

Agenda

**Meeting: Young People's
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**Venue: Grand Committee Room, County Hall,
Northallerton DL7 8AD
(see location plan overleaf)**

Date: Friday, 27 June 2014 at 10.30 am

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Business

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2014.** (Pages 1 to 5)
2. **Public Questions or Statements.**

Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice to Lorraine Laverton of Policy & Partnerships (*contact details below*) no later than midday on Wednesday 25 June 2014, three working days before the day of the meeting. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item. Members of the public who have given notice will be invited to speak:-

- at this point in the meeting if their questions/statements relate to matters which are not otherwise on the Agenda (subject to an overall time limit of 30 minutes);
- when the relevant Agenda item is being considered if they wish to speak on a matter which is on the Agenda for this meeting.

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 3. Executive Members Oral Briefing | <i>10.35-10.50</i> |
| 4. Homelessness Prevention – Report of the Corporate Director – Children & Young People’s Service.
(Pages 6 to 27) | <i>10.50-11.05</i> |
| 5. Preventative Services Review – Report of the Corporate Director – Children & Young People’s Service.
(REPORT NOT YET AVAILABLE) | <i>11.05-11.25</i> |
| 6. The Plan For All Children, Young People and their Families Living In North Yorkshire 2014-17 – Report of the Corporate Director – Children & Young People.
(Pages 28 to 89) | <i>11.20-11.40</i> |
| 7. The Promise – Report of the Corporate Director – Children & Young People’s Service.
(Pages 90 to 108) | <i>11.40-11.55</i> |
| 8. Online Safety of Children and Young People – Final Report of the Scrutiny Task Group presented by County Councillor Joe Plant.
(Pages 109 to 121) | <i>11.55-12.10</i> |
| 9. Welfare Benefit Reform and Child Poverty in North Yorkshire – Report of the Assistant Director – Policy & Partnerships.
(Pages 122 to 133) | <i>12.10-12.20</i> |
| 10. School Improvement – School Ofsted Outcomes – Report of the Corporate Director – Children & Young People’s Service.
(Pages 134 to 140) | <i>12.20-12.40</i> |
| 11. Work Programme – Report of the Scrutiny Team Leader.
(Pages 141 to 145) | <i>12.35-12.40</i> |
| 13. Other business which the Chairman agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances. | |

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall
Northallerton

19 June 2014

NOTES:

- (a) **Declarations of Interest** - Members are reminded of the need to consider whether they have any interests to declare on any of the items on this agenda and, if so, of the need to explain the reason(s) why they have any interest when making a declaration.

The relevant Corporate Development Officer or the Monitoring Officer will be pleased to advise on interest issues. Ideally their views should be sought as soon as possible and preferably prior to the day of the meeting, so that time is available to explore adequately any issues that might arise.

(b) **Emergency Procedures For Meetings**

Fire

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Persons should not re-enter the building until authorised to do so by the Fire and Rescue Service or the Emergency Co-ordinator.

An intermittent alarm indicates an emergency in nearby building. It is not necessary to evacuate the building but you should be ready for instructions from the Fire Warden.

Accident or Illness

First Aid treatment can be obtained by telephoning Extension 7575.

Young People

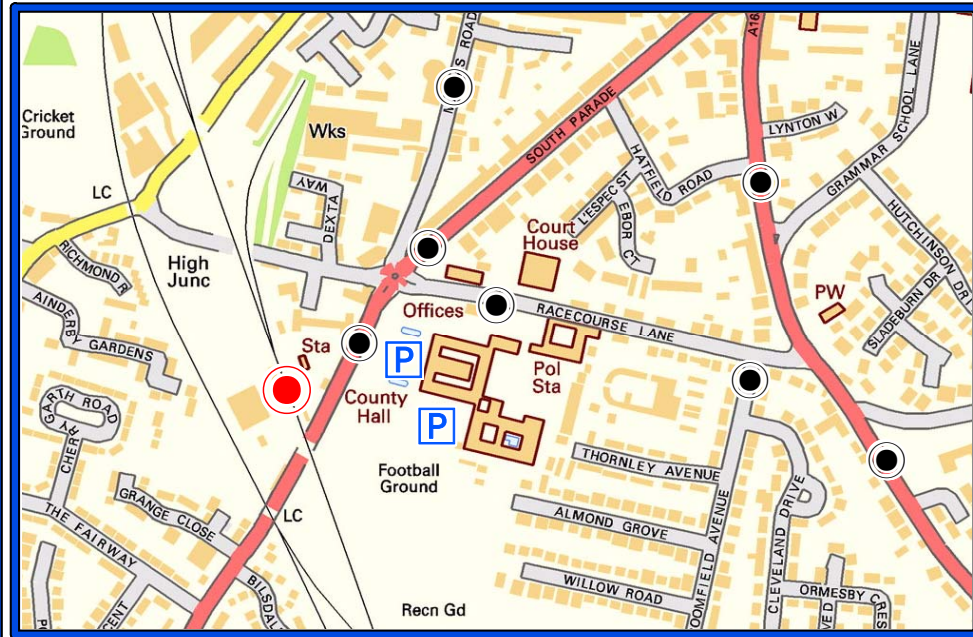
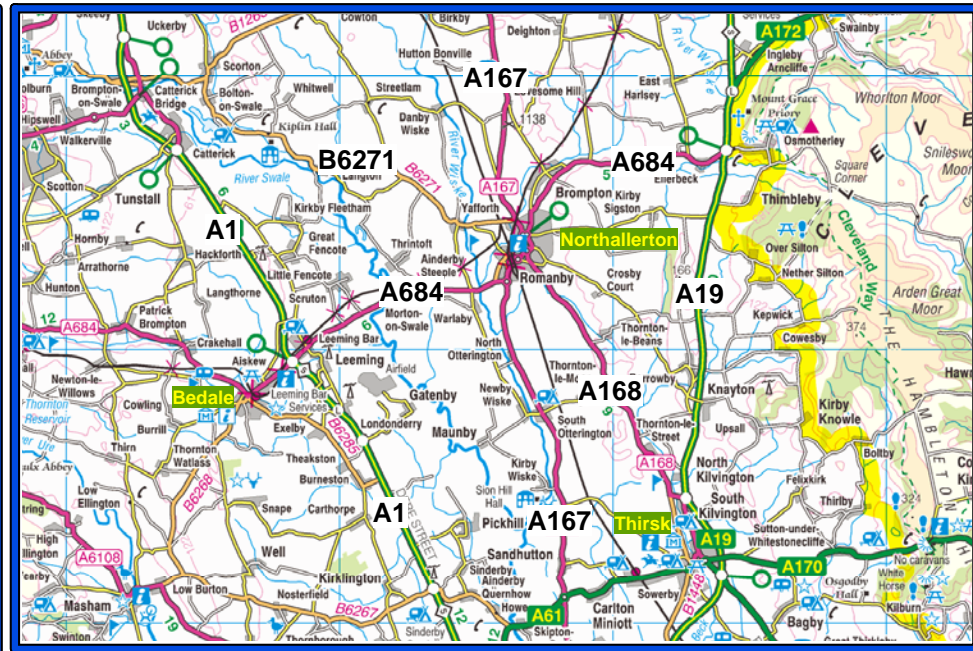
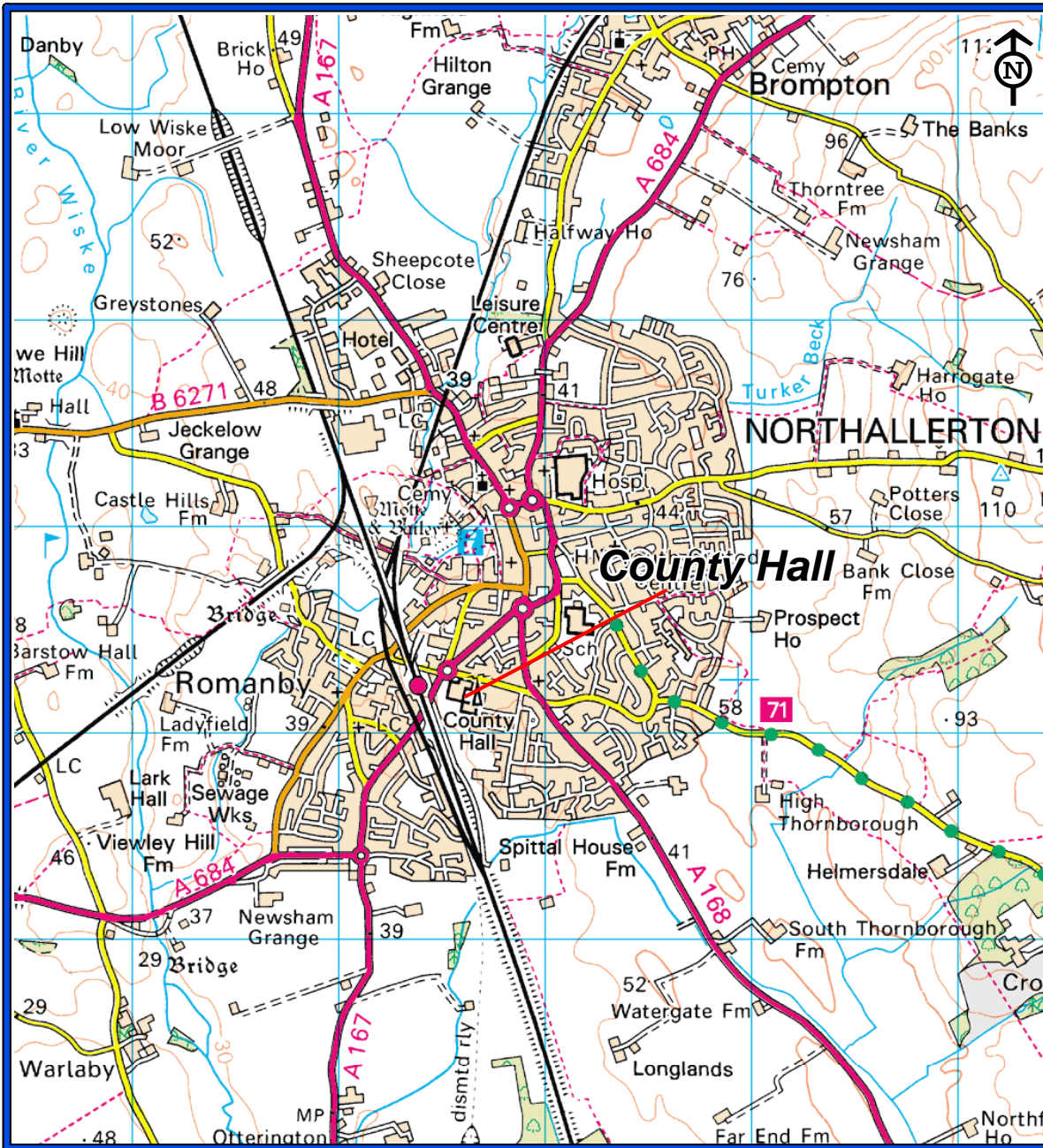
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Membership

County Councillors (13)							
	Councillors Name			Chairman/Vice Chairman	Political Party	Electoral Division	
1	ARNOLD, Val				Conservative		
2	BACKHOUSE, Andrew				Conservative		
3	BASTIMAN, DEREK				Conservative		
4	JEFFELS, David				Conservative		
5	JEFFERSON, Janet				NY Independent		
6	JONES, Anne				Liberal Democrat		
7	LUNN, Cliff				Conservative		
8	PLANT, Joe			Vice Chairman	Conservative		
9	RITCHIE, John				Labour		
10	SANDERSON, Janet				Conservative		
11	SHIELDS, Elizabeth			Chairman	Liberal Democrat		
12	SWALES, Tim				Conservative		
13	TROTTER, Cliff				Conservative		
Members other than County Councillors – () Voting							
	Name of Member			Representation			
1	RICHARDS, Graham			Church of England			
2	VACANCY			Non-Conformist Church			
3	VACANCY			Roman Catholic Church			
4	VACANCY			Parent Governor			
5	VACANCY			Parent Governor			
6							
Non Voting							
1	BIRCUMSHAW, Paul			Secondary Teacher Representative			
2	CLARKSON, Michael			Primary Teacher Representative			
3	CARLING, Jon			Voluntary Sector			
4	VACANCYh			Voluntary Sector			
Total Membership – ()				Quorum – (4)			
Con	Lib Dem	Ind	Labour	Liberal	UKIP	Ind	Total
9	2	1	1	0	0	0	13

2. Substitute Members

Conservative		Liberal Democrat	
	Councillors Names		Councillors Names
1	ENNIS, John	1	GRIFFITHS, Bryn
2	MARSDEN, Penny	2	
3	BLADES, David	3	
4	WINDASS, Robert	4	
5		5	
NY Independent		Labour	
	Councillors Names		Councillors Names
1	GRANT, Helen	1	RANDERSON, Tony
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	



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DL7 8AD

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North Yorkshire County Council

North Yorkshire County Council

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2014 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:- County Councillor Elizabeth Shields in the chair

County Councillors Val Arnold, Derek Bastiman, David Jeffels, Anne Jones, Cliff Lunn, Joe Plant, John Ritchie, Janet Sanderson, Tim Swales, Cliff Trotter, Graham Richards (Church of England representative), Mr Paul Bircumshaw (Secondary Teacher representative), Mr Michael Clarkson (Primary Teacher representative), Jon Carling (Voluntary Sector representative)

In attendance: Executive Members C Cllrs Arthur Barker, Tony Hall and Don Mackenzie
C Cllr Helen Grant, Richmondshire District Cllr Paul Cullen, Mr Kevin Whitwell

Officers:- Pete Dwyer Corporate Director Children and Young Peoples Service, Gary Fielding Corporate Director Strategic Resources, Anton Hodge Assistant Director Strategic Resources, Louise Dunn Principal Youth Support Service Officer, Claire Robinson Health Improvement Manager, Katie Needham Public Health Consultant, Suzanne Firth Strategic Planning Manager, Lorraine Laverton Corporate Development Officer (Scrutiny Support).

Apologies for absence were received from C Cllr Janet Jefferson

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

27. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2014 having been printed and circulated be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Chairman secured the agreement of the Committee to amend the running order of the agenda. Items marked as agenda items 7 and 8 would now become agenda items 5 and 6. Items marked as agenda items 5 and 6 would now become agenda items 7 and 8. The rest of the agenda would remain unchanged.

28. Public Questions

The Committee was advised that no notice had been received of any public questions or statements to be made at the meeting. However, County Councillor Helen Grant had a question on pupil place planning and the Chairman advised the Committee that the question would be dealt with at the appropriate point in the agenda.

29. Executive Members Oral Briefing

The Executive Member highlighted reports that were to be presented to the Executive on changes to school organisation arrangements that would allow individual schools to expand by up to 2 years. Cllr Barker went on to say that schools were being encouraged to consult on any proposed changes. Following a question from the Committee Cllr Barker clarified that this was about pre school provision and younger start at secondary school and not post 16 places.

30. 2020 North Yorkshire Programme Update

Considered -

The oral report of the Corporate Director - Strategic Resources updating Members on the 2020 North Yorkshire Programme.

