range of services. An extended school works with local providers, agencies and, in many cases, other schools to provide access to what the Government calls a 'Core Offer' of support and looks at ways to enhance the physical activity/sporting opportunities, often beyond the school day to help meet the needs of children, parents and the wider community.

Sports activities are an integral part in the delivery of the 'Core Offer' and primarily sit within the 'varied menu of activities' element. However, after school sports for secondary aged pupils could satisfy the requirement of 'a safe place to be' in the childcare element, or the use of a sports field by a junior football club during the weekend would be a good example of 'community access'.

Every school in North Yorkshire is part of an Extended Schools Cluster (ESC) and membership for each cluster is approximately 15 schools which includes at least one secondary school, sometimes two and primary schools. The clusters employ an Extended School Co-ordinator who works across all schools within their patch.

For example for the past two years one Extended School cluster has been working together to increase the range of extra curricular activities through After Schools Clubs such as dance and street dance, karate and gymnastics, inter schools tournaments, a programme for teenage girls with low self confidence and self esteem and a football foundation application for pitch re-development.

All the schools in the cluster have worked directly with the School sports Partnerships, the local Football Club, the Pool and Recreation Centre, local sports coaches the Borough Council Development Team and Community sports Network.

Another example of an Extended Schools programme and their active promotion of physical activity is being developed via the Children's Centres route. On offer are training sessions delivered by Leisure Centre Officers to assist day care providers in making 'playtime' and physical education time more successful.

The challenges faced by Schools related to increasing participation in sport include the lack of facilities, lack of available sports coaches, difficulties in involving parents in activities.

This also may be the ideal time to engage with the voluntary sector to discover what sports provision they can offer for those of all abilities.

However, the Task Group were unsure whether there is enough clarity around the role of an Extended School in sport with partner organisations and thought that there may be an opportunity here to promote and enhance partnership work.

SECTION FOUR

The role of Outdoor Education

The Task Group took the opportunity to visit one of the OE Centres to see first hand the types of activities available and meet some of the children on a residential visit.

Watching the high spirits of the children on the 'jungle ropes' and crawling through a rather wet and muddy tunnel in the snow, encouraging one another was fascinating. Their Head Teacher and Chair of School Governors from **Newby and Scalby Primary School**, explained how they used their outdoor education experience back in the classroom. In fact, they invited the Task Group to come and see for themselves.

This visit to Newby & Scalby Primary School by the Task Group was extremely useful and provided them with an opportunity to meet one of the parents. This parent had specifically asked to meet the Task Group to share and explain the impact her daughter's outdoor education residential visit had on the whole family. How it had helped to build her daughter's self esteem and confidence and how it had played a big part in establishing stronger family relationships.

The projects were laid out for the group to see and in turn the children explained that their joint piece of work was to provide the rising year 6 children with information, advice and helpful tips about why they should go on an Outdoor Education visit. They then discussed the activities they liked best, the activities they liked least and what they had learned from the residential visit.

The outcome of the visit to the primary school drew together the parallels between outdoor education, sport and physical activity. They both reinforce the message of health and physical fitness but also, in some cases, help children to develop self confidence and a life-long interest in outdoor activities and sport.

There is therefore a need to develop a set of measurements so development in a range of areas within a child can be taken at different times i.e. during the weeks stay, 1 month afterwards and say 6 months afterwards. This can measure the long term effects and can be a narrative and perhaps linked to education effects.



SECTION FIVE Parents Views on sports and physical activities

In general parents and carers are very much in favour of children enjoying sports and being physically active, or as one parent said “kicking a ball about in the fresh air”. They said that sport provides their children with outdoor activity, helps them to understand team games and play by the rules and meet new friends. What they are up against is computer technology and the many computerised games on the market.

Another point raised related to safety issues and concerns over “stranger, danger” which deter parents from letting their children into public areas.

When it comes to teenagers, parents and carers told the Task Group that keeping them physically active can be more difficult. They said that young people have other pressures such as studying and examinations and quickly become distracted and lose interest in the normal types of sport. Some parents felt they had no influence either way.

The cost of leisure facilities the equipment and clothing can be a problem for some parents.

Transport for children and young people that live in rural areas and who wish to stay on for after school clubs is a problem. Many have no other option than to take the School Bus home. Parents who work are not always in a position to collect their children at specific times.

SECTION SIX

What other County Sports Partnerships are doing:

Most schools across England will now be part of a School Sports Partnership. Many are still developing in their own areas, some more than others.

The Exeter School Sport Partnership has a Fit to Succeed philosophy which aims to raise the profile of health, fitness and physical activity, a healthy diet and drinking water; to demonstrate an unequivocal link between physical activity and academic attainment.