Mr Fielding guided Members through a presentation that was tabled. A copy of the presentation is held in the minute book.

The presentation outlined:

- the aims of the 2020 North Yorkshire programme:
 - Focus on clear prioritisation
 - Focus on outcomes
 - Play to our strengths
 - Deliver financial savings
- The governance and management structures
- The Cross cutting themes
 - Stronger communities
 - Partnership working and alternative delivery models
 - Customer
 - Commercial focus
 - Property
 - Organisational development

Mr Fielding elaborated that the outcome of the 2020 programme would see a smaller more agile Council, with fewer staff working smartly to achieve greater productivity. It will be a Council that undertakes more of its work through commissioning and greater involvement of community and voluntary groups whilst providing leadership on key issues.

Comments and questions from the Committee included:

- With the increased call on the goodwill of local communities Members were concerned that initial support might be seen but that in the longer term support may dwindle and this would have to be taken into account.
- The effect of many areas in North Yorkshire being of a rural nature means that communities may be spread over large areas and this will have an effect on delivery
- A member asked for reassurance that safeguarding would remain a priority even if services are being provided differently in each area
- The need for regular updates on the programme and the effects on children and young people's services

Mr Fielding assured members that the risk of overloading local communities has been recognised but that this should be weighed against the positives of bespoke local services delivering better outcomes for local people. Mr Fielding went on to say that each locality will have to be looked at individually and that both transitional and

residual support would be provided as required. He added that a programme of consultation was being drawn up.

Mr Dwyer responded to the question around safeguarding by stating there will be no reduction in social workers in the safeguarding preventative services review.

Resolved -

That the report be noted and that a regular agenda item 'Update on 2020 North Yorkshire' be included for each Committee meeting.

31. Commissioning of the 5-19 Healthy Child Programme (HCP)

Considered -

The report of the Director of Public Health updating Members on the Healthy Child Programme and the commissioning arrangements.

Katie Needham advised the Committee that the Healthy Child programme was about looking at what children and young people need and commissioning services appropriate to that need.

Questions and comments from the Committee included:

- Querying whether there were sufficient team resources available.
- Questioning the input of children and young people, including the Young Peoples' Council and Youth Council and asking for assurances that age appropriate consultation methods were used.
- Members commented that it was good to see Children and Young Peoples' Service (CYPS) playing a big part in public health.
- A member queried what local involvement there would be as it could be different providers delivering services in different areas.

Responses from officers assured the Committee:

- That the team was sufficient and that a real benefit had been the secondment of an officer from CYPS.
- That age appropriate workshops had been held to make sure that children and young people had the opportunity to influence the development of the programme.
- That providers would be expected to have due regard to their settings and would ensure appropriate liaison was undertaken with relevant groups.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

32. Draft North Yorkshire Alcohol Strategy

Considered -

The report of the Director of Public Health updating Members on the Draft North Yorkshire Alcohol Strategy and asking Members to participate and encourage others to participate in the engagement process.

Officers outlined that the strategy aims to galvanise partners within North Yorkshire to collectively reduce harm from alcohol.

A Member queried whether it was possible to deter parents from supplying alcohol to their children and if there was an age range of children that might be more receptive to information. Officers elaborated that part of the work being undertaken was to work with families and to deliver a consistent message across all avenues such as through GP surgeries and pharmacies. They went on to say that there were opportunities across the curriculum to allow discussion and the provision of age appropriate information.

Mr Dwyer, the Corporate Director for CYPS welcomed the opportunity for CYPS and public health to work together and this was a good example of a joined up piece of work. He hoped that the outcome indicators would include something about children and young people affected by the drinking of others. Ms Needham agreed it was important and that would be included

The representative from the voluntary sector on the Committee asked how the voluntary sector might get involved in supporting the consultation process. Officers replied that a consultation package was currently being developed and part of that exercise was to ensure that the consultation reached all relevant people.

The Executive Member Cllr Tony Hall welcomed the focus on minimising harm from alcohol as he felt too often in the past the focus had been on drug related issues.

Members asked that an update report be scheduled into the Committee work programme.

Resolved -

That the report be noted and that an update report be scheduled into the Committee work programme

33. Children and Young People's Plan

Considered -

The presentation of the Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service updating Members on the Children and Young People's Plan.

Mr Dwyer stressed to the Committee that the development of the Children and Young Peoples Plan included a determination to ensure that the document was concise but that did not mean it would be superficial. He anticipated that the draft version of the Plan would be available in the early summer.

A Councillor stressed that she was delighted that the Plan would include the importance of education, particularly for the County Council's Looked After Children and Young People. She went on to say that it was incumbent on the Council to ensure that the Looked After Children had the best start in life that the County Council could give them.

Mr Dwyer agreed with the comments around Looked After Children and assured members that positive outcomes for the County Council's Looked After Children was always a priority.

Resolved -

That the presentation be noted.

34. School Organisation Arrangements

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service briefing Members on the need for additional primary pupil places up to September 2014 and the actions being taken to meet this demand.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman asked Cllr Helen Grant to put forward her question regarding pupil place planning. Cllr Grant referred to the report which stated that there was to be 'significant planned expansion around (Catterick) Garrison' and that this included an 'officer working group to look at how temporary increases in demand for primary places and impact on secondary places can best be managed'. Cllr Grant went on to stress the importance of involving the local member in cases such as this and would be grateful if she could be involved in any discussion.

Suzanne Firth the Strategic Planning Manager for CYPS welcomed the involvement of the local member and assured Cllr Grant that she would get in touch to arrange a briefing and discussion.

Members went on to discuss a range of schools in their local areas and in each case Members were reassured that officers would work with the schools and local members to ensure that appropriate provision was available.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

35. Work Programme

Considered –

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader inviting comments from Members on the content of the Committee's programme of work scheduled for future meetings.

The Chairman asked if Members had any additions, comments or changes to make on the Work Programme.

Members agreed that; the draft report of the task group on online safety of children and young people would be presented to the June 2014 meeting of the Committee; a regular agenda item would be included on the work programme updating the Committee on the 2020 North Yorkshire programme and an update report on outcomes from the Alcohol Strategy relevant to this Committee would be scheduled at an appropriate time.

Resolved –

- That the content of the Work Programme report and the Work Programme Schedule are noted.
- That the draft report on Online Safety of Children and Young people be presented to the June 2014 meeting of the Committee
- That a regular agenda item would be included on the work programme updating the Committee on the 2020 North Yorkshire programme
- That an update report on outcomes from the Alcohol Strategy relevant to this Committee would be scheduled at an appropriate time.

The meeting concluded at 12:45pm

LL/JR

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****27th June 2014****HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION****Purpose of Report**

1. To inform Members of the Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee of the performance of the accommodation pathway in preventing youth homelessness.

Performance of the young people's accommodation pathway**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The homelessness prevention accommodation pathway has been in full operation since October 2012. This report summarises the levels of performance achieved by the pathway over its first 12 months of operation.
- 2.2 Access to the pathway is provided through 7 District area hubs where multi-agency teams, County and District, work to prevent homelessness. Wherever possible and safe to do so, young people are returned home or supported to remain in their accommodation. Where this isn't possible then they are provided with accommodation and support until they are able to live independently.
- 2.3 The pathway is resourced through a community budget managed by the Supporting People Partnership. Performance and conflict resolution are managed by a governance group attended by CYPS and housing authority officers, this meets on a monthly basis.

3.0 Trends

- 3.1 A total of 1626 young people visited the hubs over the full year. The level of presentation increased over each quarter. The highest number of referrals were classed as 'self referral'. As the pathway becomes better known then as a consequence there is likely to be a greater take up of the service. Nationally homelessness presentations have begun to level off and we expect to follow that trend.
- 3.2 Scarborough has the highest proportion of presentations (around 40%) but has only 18% of the population within the age range 16-25. By comparison Harrogate has 16% of the presentations but 26% of the population.
- 3.3 The likely causal factors for Scarborough are linked to social exclusion and deprivation. The district has the highest proportion of youth unemployment, numbers in receipt of job seekers allowance, proportion of young people failing to achieve qualifications, failing to attend school and leaving school at 16. Scarborough has a range of deprivation issues including poor housing and levels of criminal activity.

4.0 **Performance**

- 4.1 The pathway provides a single point of access to advice, advocacy and support. For most young people a return to their family or kinship is the best outcome, in particular for 16 and 17 year olds who lack the maturity to live independently. Around 80% of young people presenting at a hub are restored to their families or kinships. A further 10% are helped to live independently. Of these only 10% re-present and require further help but of these 40% are aged 16 and 17 – which is an issue we are working to address.
- 4.2 Around 8% of those presenting require accommodation within the pathway. Typically they remain in the pathway for 12 months before leaving to live independently. Very few individuals need to remain in the pathway beyond 24 months.
- 4.3 Young people accommodated within the pathway (around 250 at any one time) have tailored programmes to meet their needs. These include a personal development plan covering pre-tenancy training, support to remain in or enter education, training and employment. Some of these young people also need help to overcome substance misuse, offending behaviours or mental health issues.
- 4.4 Where young people are returned to their families around 25% require family support for up to 6 weeks with a further 30% needing on-going support beyond that to prevent a further family breakdown. 45% require no further assistance.

5.0 **Cost benefit**

- 5.1 The accommodation pathway provides a substantial cost benefit to both the county council and its district council partners. These have been estimated at over £2.5 million saved by preventing homelessness and consequent housing costs. Children’s services are saving in excess of £550,000 by not having to bring young people into care. There is also a wide range of social benefit derived from the reduction of crime, improved health and higher levels of economic activity.

6.0 **Next steps**

- 6.1 Remodelling within children’s services will present opportunities for greater integration with the accommodation pathway. In particular this will be of value in working with the families of 16 and 17 year olds, building resilience of these families and preventing young people having to be brought into care or accommodated within the pathway.
- 6.2 The accommodation pathway is performing very well and continues to be the national exemplar for two tier authority working. However, managing difficult behaviours, securing sufficient move on accommodation and providing longer term support to families are the things we are now focusing on. The accommodation pathway is under review and these priorities will inform the re-commissioning of services that has commenced.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 Members of the Committee are requested to note and comment on the information in this report.

**County Hall
NORTHALLERTON**

Author: David Walker
Contact Details: Tel 01609 532667
E-mail: david.walker@northyorks.gov.uk

Presenter of Report: David Walker

16th June 2014

Background Documents:

- Young People's Homelessness Hubs Quarterly Data Full Year: October 2012 – September 2013
- Accommodation Pathway 'Workforce Bulletin'

Annexes: None

Young People's Homelessness Hubs Quarterly Data Full Year: October 2012 – September 2013

Quarterly data has been collected and collated for all hubs for the first full year of operation from October 2012 – September 2013, starting with Quarter 3 in October. The data indicates that there were 1626 presentations to the pathway during this total period. 437 (27%) of these were 16/17 year olds.

Overall, the rate of presentations has increased through this period. This can be interpreted as:

1. an increase in actual homelessness and concern about housing/homelessness and/or
2. all 16 to 25-year-olds with any query about housing/homelessness being correctly channelled to the hubs as awareness regarding the hub services increases in the local area

All Presentations

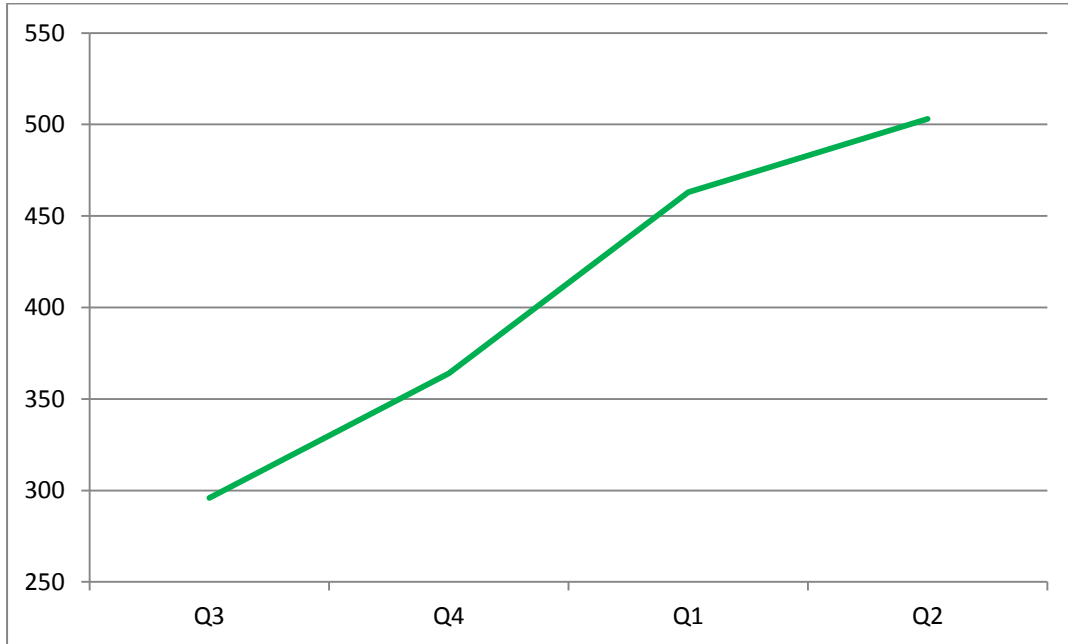
Area	Q3 Oct- Dec	Q4 Jan- March	Q1 April- June	Q2 July- Sept
Craven	16	35	26	25
Hambleton	15	13	35	25
Harrogate	32	74	87	64
Richmondshire	13	16	24	28
Ryedale	63	45	48	60
Scarborough	131	156	198	234
Selby	26	25	45	67
Total	296	364	463	503

Presentations aged 16-17

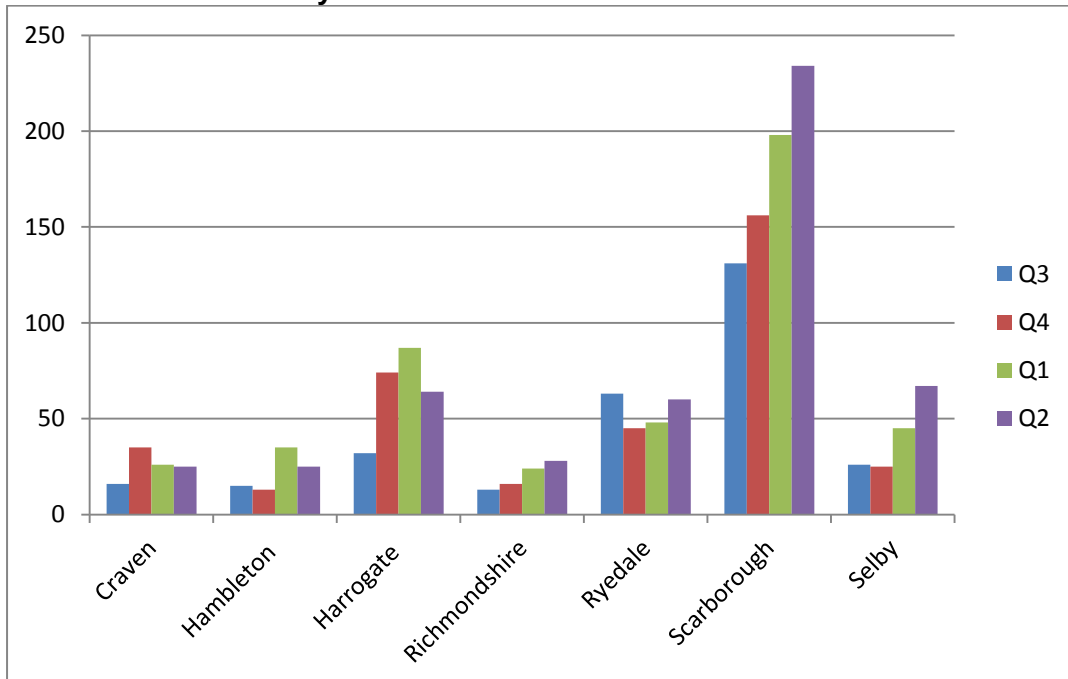
Area	Q3 Oct- Dec	Q4 Jan- March	Q1 April- June	Q2 July- Sept
Craven	3	9	9	4
Hambleton	7	3	11	17
Harrogate	14	17	24	22
Richmondshire	5	3	9	11
Ryedale	6	10	8	11
Scarborough	45	43	48	62
Selby	7	8	10	11
Total	87	93	119	138

The number of 16/17 year olds presenting has also been increasing, although as a percentage of overall referrals has remained fairly consistent at 26-29% each quarter.