Promoting the work of School Sports Partnerships varies from County to County. Searches on the internet revealed several good examples of School Sports Partnership websites in other parts of the Country (e.g. South East Somerset Schools Partnership www.sesomersetssco.co.uk, and Torbay Sport Partnership www.torbaysport.com) which were informative, interesting and useful sources of information.

The Task Group agree that there are many opportunities to be had by promoting the work and achievements of the School Sports Partnerships more proactively. It would appear that only a small number of North Yorkshire SSP's have a dedicated website. These websites provide information on forthcoming events, activities and the availability of professional training courses. The group felt that a better use of the intranet would be a positive way of promoting the good work of the partnerships and informing users of events and activities.

SECTION SEVEN

Conclusions

The findings of the Task Group confirm that a large proportion of children and young people in North Yorkshire are being offered, encouraged and supported to take up a wide variety of high quality, different sports through the School Sports Partnerships and Special School Sports Partnerships and in the local clubs and communities. This includes the less mainstream activities like dance, sparring, trampoline, gymnastics and kick boxing in an effort to get as many youngsters as possible taking part in physical activities no matter what ability level.

There are good partnership links between the County Council and North Yorkshire Sport who share ongoing opportunities for developing and increasing the participation of young people in PE and sport within and beyond the school day.

An initial conclusion was that the structure of organisations working together to provide sporting opportunities and hit the targets is complicated when considered alongside other educational structures such as "clusters" and extended schools. The concern is whether this structure aids the public accessing the sporting provision provided or hinders it. It also has blurred lines of responsibility which is indicative of the partnership working which must occur between NYCC and others if it is going to be successful.

The latest data clearly shows that the Council together with its partners have exceeded the 2006 target of 75% and are well placed to reach the 2007 stretch target of 85%. Whilst the majority of schools ensure that pupils, in each year group, participate in PE in a typical week, there are a number of Schools who are not achieving the minimum 2 hours of curriculum time taking part in PE and this is an area that requires further monitoring. (*recommendation 1*)

The PESSCL survey data is not currently used to measure the positive affect that increased participation in physical activities has in relation to improved outcomes such as attainment,

improved behaviour and/or attendance. The Task Group consider that perhaps this is an area that should be examined further by North Yorkshire Sport. (*recommendation 2*)

PESSCL information on the performance of Schools Sports Partnerships is not readily available and the Task Group suggest that this could be developed by including the data in the Inclusion Quality Mark scheme. (*recommendation 3*)

It would appear that only a few of the School Sports Partnerships actively promote their activities, work and achievements. For example, only a small number of SSP's have a dedicated website. The websites could for instance provide information on forthcoming events, activities and the availability of professional training courses. (*recommendation 4*)

Through examination of the role of extended schools, the task group found that schools varied widely in the accessibility of that school to the wider community. A school who is at the heart of its community in this way is invaluable and no doubt vastly helps local sporting provision. This role needs to be defined and publicised along with an audit of facilities and the type of equipment in each school to strategically manage the sporting provision across a wider area. Also adequate linkages should be made with Area Committees, Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and Community Safety Partnerships to encourage closer more effective partnership working. (*recommendation 5*)

The impact of a high profile sporting celebrity as an advocate and inspiration to children and young people cannot be underestimated. Dame Kelly Holmes does this nationally and her visit to North Yorkshire had a dramatic effect on the young people she spoke too. The involvement of a more local inspirational sporting figure would motivate children and act as an advocate for all the good things that successful sporting participation can bring. Additionally, talented young athletes can be encouraged through the example set by a sporting celebrity to develop their skills to reach the top of their chosen sport. (*recommendation 6*)

Children and young people who are looked after or are in the care system identified several issues such as difficulties joining a local club, involving their friends in leisure activities and in finding funding for Gym memberships, sports equipment/clothing, trips etc. (*recommendation 7*)

The integration and participation of young people living in the Skipton area from black & ethnic communities into school sports activities is generally good and extends through to include parents and families. (*recommendation 8*)

Many young people identified several areas which they see as potential barriers and reasons why they are 'put off' taking part in PE and sport. These potential barriers included the ambiance of the location of their PE lessons, mentioning specifically changing facilities that lack privacy, the condition of the equipment and the range and type of sports activities on offer. Additionally, North Yorkshire's rurality often means there are transport problems that restrict young people from taking part in after school clubs or sporting activities. Using the idea of the initiative 'Girls Active' would appear to be a proactive approach to engage and involve young people in sport and physical activity.

Similarly, Schools identified challenges which they face and relate to the lack of facilities, lack of available sports coaches, difficulties in involving parents in activities. (*recommendation 9*)

There are no direct lines of accountability between North Yorkshire Sport, the PESSCL Strategy Group and the School Sports Partnerships. Joint working between each of the School Sports Partnership would appear to be through the Partnership Development Managers Meeting which includes the School Improvement Partner.