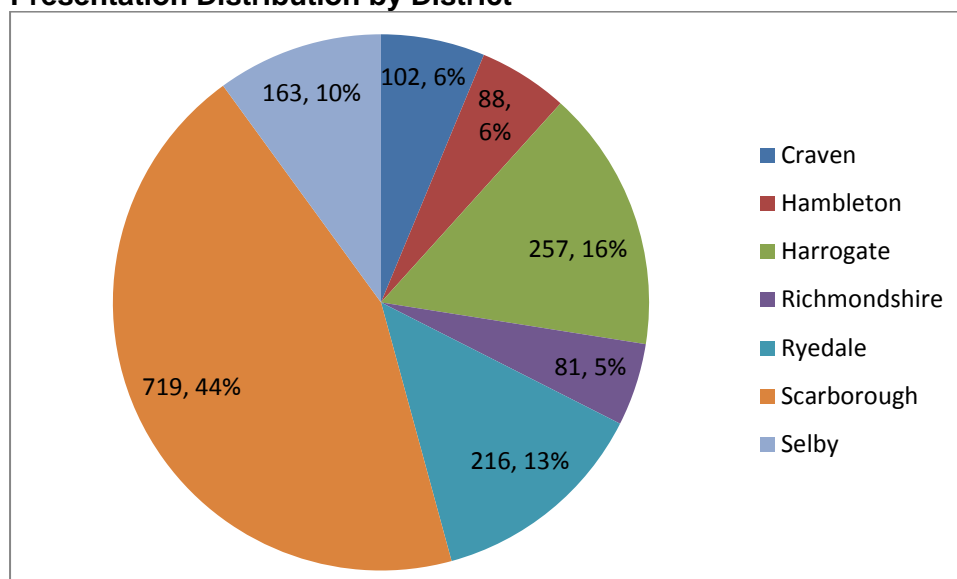
Overall Presentation Trends



Presentation Trends by District



Presentation Distribution by District



Causal factors

It is important that the drivers for the growth in numbers and distribution of homelessness presentations is better understood. The potential drivers are set out below.

Population

Overall, the population of North Yorkshire is unevenly distributed across districts, although Scarborough does not have as high a percentage of the population as Harrogate (18% compared to 26%). Harrogate has over a quarter of North Yorkshire's population yet only 16% of presentations. For each district, 16-25 year olds make up between 10 and 16% of the population. A quarter of North Yorkshire's 16-25 year olds reside in Harrogate, and 19% in Scarborough. This suggests that the high percentage of presentations in Scarborough cannot necessarily be attributed to population factors.

Deprivation

Analysis suggests that deprivation and poverty levels in Scarborough are considerably higher than across other districts, and this is certainly likely to be contributing to the proportionally high percentage of Scarborough presentations. For example, in terms of unemployment, poverty and benefits:

- Scarborough has the highest proportion of 6 month+ unemployment benefits claim (42.5% compared to a county average of 36.6%), suggesting that medium-term unemployment is disproportionately an issue in Scarborough
- Scarborough also accounts for 45% of the county total of long-term unemployed (claiming JSA for 12 months or more), and the district's long-term unemployment levels are higher than the national average
- In January 2014 3.8% of Scarborough's working age population were claiming Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA), compared to a county average of only 1.8%. The figure in Harrogate was only 1.1%
- In 2012, county bankruptcy rates were highest in Scarborough and lowest in Harrogate

- Child poverty levels are high in Scarborough, particularly around the Whitby and Filey areas and in central Scarborough

The English Indices of Deprivation 2010 identify disadvantaged Lower Super Output Areas (small geographical areas each with a population of around 1500 people) in England according to a range of indicators. Levels of economic deprivation are higher in Scarborough than all other areas. For example:

- 60% of the top 10 most deprived LSOAs where young people were experiencing education deprivation in North Yorkshire were in Scarborough. These areas experience a high proportion of young people failing to achieve qualifications, high levels of absence and high proportions of young people leaving school at 16
- 80% of the top 10 most deprived LSOAs where income deprivation was affecting children in North Yorkshire were in Scarborough
- 9 of the 10 most deprived LSOAs in terms of housing quality in North Yorkshire were located in Scarborough. This indicator captures the proportion of social and private housing which fails to meet the decent homes standard and the proportion of houses without central heating
- Scarborough and Selby experience particularly high levels of certain crimes (violence, burglary, theft and criminal damage) compared to the rest of the county

Particular wards within Scarborough – including Castle and Eastfield – experience a particularly high concentration of deprivation compared to the rest of North Yorkshire according to the English Indices of Deprivation. It is possible that young people may be particularly at risk of homelessness in areas where many of the indices of deprivation are found together. For example, in areas where housing quality is poor, families are living in relative poverty and young people are not accessing education, employment or training, this may create a difficult home environment and high levels of strain upon family members / parents. Data also indicates that Scarborough receives the highest proportion of re-presentations (30% of all re-presentations occur in this district), which also boosts overall presentation rates considerably. Similarly, Hub data indicates that that rates of young people presenting in Scarborough who are NEET are high.

Hub Maturity

The maturity of the Hub may also be contributing to the high percentage of Scarborough referrals. The Hub in Scarborough is well-established and has been fully operational for longer than some of the Hubs in other areas. Data suggests that well-established and mature Hubs do tend to record more presentations. This may be for a number of reasons, such as greater awareness and increased referrals from other agencies, and greater awareness and increased self-referrals from young people directly. There may also be increased accuracy in how presentation levels are recorded and monitored as Hubs become more established. For example, initial presentation levels in Harrogate were lower than expected within the new Hub, but as the database system was embedded to record the number of presentations, the number of recorded cases doubled.

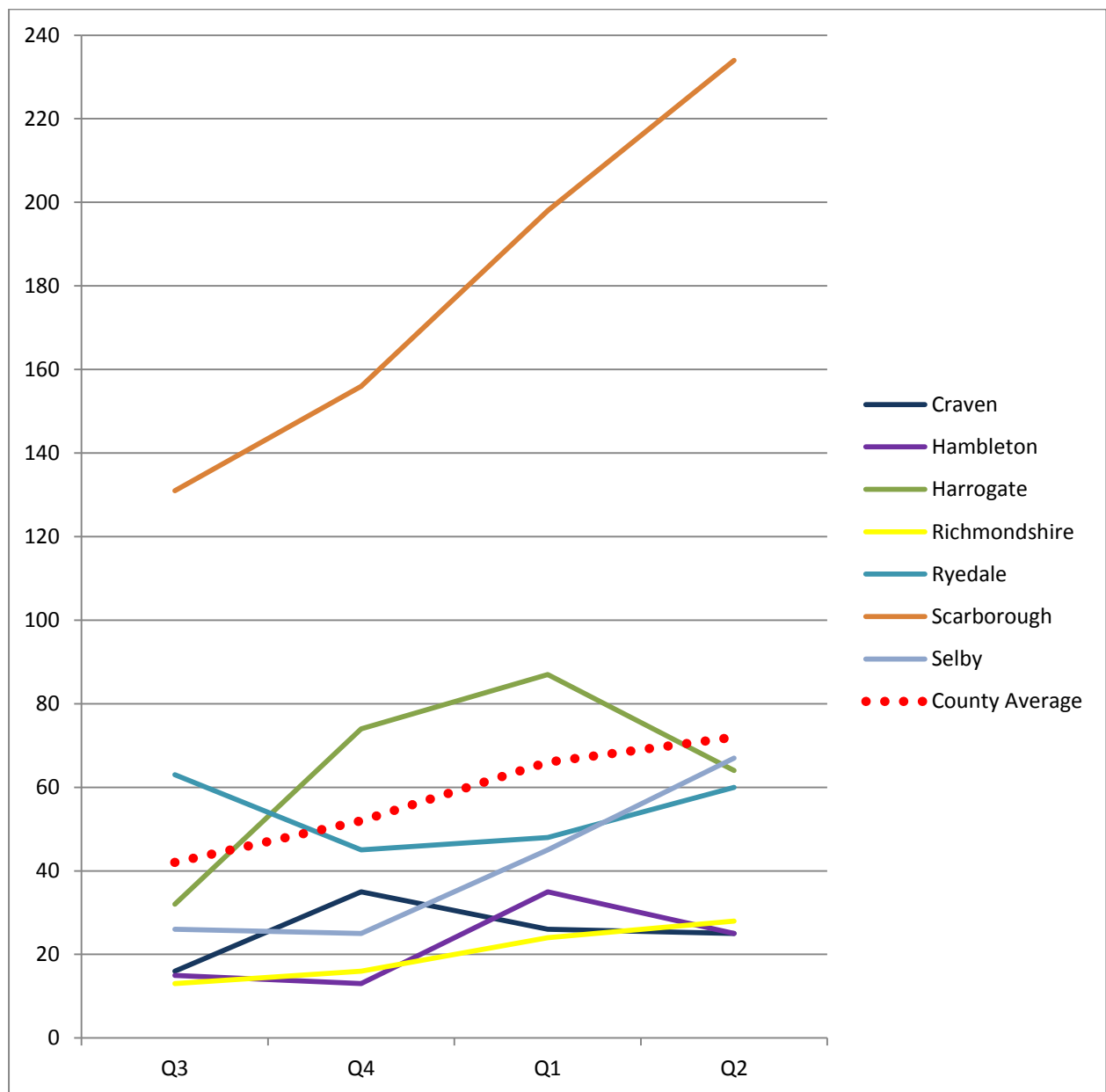
An examination of referral sources was carried out for January 2013. This timeframe was selected as the Hubs had been formally established for 3 months, so should have been becoming more established, although there may still have been discrepancies.

The data indicates that – countywide – 63% of total referrals were self-referrals. This was by far the most common referral route, followed by 'NYCC' (12%), 'other' (10%) and 'parent/relative/friend' (6%). As suggested above, self-referrals from young people may increase as Hubs become more established and young people are more aware of the local

services and support available. Scarborough and Ryedale received the highest percentages of self-referrals, whilst other Hubs such as Hambleton and Richmondshire received only very small percentages. Scarborough was also the only Hub to receive any referrals from the Police and Youth Justice Service, suggesting relationships with these agencies might be better established in this area.

Additionally, it is important to note that even before the introduction of the new Hubs, presentation levels in Scarborough were considerably higher than elsewhere in the county. For example, in 2009-2010, Scarborough received 39% of all referrals and almost twice as many as Harrogate.

Quarterly Presentations by District (plotted against County Average)



Re-Presentation Data

169 young people presented more than once during the first year of Hub operation (01/10/12 – 30/09/13). Some re-presented more than once, meaning there were a total of 199 re-presentations during the timeframe. Of these:

- 1626 presentations were made in total during the year. This means 10% were re-presentations
- The average age on first presentation was 19
- 67 of the young people re-presenting were aged 16/17 (40%). This represents a disproportionate amount of 16/17 year olds re-presenting, as less than 30% of total presentations were within this age range
- 143 young people re-presented once within this timescale (85% of those re-presenting)
- 21 re-presented twice within this timescale (12% of those re-presenting)
- 5 re-presented 3 times within this timescale (3% of those re-presenting)
- 9 of the young people *also* re-presented either before or after the given timescale

The breakdown of re-presentations across districts is as follows:

District	Number of Young People presenting more than once	Number of Re-Presentations	Re-Presentations as a total % of all Presentations for district
Craven	4	4	4
Hambleton	5	5	6
Harrogate	25	27	11
Richmondshire	9	10	12
Ryedale	27	29	13
Scarborough	90	112	16
Selby	10	12	7
Countywide	170 ¹	199	10

Re-presentation rates as a % of all presentations per district varied between 4 and 16%, with a countywide average of 10%. Re-presentations were below the county average in Craven, Hambleton and Selby and above average in Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale and Scarborough. As well as being most common in Scarborough, young people were much more likely to re-present a 3rd or 4th time in this area:

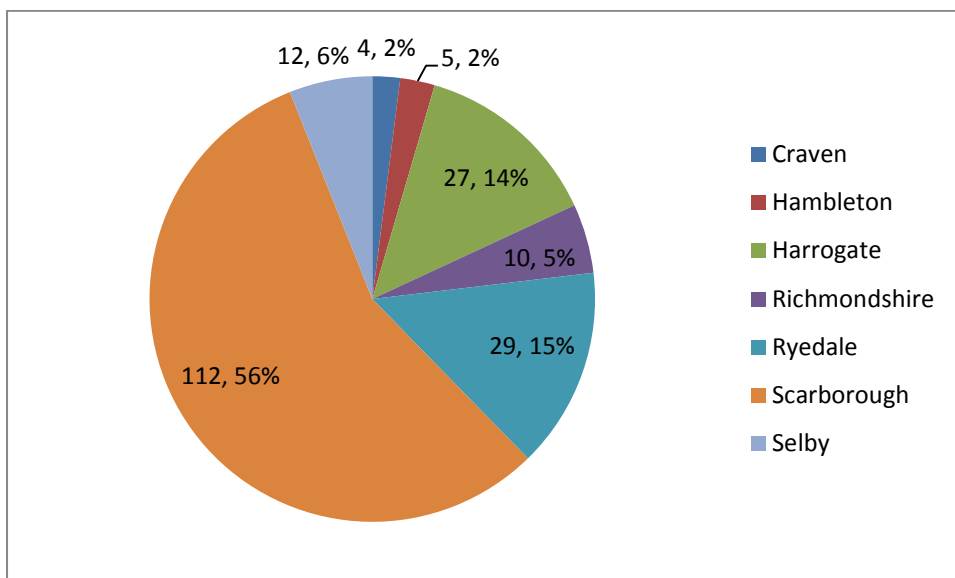
¹ Please note one young person presented twice in Scarborough then twice in Ryedale making the total here 170

District	% of district re-presentations that presented once only	re-re-	% of district re-presentations that re-presented twice or 3 times
Craven	100		0
Hambleton	100		0
Harrogate	92		8
Richmondshire	89		11
Ryedale	93		7
Scarborough	80		20
Selby	90		10

It may be that the young people presenting in Scarborough simply have more complex needs and are more likely to re-present regardless of the quality of intervention and support that is offered. However, it may also be that the sheer volume of young people presenting in Scarborough makes it more difficult to offer the optimum amount of support for each case. In contrast, in areas such as Craven where re-presentation rates were very low, and no young people re-presented more than once, this may be linked to the fact that there is less demand on staff to manage a large number of referrals and cases. It is also possible that the level and quality of CSC involvement may vary across districts, as an initial analysis of cases on ICS does appear to suggest that young people may be more likely to re-present when they are not receiving CSC support.

Please note, data is only presented here where a young person re-presented to the same Hub. There are a very small number of additional cases where a young person re-presented at a different Hub. Additionally, where a young person is recorded as presenting twice on the same date, this is not recorded here, as this is considered to be the same case/presentation.

Distribution of Re-Presentations by District



As might be expected, over half of the re-presentations (56%) took place in Scarborough. This was followed by Ryedale (15%) and Harrogate (14%), with the remaining districts experiencing only very small shares of re-presentations.

Timescales

A homelessness prevention is counted as successful if there is no re-presentation within 6 months. 43 of the young people (25%) made their 2nd presentation more than 6 months after their 1st. 19 of these (44%) were aged 16/17. 75% re-presented within 6 months, indicating that these would not be recognised as successful preventions.

The average number of days between presentations was 133, which equates to around 4 and a half months. For those who made more than 1 re-presentation, only 12% did not initially re-present within 6 months. The average number of days between 1st and 2nd presentation was only 82 days, or less than 3 months.

Involvement of children's social care

Very few of the young people had active involvement from CSC at the time of their re-presentation. However, the majority were known to CSC and had some historic involvement, previous/recent referrals, or CSC became involved again after the 2nd presentation. Some had CSC involvement during initial presentation, but then the case would be closed, which may have contributed / led to re-presentation. It seems that re-presentations are happening in the gaps when CSC is not supporting.

Gender and Pregnancy

There was a roughly even gender split, with slightly more young women presenting (53%) than young men (47%). However, this varied across the county, with notably high proportions of young women presenting in Craven, Ryedale and Selby:

	% Male	% Female
Craven	37	63
Hambleton	47	53
Harrogate	52	48
Richmondshire	56	44
Ryedale	41	59
Scarborough	49	51
Selby	40	60

Over the year 119 young women (aged 16 - 25) presenting were pregnant (7% of total presentations), with the number increasing each quarter:

	Oct- Dec Q3	Jan- March Q4	April- June Q1	July – Sept Q2	Total
Craven	3	3	3	4	13
Hambleton	1	0	2	2	5
Harrogate	0	3	8	4	15
Richmondshire	0	0	2	3	5
Ryedale	6	1	4	5	16
Scarborough	2	9	15	23	49
Selby	0	2	5	9	16
Total	12	18	39	50	119

Pregnancy rates were highest in Craven and Selby

District	Total	% of district total presentations
Craven	13	13
Hambleton	5	6
Harrogate	15	6
Richmondshire	5	6
Ryedale	16	7
Scarborough	49	7
Selby	16	10
Total	119	7

Pregnant Teenagers (aged 16 & 17)

	Oct- Dec Q3	Jan- March Q4	April- June Q1	July – Sept Q2	Total
Craven	1	2	1	0	4
Hambleton	0	0	0	0	0
Harrogate	0	1	2	1	4
Richmondshire	0	0	0	0	0
Ryedale	1	0	0	0	1
Scarborough	0	1	1	5	7
Selby	0	0	0	4	4
Total	2	4	4	10	20

17% of pregnant young women presenting to the Hub were aged 16 or 17, with the numbers increasing across each quarter (mirroring the broader overall increase in pregnant women presenting). The rates were fairly low overall but highest in Craven.

This can be compared to the rates of teenage conception (aged 15-17) in the general population in each district. For 2012, rates per 1000 were highest in Scarborough (29) and Richmondshire (27), and lowest in Harrogate (16) and Ryedale (13). Therefore it is not perhaps surprising that 35% of pregnant teenagers who present do so in Scarborough. However, this does not appear to map onto the presentation patterns in districts; for example the percentage of pregnant teenagers presenting in Harrogate and Craven seems disproportionately high. Similarly, Richmondshire has high teenage conception rates but no pregnant young women presented for the whole year. This may be due to discrepancies in awareness of the support available for pregnant young women across districts.

Couples and Individuals

Data on whether these young women present as individuals or a couple is available for Q1 and Q2 only. For these quarters, 29 pregnant young women (33%) are recorded as presenting as part of a couple or family.

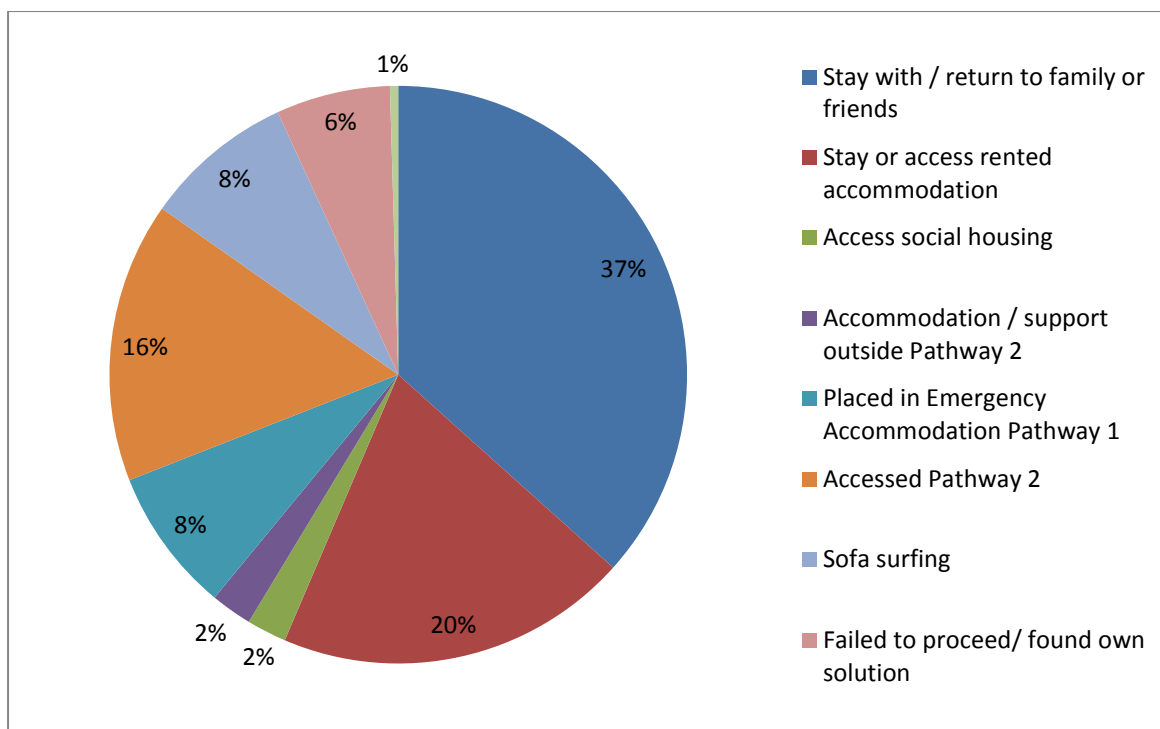
Numbers known to Youth Justice (where known, according to referral data)

The data indicates that 12% of young people (191) were known to YJS upon presenting. Of those known to YJS, according to the data, 48% (92) had their cases open at the time of presentation, and 52% (99) were closed.

Actions and Outcomes summary (all presentations Oct 2012-Sept 2013)

An analysis of outcomes recorded for young people following presentation to their local hub shows that:

- 37% stay with or return to family, friend or kinship in a stable living arrangement
- 20% are assisted to stay in or access rented accommodation
- 2% were helped to access social housing
- 2% accessed supported housing outside Pathway 2
- 8% accessed Pathway 1 emergency accommodation
- 16% accessed Pathway 2 longer-term accommodation
- 8% were 'sofa-surfing' with friends
- 6% found their own solutions
- 1% were brought into care and placed in regulated accommodation



The only clearly negative outcome is sofa surfing, experienced by 8% of the young people. It is not possible to discern whether 'failed to proceed/found own solution' is a positive or negative outcome as this will vary (we can also assume that some of the cases recorded as 'failed to proceed/found own solution' resulted in the young person returning home or to a suitable living arrangement).

Of the 1626 young people who presented at the hubs over the year, 319 (20%) are recorded as having entered pathway 2, sofa surfed or required CSC accommodation. This suggests that prevention in some form (through general guidance, signposting or pathway 1 support) was successful in 80% of cases.

Cost Benefit Analysis

Pathway Savings

It is possible that savings may have been made through assisting these young people through pathway 1, signposting and other support, as these young people did not go on to become homeless and require further support from pathway 2. Pathway 2 was recorded as an outcome in only 204 cases, meaning that had these 897 young people not received appropriate support, the potential burden on pathway 2 could have been approximately 4 times greater. Note that this exercise considers only the 897 cases above where a positive outcome is recorded, although if we assume that other cases also had a positive outcome, the figure for successful preventions becomes even higher, making this a conservative estimate.

It is not possible to speculate how many exactly of these 897 young people would otherwise have gone on to require pathway 2 support, as some of them may have merely required signposting and advice and not have been at high risk of homelessness. However, had even half of these young people entered pathway 2, the additional cost burden would have been significant.

The model below shows estimated costings if all these young people had entered longer-term accommodation for 12 months.

This needs to be offset against the total estimated maximum spend on Pathway 1. This has been calculated by factoring in the estimated unit costs of Nightstop (short-term emergency accommodation and support) of £116.29 per night. For a young person to spend 14 nights in Nightstop would cost £1628.06. This covers the costs of recruiting and training hosts, ensuring hosts are available at all times throughout the districts and paying hosts for the service they provide (£259 for 14 nights). 105 cases are listed as having involved short-term emergency accommodation through pathway 1 (suggesting **£170,946.30** could have been spent on accommodation if all of these young people used Nightstop for the 14 night period).

The unit costs of high and medium need accommodation vary, and snapshot data from April-May 2013 suggests that around 80% of young people presenting to the Hubs have low or medium needs and 20% high needs. However, it makes sense to assume that many of those with higher needs have entered the pathway anyway, so the majority of successful preventions may have been achieved with those young people who did not have the most complex needs. The cost of accommodating and supporting a young person with medium needs per year is **£6312**. If we assume that even half of these young people (448) may have entered pathway 2 without support and intervention, this results in an additional annual cost of **£2,827,776**.

Total saving through not accommodating an additional 448 young people in medium needs accommodation	2,827,776
Minus costs of pathway 1 interventions	170,946.30
Total estimated annual savings achieved through avoiding use of pathway 2	£2,656,829.70

This is only an estimated figure as it is not possible to know what the outcome for these young people would have been had pathway 1 support not been available. It is possible that less than half may have come into pathway 2 anyway, but it is also possible that more than half may have done.

It can be estimated however that for every young person who receives 14 nights of support from Nightstop (£1628.06) rather than requiring pathway 2 support (£6312), the saving for that individual is **£4683.94** per year.

Savings through use of the Pathway become even more considerable when more expensive options such as Local Authority Care Homes are avoided. The cost per resident for Care Home accommodation is estimated at £2,767 per week (PSSRU, 2011), which would equate to £143,884 per year.

Section 20 Savings

Figures for North Yorkshire from the ICS system indicate that under the previous system, 28 young people entered care in 2010 under section 20 (excluding those with severe disabilities who would not be accommodated within the pathway anyway).

Under the remodelled provision, ICS records show that for the first six months of 2013, 7 young people aged 16-17 came into care under section 20. This can be extrapolated to 14 per year.

This represents an estimated reduction of 14 young people coming into care.

Potential savings can be modelled as follows:

	Young people supported under Section 20	Minimum estimated cost per year	Maximum estimated cost per year	Average estimated annual cost
2010	28	644,000	1,568,000	1,106,000
2012/2013	14	322,000	784,000	553,000
Anticipated annual saving				553,000

Total Potential Savings

Savings through avoidance of use of Service Pathway 2	2,667,785.70
Savings through decreased use of Section 20	553,000
Total	3,220,785.70

This represents a total estimated annual saving of £3,220,785.70 per year.

Other Potential Savings

Research has demonstrated clear links between homelessness and other complex and chaotic life experiences such as substance misuse, mental health problems, experience of care and prison and engagement in street activities such as sex work, shoplifting and begging (McDonagh, 2011). Pulling together other research, it is possible to estimate the potential cost savings that may have been achieved through each homelessness prevention. These may not be direct or immediate savings to the authority but may be longer-term or lifetime savings to other agencies, partners and broader society:

Cost of NEET

Coles et al (2010) estimate the lifetime costs of 16-18 year olds not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and outline a range of costed case study models. The authors acknowledge that homelessness or even placement in temporary accommodation is a considerable risk factor for NEET status, with the report also citing that 57% of 16-17 year olds who become homeless are NEET. The authors estimate the following average individual costs of being NEET between aged 16-18:

Average cost of NEET (benefits, lost tax and NI) aged 16-18	£56,300
Average resource cost of NEET (losses to economy, individuals and families) aged 16-18	£104,300
Total	£160,600

Mental Health

Evidence suggests that around 60% of those who become homeless suffer from diagnosable personality disorders (Communities and Local Government, 2012). A report by Demos estimates that treatment for an individual with general poor mental health aged 16-30 costs approximately **£1354.83** per person per year (Hannon et al, 2010).

Substance Misuse

A report by Joseph Rowntree suggests that of those who experience homelessness, 70% also experience substance misuse (McDonagh, 2011). Curtis (2011) estimates that the average unit cost of a treatment in an inpatient setting for substance misuse is £147 per patient day or £1,029 per patient week.

Criminal Behaviour²

Coles et al (2010) estimate that the lifetime cost of a drift into persistent and serious offending (including long custody sentences) is approximately **£2,371,000**. They compare this to the estimated cost of **£7,050** for early-intervention strategies such as the involvement of a Youth Offending Team, a Connexions Personal Advisor and a mentoring scheme.

Teenage Pregnancy

Coles et al (2010) estimate that the lifetime cost of supporting a teenage mother is £97,135 (this consists mostly of child benefits, but also includes £4000 of support from a Connexions Personal Advisor and a number of small scale projects in early parenthood). In contrast, the cost of failing to support a teenage mother who then gets sucked into a destructive lifestyle and has another child (both of whom are later taken into Care) escalates to **£858,362**.