The Task Group consider that clarification is necessary to confirm the reporting mechanisms which are in place to monitor the achievements and developments of the Schools Sports Partnership from a North Yorkshire perspective (*recommendation 10*).

Members were pleased to note that the proposals set out in SEN/Behaviour Review include that all new Special Schools will have levels of accommodation in accordance with modern standards and suitable internal and external areas for PE and sport and informal activities. (*recommendation 11*)

Everyone disagrees that it is a challenge to sustain participation by young people in physical activity and sport. It requires imagination, investment and the involvement and engagement of young people. But the benefits are two-fold - the improved health and fitness of young people, and in being influential in developing healthy lifestyle choices for young people to take through to adulthood.

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SECTION EIGHT

Recommendations:

1. LAA stretch target – County Council Officers continue to work with School Governing bodies and School Sports Partnerships to strengthen the case for increasing participation in PE and sport for all young people.
2. The PESSCL data base is developed further to help measure the impact that increased participation in sport and physical activity has had on children and young people in North Yorkshire. YPOSC monitors the outcomes on a regular basis.
3. That the PESSCL data should be included as part of the Inclusion Quality Mark scheme
4. Each Schools Sports Partnership considers developing a dedicated website with links to North Yorkshire Sport and Community Sports Networks.
5. The role of an Extended School to promote and enhance sporting participation should be clarified with partner organisations and linkages made with Area Committees, LSPs and Community Safety Partnerships to encourage closer more effective partnership working
6. Consideration should be given to holding a County event to raise awareness and promote PE and sport in North Yorkshire to which a high profile sporting Ambassador would be invited
7. That the issues raised by the Looked After Children Sports Audit are brought to the attention of the Corporate Parenting Group.
8. Efforts are maintained to develop good links with ethnic minority communities and to encourage participation in PE and sport wherever possible.
9. Consideration is given to rolling out similar initiatives such as the 'GirlsActive' across all School Sport Partnerships to proactively involve and engage young people in a range of sporting activities of their choice.
10. Clarification of the reporting mechanisms in place for monitoring the achievements and developments of the Schools Sports Partnership from a North Yorkshire perspective.
11. That the SEN & BESD Review continues with its proposals to develop facilities for sporting and physical activity needs of children & young people with learning difficulties.

Scrutiny Review of North Yorkshire's Outdoor Education Service: 'Learning in the Wet and Mud'

Recommendations:

1	A more centralised and standardised approach for office, administration, booking and invoicing processes should be given due consideration.
2	Adoption of an inclusive approach to encompass children of all ages and from minority groups.
3	Adoption of strategies that make as full a use of the accommodation as possible including weekends, out of term time and during the day when the residential courses are out on activities.
4	Encourage use of the facilities by other groups, eg for NYCC Member and staff training
5	Undertake a review of the skill mix and staffing structures
6	Development of a marketing strategy to project a proactive image, promote the resources available and encourage better links with other agencies, public sector organisations and internally.
7	Consider expanding the core offer to include Fieldwork options that tackle contemporary issues such as climate change and cultural studies
8	Consider enhancing the facilities on site to include such things as biodiversity and wildlife gardens and outside creative seating areas
9	Develop partnerships both internally and with other agencies such as NPs, ANOBs, NYCC's Countryside Services that could provide supplementary learning on environmental and cultural matters.
10	Complete the upgrade of residential accommodation as soon as possible and make an early decision on the use of the Wrea Head Trust money.

**North Yorkshire County Council
Environment & Heritage Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Scrutiny Task Group on Reducing Corporate Waste

Terms of reference

Objectives

1. To examine and make recommendations about how the County Council could contribute to waste reduction targets by
 - a) reducing the amount of waste it generates
 - b) increasing the amount of re-use and recycling on Council premises and in schools, in order to contribute to waste reduction targets
 - c) buying goods made from recycled materials.
2. To identify examples of good practice in, and barriers to, re-use and recycling in schools and council premises.
3. To consider best practice in dealing with corporate waste in other public sector organisations.

Scope and Timetable

- a) Schools and colleges in North Yorkshire
- b) North Yorkshire County Council premises, including offices, libraries, residential homes

It is proposed that the project is tackled in two stages, taking schools as the first stage (Oct 07 – Feb 08) and council premises as the second stage (Feb – May 08).

Methodology

1. Desk research, gathering relevant information from
 - Schools re. current arrangements
 - District councils re. recycling collection arrangements and awareness-raising work
 - Council officers re. current arrangements
 - Other public sector bodies re. best practice
2. Communication with the schools and visits to a range of schools (primary, secondary, colleges in different part of the county) to identify good practice and barriers
3. Communication with and visits to council premises to identify good practice and barriers
4. Collate findings and make recommendations.