Summary of Potential Additional Savings per Individual Homelessness Prevention

Potential Additional Savings to NYCC, partner agencies and societal savings		Average Cost of intervention	Average Cost of failure to intervene	Saving
	Avoidance of NEET	-	160,600 (for age 16-18)	160,600
	Avoidance of Care	-	23,000 (annual)	23,000 per year
	Avoidance of mental health issues	-	1354.83 (annual)	1354.83 per year
	Avoidance of substance misuse		1,029 (weekly)	1,029 per week

² See also document YJS Involvement in Cases Presenting to the Homelessness Hubs October – December 2012

	Minimalisation of criminal behaviour	7,050	2,371,000 (lifetime)	2,363,950
	Avoidance of destructive lifestyle for teenage mother	4,000 (plus £97,135 of lifetime support and benefits)	858,362 (lifetime)	757,227

A 2013 report by Porchlight (a UK-based youth homelessness charity) suggests that for every £1 invested in young people, there is a return of £6 in social value, using the Social Return on Investment (SROI) model. SROI models place value on longer-term outcomes, changes and impacts which may not have market values. The report also estimates that £12,300 of social value will accrue to each service user.

The report focuses on a range of short, medium and longer-term outcomes, predicting that for young homeless people who are at risk of homelessness and access short, medium or longer-term accommodation services, it is possible to estimate the percentage of young service users who will experience a certain outcome. The report estimates that:

- 48% will make new friends and improve family relationships
- 72% will gain independent living skills including managing a budget
- 68% will experience improved mental and physical health
- 64% will experience increased confidence and maturity
- 60% will develop increased resilience and be more likely to go on to live unsupported
- 36% will reduce offending behaviour and contact with police
- 34% will engage in meaningful use of their time (through work, training or education)
- 18% will in future see a marked increase in their likelihood of gaining employment
- 14% will in future reduce their risk of becoming long-term homeless in adulthood

Two negative outcomes were also noted:

- 32% will experience disruption to existing friendships and work when moving into accommodation
- 20% will be unable to abide by the rules and will be evicted from the accommodation services

The report also examines additional longer-term benefits for other agencies including:

- Increased revenue for colleges as young people stay in education longer
- Increased tax revenue for HMRC as young people are more likely to secure employment
- Reduced burden on statutory and other public services including social housing, police and the justice system, the NHS and DWP (allowing reallocation of public resources away from homeless youth and adults to other groups in need)
- Reduced burden on Social Services (with savings to Children's Social Care of £74 per hour for every hour of client support provided by homelessness services rather than a social worker)



Workforce Bulletin

A Partnership between: North Yorkshire County Council, Craven District Council, Hambleton District Council, Harrogate Borough Council, Richmondshire District Council, Ryedale District Council, Selby District Council, Scarborough Borough Council, Foundation, SASH, Barnardos, Craven YMCA, Broadacres, Leeds Federated Housing, Ripon YMCA, Richmond YMCA, Ryedale YMCA.

Welcome to the first edition of the Workforce Bulletin for those involved with the North Yorkshire Young Peoples Pathway, Housing Solutions @ The Hub. The Bulletin will come out twice a year and include news on district Hubs, developments in Pathways 1 and 2, feedback from young people and key outcomes from data collected about the Pathway.

New and Improved Supported Accommodation in Pathway 2

Belmont Road in Harrogate is new accommodation for Pathway 2 offering five high quality self-contained flats. The service was opened by County Councillor Tony Hall Executive Member for Children and Young People's Service and Abdul Ravat from the Homes and Community Agency who said: "These 5 homes shows what can be achieved by working in partnership – our investment of £103,000 has made a real difference but together with investment of £252,000 from NYCC Children and Young People's Service and strategic support from Harrogate Borough Council we have been able to make a real difference in providing supported accommodation for young people."



For more information on Belmont Road contact: rehan.shah@foundationuk.org

Cygnets House opened its doors to partner agencies and stakeholders in Selby District to celebrate the completion of a programme of extensive refurbishment, courtesy of the landlord, Chevin Housing. Nicki Watkinson, Foundation Project Manager commented, "The day was a great success, with many partners visiting for the first time in many years, and literally being blown away by the improvements made". Students on placement with Children's Social Care commented "This is the best Young People's hostel I have been in" and staff from Selby District Council commented that they felt much more confident recommending Cygnets House to young people. Staff and customers at Cygnets House would like to thank all those who attended.

For more information on Cygnets House contact: Nicki.watkinson@foundationuk.org



Helen Fielding from the Homes and Community Agency and Councillor Linda Cowling, leader of Ryedale District Council

Derwent Lodge in Norton, Ryedale has been completely redesigned and renovated to provide excellent accommodation with 14 en suite rooms, well equipped kitchen, communal area and office. It provides spaces for Ryedale's Homelessness accommodation of which 7 are for Pathway 2. Kim Robertshaw, Housing Manager for Ryedale District Council said Derwent Lodge offered supportive accommodation. "The residents don't just live here, they are offered training and education and there is a job club every week, with the aim of equipping them to lead independent lives."

For more information on Derwent Lodge contact: kim.robertshaw@ryedale.gov.uk

Development Day Hailed a Success

The Development Day held on 17th March 2014 brought together managers of Children's Social Care and Children's and Young Peoples Services (Youth Support Services, Assessment & Impact, Residential, Leaving Care, Youth Justice), representatives from each of the 7 District and Borough Councils, the Commissioning Body, Supporting People and Foundation as the Lead Provider.

The event was facilitated by Anna Whalen, former national advisor on Youth Homelessness, who said, "Nationally it's been a real challenge for two tier authorities to work together on both dealing with 16/17 year olds at risk of homelessness and also in developing the 'Positive Pathway' model of youth homelessness prevention and support. So it's very encouraging to see North Yorkshire - both the County and the District Housing Authorities – continue with their commitment to work together to prevent youth homelessness and get better outcomes for young people who have little choice but to leave home or enter local authority care at a young age. Your work on joint planning, strategy, commissioning, investment in preventative services and ability to work through what can be difficult issues on the ground are all having a positive impact; at a time when there are significant budget pressures and increased demand, partnership working can come under some strain, but without partnership at every level, it is not possible to move forward on dealing with youth homelessness. Across Children's Services and the Supporting People Commissioning team, as well as all the Housing Authorities and many provider organisations, such as Foundation Housing, there is a real sense of leadership and 'grip' in terms of delivering services to support highly vulnerable teenagers. There are very few two tier authorities I am aware of that I would recommend to others to make contact with – and it's very pleasing that North Yorkshire is on that short list."

Two outcomes from the day are for the Practitioner Handbook to be reviewed with clear guidance on dealing with 16 & 17 year olds and a training package is being developed that all workers in both Pathways will have access to in addition to the eLearning on offer from Foundation.

Pathway Manager Update

My first 6 months in post have flown by as I have been welcomed by all the Hubs on my visits and have enjoyed seeing the accommodation provided by Provider Partners. I attended manager's team meetings in Children's Social Care and participated in key meetings that steer the Pathway strategically and operationally. I am getting to all the Practitioner Meetings and am happy to attend these as needed. If you have any queries I can help with you can reach me on: jill.boak@northyorks.gov.uk or 01609798438/07854170088

How well are we doing?

Overall Prevention work is seeing a success rate of 88% at the current time which is above the target of 80% so there is some excellent work happening reflected in thanks and praise received from families for whom intervention has been beneficial.

Presentations

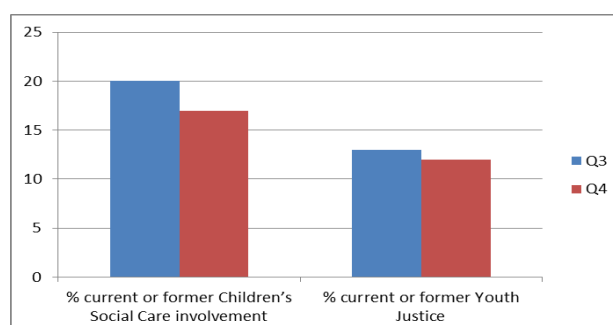
	Q3 Oct-Dec 2013		Q4 Jan-March 2014		Interpreted in Chart form:
	16-17	18-25	16-17	18-25	
Age	16-17	18-25	16-17	18-25	
Craven	6	29	7	18	
Hambleton	5	3	8	23	
Harrogate	22	57	13	77	
Richmondshire	13	16	12	10	
Ryedale	6	42	10	35	
Scarborough	32	129	47	167	
Selby	11	24	6	21	
Total	95	300	103	351	
Grand Total	395		454		

We are looking closely at the re-presentation figures and have introduced a new element to Pathway 1 which gives the family a plan to help them identify triggers and signs of family breakdown before it occurs and seek help early preventing crisis.

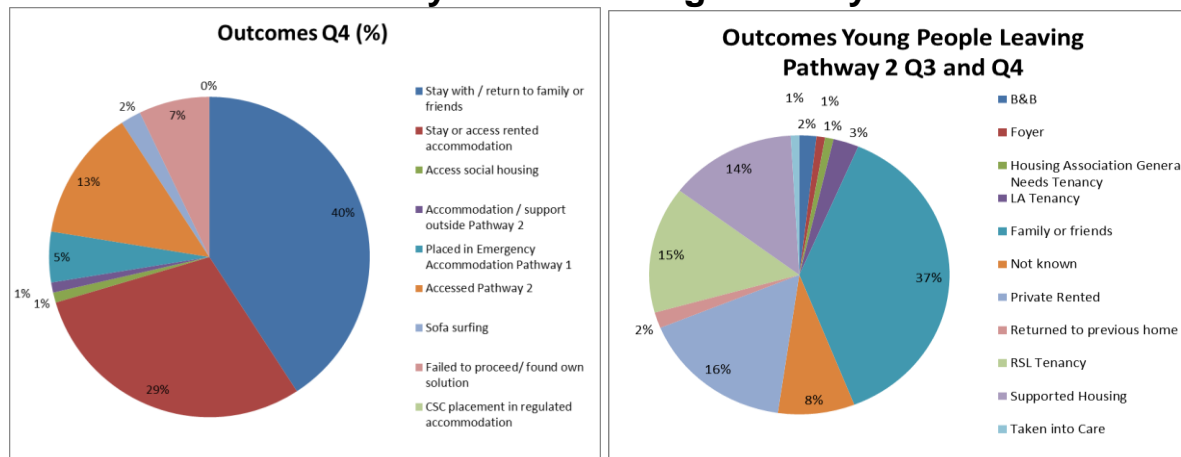
Children's Social Care and Youth Justice

In Quarter 3 those with current or past involvement from Children's Social Care accounted for 19 % and 17% in Quarter 4.

In Quarter 3 current or former Youth Justice cases account for 13% of cases with two thirds of these being open cases and in Quarter 4, 12 % were known to Youth Justice with half being open cases.



Outcomes from Pathway 1 and Leaving Pathway 2



The average length of stay in Pathway 2 is 12 months.

Feedback from Liz Hamm (Leaving Care Team), "The Pathway is a great success. I used to have to make up to a dozen phone calls when looking for accommodation for a care leaver, now it just takes one call to the Hub".

Case Study

Background: Female, 17 accommodated by Children's Social Care when she was younger after family breakdown. Was not able to maintain boundaries, has an offending history, substance misuse issues and other health issues.

Pathway 2 Support: Spent 3 months in Pathway 2 Supported Accommodation giving her some stability to access support. It also gave her the opportunity to manage boundaries and learn the skills to live independently. Initially, her behaviour was chaotic and her substance use was high and at times was abusive to workers. Over time she accessed support from her support worker, and built a good working relationship. A lot of time was spent focusing on her positive traits, in an attempt to build her confidence and step out of her comfort zone. She also received support from her leaving care PA, YJS and her social care Outreach workers. She was able to access support 24/7. She became pregnant and decided that it was time to address her substance misuse issues, and spent a lot of time at her Mums. She also required a lot of support with accessing health services. Her stay at the Supported Accommodation was beneficial as she matured significantly and gained respect for others, which had a positive impact on her behaviour.

Move on outcome and sustainability: Moved home with Mum and this is currently settled with both being able to talk issues through. She is no longer using substances and is very committed to moving forward with her life.

Next Edition:

The new Broadacres accommodation development The Crossing in Hambleton.

If you have any comments on this first Bulletin or if you have any news you would like to see in the next Bulletin the deadline date for submissions for the Autumn/Winter Edition is **1st November 2014**. Email articles to: jill.boak@northyorks.gov.uk

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27th June, 2014

Young and Yorkshire

The Plan for all Children, Young People and their Families Living in North Yorkshire 2014-17

1. Background & Development

In July 2013 the Children’s Trust Board approved the creation of a project board, tasked with the development of a new CYPP to replace the existing Plan which was due to come to an end in March 2014. Membership of the project board was drawn from colleagues in CYPS, NYCC Central Services, Public Health, the Partnership Commissioning Unit, North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Youth.

Extensive consultation with children, young people and stakeholders has taken place to capture the hopes and aspirations of children and young people across North Yorkshire.

The project board has also reviewed a wide range of information and other completed needs analyses to establish strengths and areas for improvement. This has included the incorporation of feedback following the recent inspection of services for children in need of help and protection by Ofsted.

Above all, Young and Yorkshire has been developed in collaboration with partners, stakeholders and importantly, children, young people and their families. The Plan is ambitious, aspirational and it’s delivery, whilst challenging, will be reliant on a range of agencies and stakeholders working together to collectively improve the lives of children and young people across North Yorkshire.

2. Overview & Priorities

Young and Yorkshire is driven by a vision for the future of services for children and young people, which sets out our over-arching hopes and ambitions. Two vision statements have been developed, a children’s version and a statement drawn up by the professionals who work with children and young people:

“We want North Yorkshire to be a cool place with loads of great things to do”
(Children’s version)

“We want North Yorkshire to be a special place where every childhood is magical and every young person thrives”
(Professional’s version)

The new CYPP sets out 10 guiding principles underpinning all that we do to support, children, young people and their families. The principles focus on involving families at all

stages of service planning & delivery, early intervention, maximising resources (including voluntary & community capacity), improve the lives of those we aim to help and support:

1. Involve children, young people and their families at all stages of planning, delivering and evaluating services
2. Resolve families' problems before they escalate by offering early help that develops resilience and self-reliance
3. Ensure that the safety and protection of children and young people is everybody's business
4. Strive for excellence in everything we do
5. Work in close partnerships, in the best interests of children, young people and families
6. Recognise and use the capacity of the voluntary and community sector in enhancing provision and choice
7. Make sure we can demonstrate the impact we have on the lives of children, young people and families
8. Spend money wisely and effectively
9. Celebrate diversity
10. Recognise that fun, happiness, and enjoyment of life are also important

Recognising the need to focus on those areas where the evidence suggests we need to improve outcomes and concentrate resources. Consequently, unlike previous iterations of the CYPP, Young & Yorkshire has only three key priorities. This does not mean that other important issues will be forgotten or neglected, simply that the three priority areas represent our most pressing challenges. The three priorities are:

- **Ensuring that education is our greatest liberator**, with a greater proportion of pupils attending a good or outstanding school
- **Helping all children enjoy a happy family life**, with a safe reduction in the care population
- **Ensuring a healthy start to life**, with more children and young people leading healthy lifestyles

Delivery of each priority is underpinned by four or five of supporting outcomes, which in turn are backed up by a number of delivery mechanisms, which include strategies, business plans and other strategic programmes, such as the Healthy Child Programme.

The Supporting Outcomes are:

Priority 1: Ensuring that Education is our Greatest Liberator:

Priority Outcome - A greater proportion of pupils attend a good or outstanding school

- (a) Life chances for children are improved through better educational outcomes in early years, primary and secondary education, including those of more vulnerable children
- (b) Children in care achieve improved educational outcomes

- (c) Vulnerable & disadvantaged pupils are helped to close the attainment gap between themselves and others
- (d) A high proportion of young people continue to participate in education, training and employment

Priority 2 - Helping All Children Enjoy a Happy Family Life:

Priority Outcome - The care population is reduced safely

- (a) Children and families in challenging circumstances receive effective early help to become self-reliant
- (b) Children are safe, and those at risk of harm are referred, assessed and protected appropriately
- (c) Children in care are supported to leave the care system safely at the earliest opportunity
- (d) Children in care experience stable and secure placements, within North Yorkshire and as close to home as possible

Priority 3 - Ensuring a Healthy Start to Life

Priority Outcome - More children and young people lead healthy lifestyles

- (a) Fewer young people engage in risk-taking behaviours
- (b) Children and young people enjoy good mental health and emotional well-being
- (c) Children enjoy good health and development, particularly in their early years
- (d) Children in care and children with disabilities or learning needs have improved health and well-being outcomes
- (e) Children feel safe and are safe

3. Delivering the Plan

The priorities set out in Young and Yorkshire cannot be delivered by any single organisation and it will be vital the Children's Trust works to co-ordinate activity across partner agencies.

Strategically, the Board will engage with other key partnerships, including the Health & Wellbeing Board, the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board and (once established) the North Yorkshire Education Partnership.

Locally, Children's Safeguarding and Strategy Groups (CSSGs) will have a crucial role, in terms of bringing together services to meet local needs. CSSGs will also play an important part in sharing understanding of local need and helping to ensure that resources are directed to where they will be most effective.

4. Next Steps

A period of consultation on the draft plan will run until the end of June 2014. The Plan will then be presented to a number of NYCC and partnership agency and stakeholder executive boards, culminating in sign-off of Young and Yorkshire at a full meeting of North Yorkshire County Councillors in July.

5. Recommendations

The Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- a. Note the information in this report
- b. Note the information in the attached draft children and young people's plan; 'Young and Yorkshire'
- c. Comment on the attached draft children and young people's plan; 'Young and Yorkshire'

**Pete Dwyer Corporate Director Children and Young Peoples Service
County Hall, Northallerton**

Report compiled by:	Emma Hubert
Email:	emma.hubert@northyorks.gov.uk
Date:	June 2014
Background Documents:	None
Annex:	Annex A – 'Young and Yorkshire'

Young and Yorkshire

The Plan for **all** Children, Young People
and their Families Living in North
Yorkshire

2014-17

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1. Forewords

“We, the children of North Yorkshire, would like you to make sure that we are healthy, sporty, happy, clean, and eco-friendly. That we make awesome friends. That we inspire, and are clever. That we are respected, given our say, heard, supported, have our place in the crowd, and are loved.”



(Grace and Will, Bilsdale, Carlton and Faceby Primary School)

Foreword by Pete Dwyer

Welcome to our new Children and Young People’s Plan. I hope you find it readable and that its recommendations make sense to you. Importantly, I hope you share its confidence, energy and ambition.

We¹ no longer have to produce a Plan like this because central Government tells us to. We have compiled it because children and young people are our most precious asset, and we know that if we work well together – and listen to their voices – we will be better able to help every single one of them to grow into confident and successful adults.

It goes without saying that these are challenging times for the services we represent, faced with profound organisational changes and unprecedented reductions in funding. We would be letting children down if our response was simply to retreat behind organisational boundaries or to start cutting services without consultation or forethought. It is more important than ever that we work in genuine partnership, are crystal clear about our priorities, and resolutely focussed on improving outcomes.

For these reasons, this Plan is shorter and sharper than its predecessors. There are just three key priority areas for action, although we also indicate the principles that guide *all* of our work, all of the time. Our priorities are based on clear evidence about what is needed and what works, and – crucially – are driven by what children and young people themselves have told us. We recognise that although most of them already experience a fantastic upbringing in this very special County, that is not necessarily the case for every single one of them. We will not rest until we can confidently say that all North Yorkshire children’s life chances are in their own hands, rather than being determined by geography or family circumstances.

¹ References to “we” in this Plan are to the North Yorkshire Children’s Trust, which has overall responsibility for this Plan. There is more about the Trust in Chapter 8 and Appendix A, or on our website <http://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk>.

Above all else, this Plan is about celebrating the contribution that young people already make. As part of the consultation it was fantastic to receive literally hundreds of “postcards to the Director” - great to read each day a selection of young people’s hopes and ambitions. What comes across is their boundless energy and their enthusiasm for life. I hope that this rubs off on all of us who have the privilege to work with them.

Peter Dwyer
Chair, North Yorkshire Children's Trust

Foreword by Arthur Barker and Tony Hall

North Yorkshire is a place of superlatives. The largest English County, the tallest waterfall, the highest pub...and, some would add, the friendliest people and the best fish and chips!

Our children and young people are very much part of this picture of excellence – achieving some of the best educational outcomes in the country, and continuing in their tens of thousands to contribute to the world in a myriad of ways. But what comes across from talking to them is how proud they are of their roots – which is why the title of this Plan, “Young and Yorkshire”, is so apt. Indeed, it was suggested to us by the children of Reeth and Gunnerside Primary Schools.

As Executive Members of the County Council, it's our job to identify their needs, fight their corner, and champion their achievements within the political circles in which we operate. To any children and young people who are reading this Plan – and we hope you will do – we make this promise: to ensure the politicians of North Yorkshire continue to listen to you at all times, and to prioritise your needs even in these challenging times.

And to the adults who work with you, we want to convey our thanks, on behalf of the Council and its partners, for everything you do with such commitment and skill, on behalf of young people. The job can be challenging at times but it also brings immense rewards. This Plan has been written for you, and it is a celebration of your work too. It does not shy away from the difficulties we face, but its overall tone is upbeat – because hope and optimism is what we are all about.

Let us use this Plan to renew our collective enthusiasm for what we do, and our shared ambition to make sure that North Yorkshire really is one of the greatest places in which to grow up.

Arthur Barker
Executive Member for Schools, 16-19-year-old Education, and Early Years Provision
Tony Hall
Executive Member for Children's Services, Special Needs, Youth Justice, Youth Service and Adult Learning
North Yorkshire County Council

2. “Young and Yorkshire” – the Plan in a Page

Our Vision

“We want North Yorkshire to be a cool place with loads of great things to do”

“We want North Yorkshire to be a special place where every childhood is magical and every young person thrives”

Our Principles

These principles underpin everything we do, for all children and families, all of the time:

- Involve children, young people and their families at all stages of planning, delivering and evaluating services;
- Resolve families’ problems before they escalate by offering early help that develops resilience and self-reliance;
- Ensure that the safety and protection of children and young people is everybody’s business;
- Strive for excellence in everything we do;
- Work in close partnerships, in the best interests of children, young people, and families;
- Recognise and use the capacity of the voluntary and community sector in enhancing provision and choice;
- Make sure we can demonstrate the impact we have on the lives of children, young people and families;
- Spend money wisely and effectively;
- Celebrate diversity; and
- Recognise that fun, happiness, and enjoyment of life are also important.

Our Three Priorities

Our three particular priorities for 2014-17 are:

- **Ensuring that education is our greatest liberator**, with a greater proportion of pupils attending a good or outstanding school;
- **Helping all children enjoy a happy family life**, with a safe reduction in the care population;
- **Ensuring a healthy start to life**, with more children and young people leading healthy lifestyles.

About this Plan

This Plan has been written for everyone who works with children, young people and their families in North Yorkshire, including families who may only recently have arrived here such as service families. Any references to "child" or "children" should be taken to mean any young person aged 0-19 (ie, the 19th birthday), care leavers up to the age of 25 (ie, the 25th birthday), and young people up to the age of 25 who have special educational needs and disabilities for whom the local authority continues to provide support.

This Plan is divided into three broad sections. In the first section, beginning at Chapter 3, there is a brief overview of life in North Yorkshire through the eyes of a child. We then set out the most important things children and young people told us when we consulted them about the Plan. We also review the other evidence that has been used to inform its development.

In the second section, beginning at Chapter 6, we set out our renewed vision and guiding principles for the period covered by the Plan. We then explain, in detail, the three priority outcomes that we want to achieve, and the supporting outcomes and strategies.

The final section, at Chapter 8, explains how we will deliver the Plan, including how we will pay for it and how we will monitor it. There are some Annexes which go into this in more detail.

3. Growing Up in North Yorkshire

3.1 This chapter sets out some of the facts and figures about North Yorkshire that make it so special. We have tried to present these in a variety of ways so that the story comes to life, including an illustration of what North Yorkshire would be like if it were just a village of 100 children, and how a normal school day might look through the eyes of a child.² The information is presented without comment at this point, as food for thought.

3.2 As England's largest county, North Yorkshire is a place of contrasts. For many of our children and young people, their upbringing will essentially be a rural one, with farming the main industry. Others will grow up in one of our many market towns. Most will develop a deep love for the beautiful countryside that surrounds them, including two large National Parks. However for some, there may sometimes be a sense of isolation, with long distances to the amenities that many of their contemporaries take for granted.

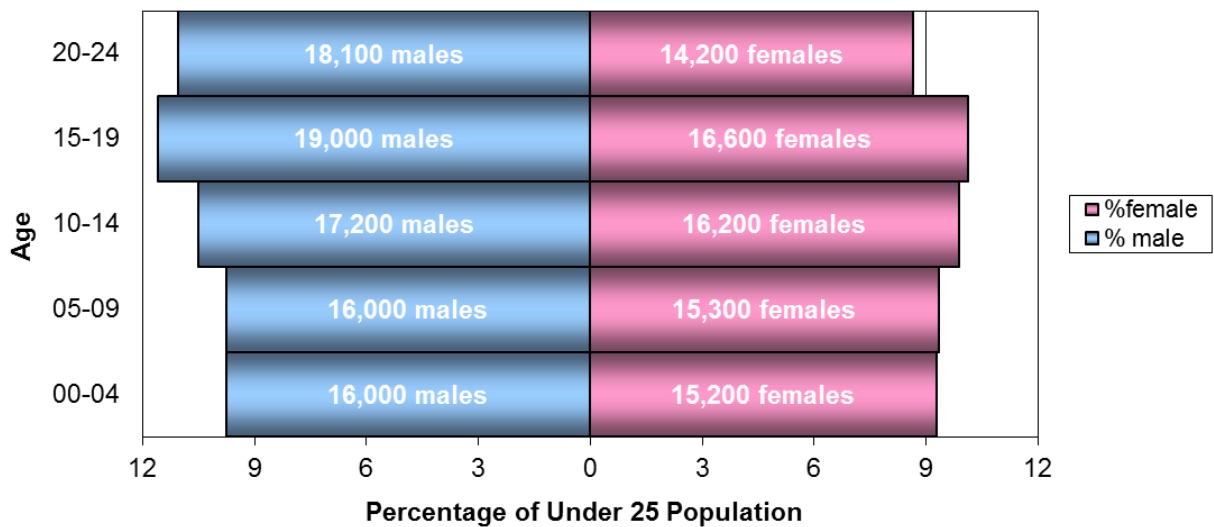
3.3 That said, there are some larger conurbations, and over a quarter of our 132,000 0-19 year olds live in the Harrogate District. Nearly a fifth live around Scarborough, or elsewhere along the coast. A particular feature of our county is the presence of the UK Army's largest military garrison at Catterick, which at any one time is home to some 17,000 MOD personnel. The reality of growing up in a military family is powerfully illustrated by the beautiful and moving poem from Ella Barton on page X.

3.4 Projections based on the *2011 Census*³, indicate that the population of young people aged 0-10 will grow by 2.6% by 2018: this has been an important factor in our planning. The population pyramids **below** illustrate the changes we are expecting over the next few years in the relative sizes of the different age groups for which we are responsible:

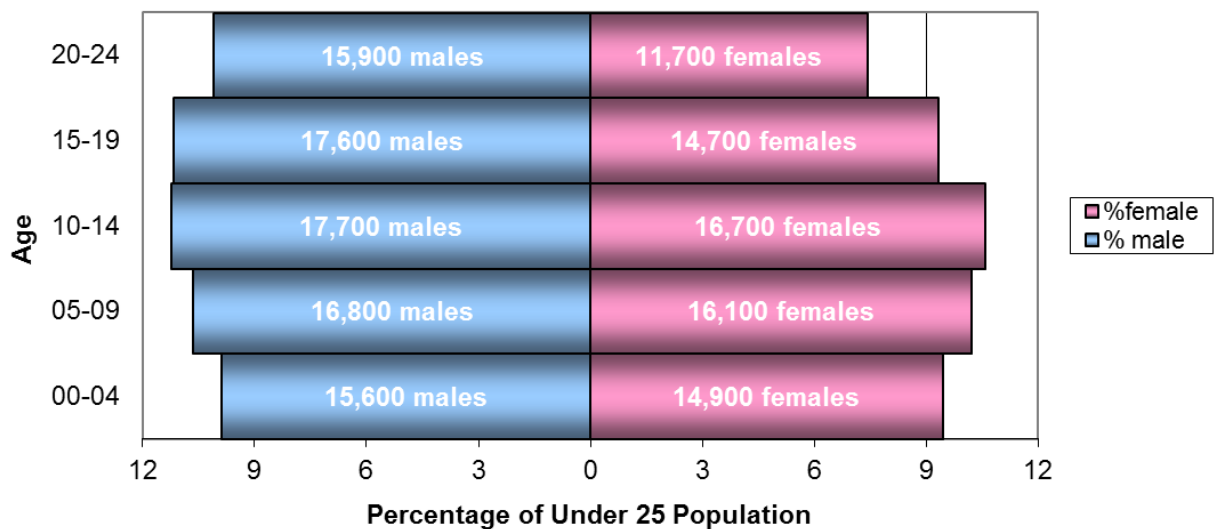
² The statistics used to compile these illustrations have been drawn from a variety of sources, including the 2011 Census and the most recent *Growing Up in North Yorkshire Survey* (previously known as the 'Every Child Matters-Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire.') The results of the 2012 Questionnaire are available at <http://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=13577>

³ <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/23717/Census-information>

**2012 Population - North Yorkshire
(2012-based Subnational Population Projections)**



**2021 Population - North Yorkshire
(2012-based Subnational Population Projections)**



3.5 We also know from the 2014 School Census that around 6% of our children are from a Black or Minority Ethnic background. This, along with the proportion of children eligible for free school meals (8%), is much lower than the national average. Indeed, North Yorkshire is one of the least deprived local authorities in England (ranked 129th out of 154). Nevertheless, there are still some areas of profound deprivation, including some parts of the County that are ranked within the 10% most deprived areas in England, particularly along the coastal fringe. The lives of children growing up in such communities may be much more challenging than for their peers: our job, as professionals, is to ensure that this does not translate into poorer outcomes.

3.6 The illustrations **below** convey some of the other key facts and figures about growing up in North Yorkshire.

Children and Young People in North Yorkshire

132,000 aged 0-19 including:

- 9000 children from a Black or Minority Ethnic background
- 5000 children from military families
- 1800 children and young people for whom the Authority maintains a Statement of Special Educational Needs, of which:
 - around 350 have a diagnosis of autism
 - around 280 have behavioural, emotional or social difficulties
- 465 children looked after by the Authority
- 377 children subject to a child protection plan
- 344 children receiving specialist treatment for substance misuse
- 228 teenage conceptions per year

These children attend

345 Early Years settings

318 Primary Schools or Academies

44 Secondary Schools or Academies

10 Special Schools or Academies

12 Independent Schools

7 Colleges

...and approximately 260 are home educated

One in a hundred children

132,000 children and young people aged 0 to 19 live in North Yorkshire. If we were to imagine these as the population of a small village with 100 children:

- 95 would be “White British” or “White Other”.
- 51 would be boys and 49 would be girls.
- 4 would have a parent in the Armed Forces, of which 2 would have probably been away from home on operational service during the year
- 12 will be officially classed as ‘living in poverty’, although in some parts of the county this will be more than 30. Fewer than 10 would receive free school meals.
- By the age of 6 years, 21 will be either overweight or obese. By the age of 11 years, 28 will be either overweight or obese.
- 66 would have made use of Children’s Centre early years services before starting school.
- Around 2 would be receiving support from children’s social care, with 1 of these requiring either a child protection plan or admission to care.
- Around 2 would live with a family that receives targeted support from early help services.
- At the age of 5 years, 44 children would have achieved a “good level of development” as assessed in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile.
- 76 will go on to attend a Primary School that is rated as good or outstanding for overall effectiveness; 6 will be in a school of fewer than 50 pupils. 74 will go on to attend a Secondary School that is rated as good or outstanding.
- 2 would have a formal statement of special educational need, and another 13 would have other lower level special educational needs.
- At the age of 7 years, 75 will live in a household with both parents. This will fall to 60 by the age of 15.
- By the age of 7 years, 89 will reach the expected standard in reading, 86 will reach this standard in writing, and 92 in maths.
- By the age of 11 years, 85 will achieve the expected standard in reading, 83 will reach this standard in writing, and 82 in maths.
- At secondary school, 7 will be frequently absent from lessons.
- 65 will leave secondary school with 5 or more good passes at GCSE, including English and Maths. In some schools this will be fewer than 50 and in others it will be more than 90.
- Whilst in secondary school, 26 young people will have a regular paid job during term time.
- 90 will continue in training or education whilst 16 and 17. 81 of these will be in full time education or training, 7 will be in an apprenticeship or work based learning placement, and 2 in other types of learning.

**Growing Up In North Yorkshire:
A Day in the Lives of Children and of Young People as described by them
(note: these figures are based on answers to the Growing Up in North Yorkshire survey)**

MORNING	SCHOOL	LUNCH	SCHOOL	AFTER SCHOOL	EVENING
<p>More than 450 children and young people have breakfast with a family that is not their own because they live in care.</p> <p>94% of 7 year olds have a proper breakfast before school. Only 71% of 15 year olds do so.</p> <p>4% of 10 year old children have breakfast at school</p> <p>22% of 15 year old girls have nothing to eat before school.</p> <p>Whilst getting ready for school, 19% of secondary pupils worry about being bullied about the way they look.</p>	<p>Nearly all 3 and 4 year olds go to a free childcare place.</p> <p>83,000 pupils aged 5 to 16 go to North Yorkshire schools.</p> <p>76% go to a <i>good</i> or an <i>outstanding</i> school as judged by Ofsted.</p> <p>46% of 10 year olds walk to school. 44% travel to school by car and 5% take a bus.</p> <p>34% of 15 year olds walk to school. 22% travel by car and 37% take a bus.</p>	<p>Fewer than 1 in 10 pupils will claim free school meals.</p> <p>20% of 15 year old girls have nothing for lunch.</p> <p>38% of 15 year olds have a school meal. 36% have a packed lunch.</p> <p>4% of secondary pupils buy their lunch from a takeaway or shop.</p> <p>50% of 7 year olds eat 'five a day.' Only 16% of 15 year olds do so.</p> <p>37% of 10 year olds go to a school club during lunch break.</p> <p>During school playtimes 87% of 10 year olds feel happy and 89% feel safe.</p>	<p>14% of 7 year old pupils don't like being at school.</p> <p>94% of 10 year old pupils think it is important to go to school regularly.</p> <p>Over 60% of 10 year old pupils like all or most of their lessons</p> <p>74% of secondary pupils enjoy at least half of their lessons.</p> <p>25% of secondary pupils report missing school for day trips and family holidays.</p>	<p>Almost half of pupils will meet their friends after school.</p> <p>Over 90% of 15 year olds will go on "Facebook" or other social media websites.</p> <p>34% of 15 year old girls have been asked to meet someone they don't know through the internet.</p> <p>28% of 15 year old girls and 13% of 15 year old boys have experienced cyber-bullying.</p> <p>60% of secondary pupils do homework after school, with 22% doing more than 1 hour.</p>	<p>81% of 15 year olds watch TV after school. 9% watch more than 3 hours each day.</p> <p>The things that worry North Yorkshire pupils most when they go to bed are exams / tests and body image.</p> <p>12% of 15 year olds smoke, 14% have taken drugs at some time and 42% have consumed alcohol during the previous week.</p> <p>23% of 15 year olds pupils are sexually active. One third of these do not always use contraception.</p>

My Daddy is a Soldier

*My Daddy is a Soldier
He wears big black boots
He doesn't go to work
Wearing designer suits.*

*But when he is here, we have fun
We do lots of things together
I really really love my Dad
I will live with him forever.*

*He wears camouflage trousers
With a beret on his head
It has a shiny cap badge
With the details of his Reg.*

*My Daddy is a hero
And this I'm proud to say
Even if I miss him lots
When he has to go away.*

*He has a great big rucksack
That he carries on his back
He also has a little one
That he calls a day sack.*

*We have to move around a lot
And it's sometimes lots of fun
But I don't like to leave my friends
It makes me feel real glum.*

*He does a lot of exercise
And runs and runs and runs
He carries heavy webbing
That really does weigh tons.*

*But once we all get settled
In our new house and new school
We realise it's an adventure
And think it's really cool.*

*He has to go away a lot
It isn't fun at all
I miss him lots when he's not here
It makes me cry and bawl.*

*So my Daddy is a soldier
And it makes me really proud
One day I'll be a soldier
If my Dad says I'm allowed.*

Ella Barton, Aged 9

4. Hopes and Dreams: What Young People Have Told Us

4.1 We have always listened carefully to the voice of the child in North Yorkshire. We have therefore taken special care to ensure that the hopes and dreams of young people have been prominent at all stages of preparing this Plan. They have chosen its Title, and contributed their own Foreword and Vision Statement. Overall, some 15,000 children and young people have informed its development.

4.2 We have used both formal and informal ways to consult children and young people. The formal methods are set out in the box **below**. Less formally, we invited children and young people to submit their views on a postcard to Pete Dwyer, Director of Children's Services, about their hopes for the future and ways in which North Yorkshire could be improved, from their perspective. Over 1,000 children participated, and examples of some of the postcards are featured throughout this Plan. On **page X** is a copy of a letter from a Headteacher commenting on the exercise.

4.3 Some *clear themes* have emerged from these consultations. One is that children and young people in North Yorkshire want to do well at school and to succeed in the workplace. 94% of 10-year olds believe it is important to attend school regularly. However, one in seven primary pupils does not enjoy being at school, and one in four secondary pupils enjoys fewer than half of their lessons.

4.4 Importantly, many older pupils want their school to prepare them better for life after school. Consistent messages include the need for better careers advice, more meaningful work experience, better employment opportunities for young people, and, more generally, an educational experience that prepares young people for adult life.

4.5 A further theme is safety. Although there is little evidence that children and young people feel unsafe in North Yorkshire, consistent messages concern safe places to play, as well as safety in other public spaces such as streets, town centres, and roads. E-safety is also emerging as a significant concern for young people. Over 90% of 15 year olds regularly use Facebook or similar social media sites. One in three 15 year old girls has been asked via the internet to meet someone they don't know. One in five 15 year olds has been subject to cyber-bullying.

4.6 Other messages include concerns about self-esteem, body image and bullying, with one in five secondary pupils worried that they will be bullied because of the way they look. There are concerns about rural isolation, with hopes for more local amenities, health and other public services, and better transport links. There is also a desire to be able readily to access organised sports and leisure facilities, and many young people expressed the wish to have more places to simply 'hang out' with their mates.

4.7 From students in our special schools, the overwhelming desire was the support to be able to lead a normal life, with friends, a job and a partner. The Flying High Group undertook a special consultation exercise on behalf of the national Council for Disabled

Children⁴. Issues raised included self confidence, support to make decisions, support with life skills and to lead a social life, bullying, benefits, and transport. There were also specific concerns about the proposed Education Health and Care Plans, particularly from young people with autism.

4.8 We were particularly struck by the sense of community that emerged from so many of the responses. Children and young people who live in North Yorkshire clearly appreciate their local roots - the children of Reeth Primary School, for example, describe themselves as "Young and Yorkshire". We have adopted these words as the Title for this Plan as they eloquently express the unique and invaluable sense of identity which is so much a feature of growing up in this very special County. We also asked a number of children and young people to identify a particular location within the County that was special to them; examples of their responses are illustrated throughout the Plan.

4.9 One final, overriding, theme concerns general public attitudes towards children and young people. As one 12-year old put it: "My hope is that people didn't have this bad idea of children, because we're not all bad, and I wish that North Yorkshire did more to promote good things that children do." As professionals, we need to ensure that we never forget this.

⁴ To read the full report from the Council for Disabled Children which took into account consultation with a range of groups, including North Yorkshire's Flying High Group, go to www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk and search for "SEN draft Code of Practice".

Our regular consultation mechanisms include the following:

- A countywide survey of school pupils known as the *Growing up in North Yorkshire Survey* is undertaken on a biennial basis. This important survey captures reliable information about the lifestyles of over 15,000 children and young people in North Yorkshire. It also allows us to compare the experiences of children in North Yorkshire with those who live in other local authority areas. The results of the 2012 Questionnaire are available at <http://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=13577>
- Regular dialogue with the *North Yorkshire Youth Council* which is made up of young people from 18 local youth councils across North Yorkshire. This Council gives children and young people opportunities to become involved in the design, provision and evaluation of policies and services that affect them or which they use. Key priorities identified by the Youth Council in 2014 were: "a curriculum to prepare us for life", and "transport". North Yorkshire Youth Council also has links to the UK Youth Parliament, and national campaigns such as 'Make Your Mark'.
- Engagement with the well-established and vibrant North Yorkshire *Young People's Council* which is made up of children in care and care leavers from across the county. This group is led by looked after children and meets once a month to talk about the issues that matter to them. It is attended by senior officers and the Executive at least four times a year. The Young People's Council also represents the views of young people in North Yorkshire at regional and national events.
- *Flying High to See the Way* (known as "Flying High") is a group of disabled young people between the ages of 16 and 25 who have worked with the Local Authority since 2008. In recent years the group has been facilitated by Barnardo's and they have been engaged in the Pathfinder programme, especially the development of the young person's Local Offer and materials for the Transition programme. The contract with Barnardo's has been extended for two further years to reflect our continued commitment to their important work.
- Engagement with individual *School Councils*, which are a feature of every school in North Yorkshire and which include, wherever practicable, representatives from all year groups. Some schools are now calling their Council the "School Leadership Team", and enabling it to influence the development of the whole-school policies.
- A specially-convened *Youth Summit*, comprising 90 representatives of numerous groups of young people. At the 2013 Summit, delegates put forward their concerns and possible solutions on a wide range of subjects, including internet safety, rural isolation, stereotyping, public transport, leisure activities, mental health, peer pressure, job prospects, living on your own, bullying, racism and health services. This was the third year the event has been held.

5. What Else Do We Know?

5.1 As well as the hopes and dreams of young people, we have also taken into account a range of other things in writing this Plan. This chapter, which should be read along with the Appendices, sets out the four main elements:

- A review of performance over the last plan period;
- Needs analyses;
- Strategic links and national policy drivers;
- The financial position.

A Review of Performance over the Last Plan Period

5.2 It has been important to review progress (or otherwise) since the last Children and Young People's Plan, which was published in 2011. During that period, the Children's Trust Board conducted two formal, full-scale reviews of progress. These can be viewed on the Children's Trust website⁵. The conclusion of the most recent review was that real progress had been made:

"Through a period of constricting budgets, personnel changes and organisational restructures, services have remained focussed on the task of improving outcomes for children and young people."

5.3 Nevertheless, the review identified 38 separate areas for further work by the Agencies that constitute the Children's Trust. These have informed the development of the priorities within this Plan.

5.4 We have also reviewed all of the performance indicators that we have been monitoring over the period covered by the last Plan. The illustrations on **page X** show the trends in some of the key indicators. In many areas, performance in North Yorkshire is better than the national average, sometimes to a significant extent. For example, outcomes at both post 16 and at Key Stage 4⁶ have been consistently in the top 20% of local authorities for a number of years. Pupils and students leaving North Yorkshire schools are well placed to continue in education, training or employment; this is reflected in the comparatively small proportion who are not so engaged (commonly known as "NEETs").

5.5 In contrast, the performance of pupils at Key Stage 2 has recently been a concern, with the outcomes generally declining compared to the national picture and placing the local authority in the bottom 20% of authorities on some attainment and progress measures. This is a key focus for improvement. The Early Years profile outcomes are also a concern, though the changes to the assessment of a "good level of development" in 2013 make it difficult to draw conclusions from one year's data.

⁵ For example, the most recent review is at <http://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=26309&p=0>

⁶ The different phases of a child's education are commonly divided into "key stages". "Key Stage 2" is the last phase of primary school. "Key Stage 4" is years 10 and 11 at secondary schools, when many will be taking GCSEs.

5.6 The attainment gaps for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with Special Educational Need are also a focus of concern; although some gaps are closing, overall they remain wider than those in most Local Authorities. Work is being done both with individual schools and through the development of innovative strategic approaches which should see longer-term impact. In January 2014 we launched the *Closing the Gap* initiative to support the development of evidence-based practice by clusters of schools.

5.7 Performance of all schools and settings has been closely monitored throughout the period of the last Plan, and will continue to be so. Outcomes from Ofsted inspections and data for pupil outcomes is supplemented by the information from monitoring visits and reviews to identify *good* and *outstanding* schools and settings, and to target support to those in greater need. At the start of 2014, Ofsted judged 80% of primary schools to be *good* or *outstanding* – an improving picture – with a slightly smaller proportion of inadequate judgements than nationally. Individual reports are available on the Ofsted website⁷. 90% of North Yorkshire's "settings"⁸ are currently *good* or *outstanding*. 68% of secondary schools – just below the national proportion – are currently *good* or *outstanding*. Our ambition is to see all schools and settings at least *good* by the end of this Plan period.

5.8 Consideration has also been given to the outcomes from Ofsted inspections of Children's Centres. We have had 28 centres inspected (under various frameworks so not directly comparable). 16 of the 28 (57%) were graded *good* overall: 12 of the last 14 inspections have been graded *good* overall (86%). Importantly, though, under the first and second frameworks 21 of the 25 were graded *good* or better for safeguarding with the last 12 all graded *good*.

5.9 We have also taken into account an authority-wide Ofsted Inspection that took place, during a late stage in the preparation of this Plan, into *services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers*. The overall judgement of the Authority's services was **XXXX**. Subsidiary judgements were either **XXXX** or **XXXX**, while a review of the effectiveness of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board was also judged to be **XXXX**. We believe the Inspection results, and Ofsted's detailed recommendations⁹, confirm the approach we are taking in this Plan to reduce safely the care population, whilst also improving the outcomes achieved by those who are in or who have been in care. In the words of the Inspection Team:

*"The Authority and its partners are ispem lorum factum nomen roman judem.
Chisex lodem forum totem willem carolyn gillem petem."*

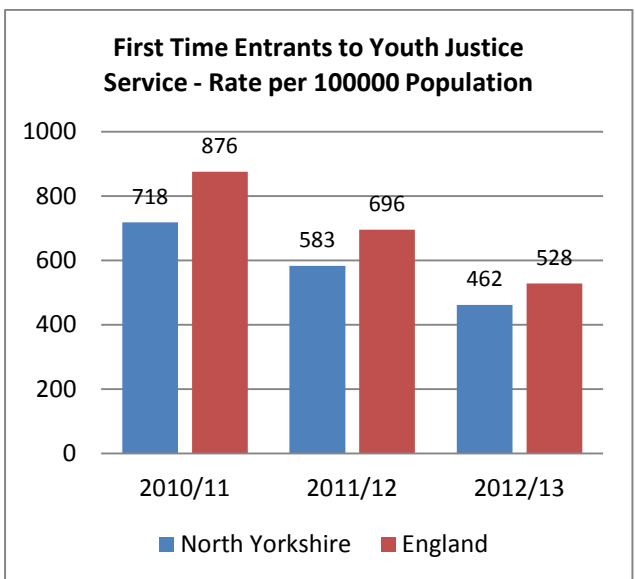
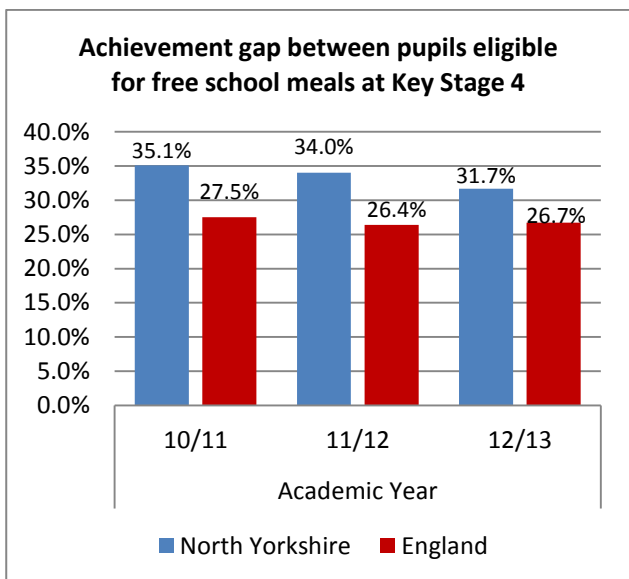
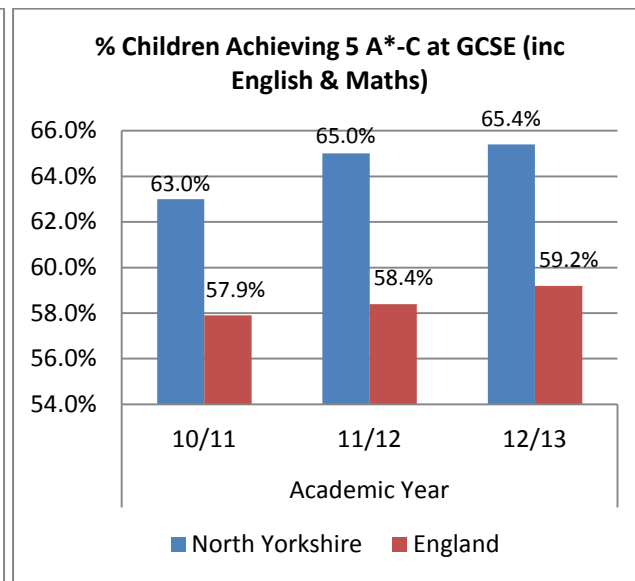
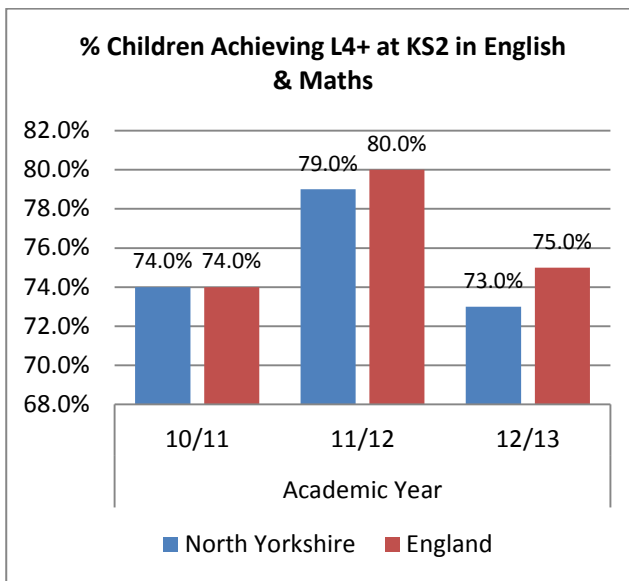
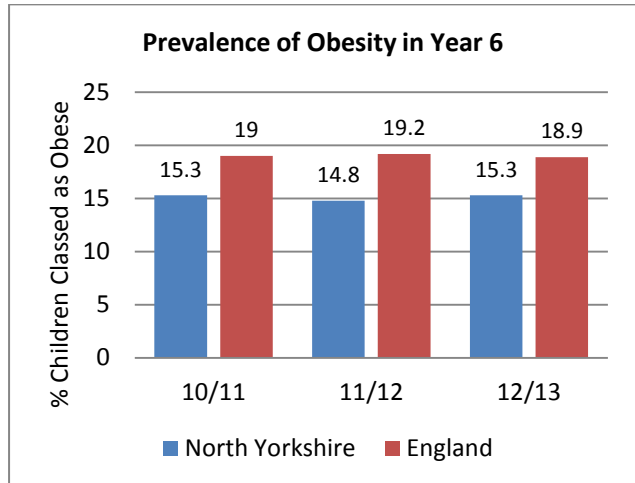
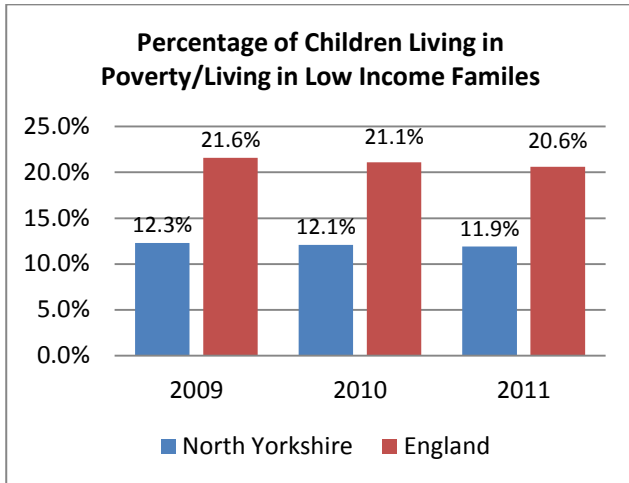
⁷ See www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report

⁸ A 'setting' is maintained or non-maintained early years provision that provides education and care for children aged 0-5 years. This provision includes: child minders, all private voluntary, and independent provision such as sessional pre-schools, full day nurseries, maintained nurseries and reception classes.

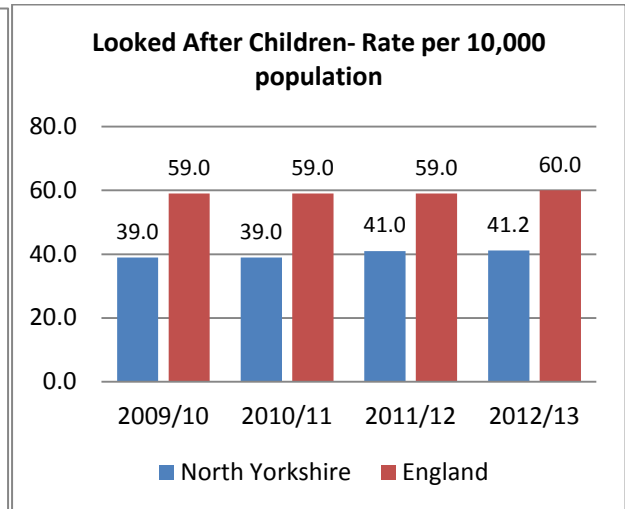
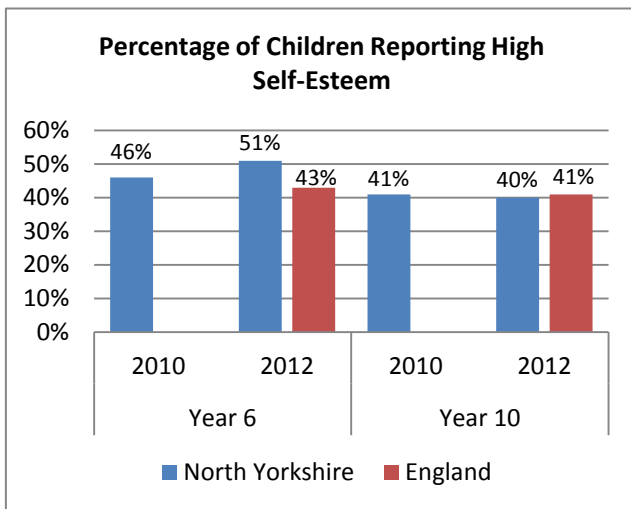
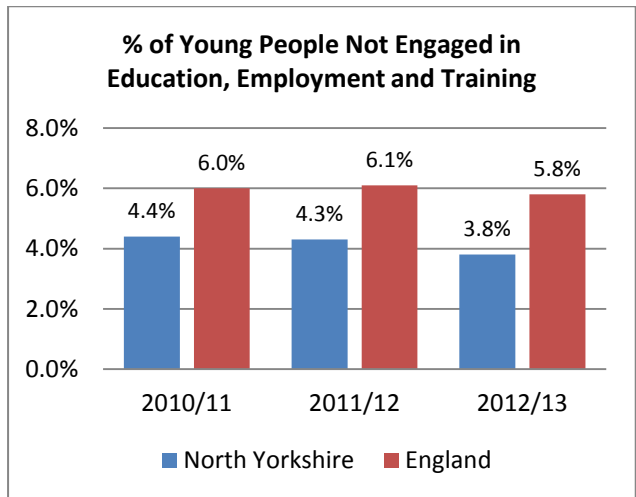
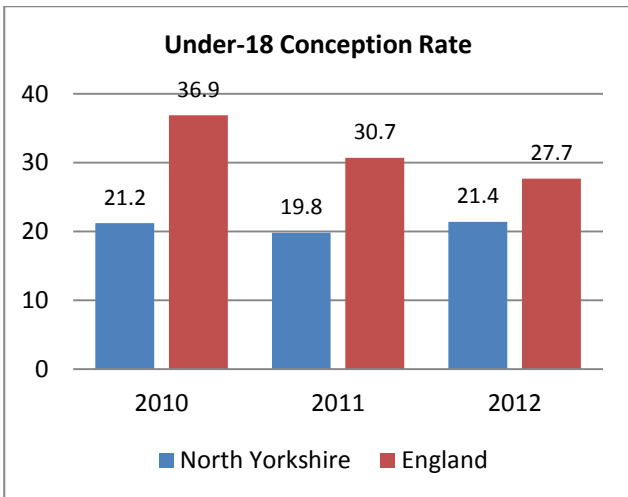
⁹ The full report is available at <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/north-yorkshire>

5.10 We will be monitoring carefully, and taking action as necessary, to ensure that the recent small rises in obesity levels, and in teenage conceptions, do not become part of a longer-term trend.

Trends in key indicators during the period covered by the last Plan¹⁰



¹⁰ Further information about the data underlying these graphs can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait>



Needs Analyses

5.11 We were also able to benefit from a number of recent *needs analyses* of the local population. In relation to health and wellbeing, the most recent analysis is contained in the *Joint Strategic Needs Assessment*¹¹ published by the Health and Wellbeing Board¹². As well as the overall report, there were detailed "topic summaries" covering issues (amongst others) such as child poverty, maternal health, child health, and health issues for particular communities¹³ (both geographical and minority ethnic groups). Overall, the picture is of a County whose health is above average compared with the rest of England, but with distinct areas where this is not the case.

5.12 One particular topic highlighted by this process was that of *rurality* and communities that are relatively isolated. The rural nature of our County has been prominent in our thinking in drawing up this Plan and the associated strategies. There is also a specific analysis of the particular needs of *service families*, especially those stationed at Catterick Garrison. In implementing the priorities in this Plan, we will continue to be sensitive to the different needs of our diverse communities.

5.13 An important topic summary analyses the impact of *domestic abuse* and, in particular, its effects on children and young people. A North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Strategy has been developed with our multi-agency partners via the North Yorkshire and York Domestic Abuse Joint Coordinating Group. This strategy identifies opportunities for joint funding of Domestic Abuse Services based upon the cost benefits to various partners from commissioning early intervention and prevention services, including establishing a county-wide therapeutic service for children and young people. Through the 2014-19 North Yorkshire and York Domestic Abuse Strategy and action plan, we acknowledge that there is more work to be done in this area and as a partnership commit to continue to reduce the impact of domestic abuse across North Yorkshire.

5.14 A further topic highlighted by the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis process was that of *youth homelessness*. There has recently been a countywide launch of seven new Young People's Accommodation Advice and Prevention Hubs. These bring youth homelessness services together under one roof, with representatives from the County Council, District Councils, and local housing providers all working together to provide the best service for young people who need advice and support around housing issues. Alongside general advice and guidance, the Hubs offer a 'Pathway Approach' for young people who require further support and may be at risk of homelessness.

5.15 A separate needs assessment was also commissioned by the North Yorkshire *Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service* to inform the development of a strategy to improve mental and emotional wellbeing of children and young people in the County.¹⁴ This analysis suggests that around 16000 children and young people have a mental health

¹¹ The full report can be found on the North Yorkshire Partnerships website at www.nypartnerships.org.uk

¹² There is information about the Health and Wellbeing Board at www.nypartnerships.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=16804

¹³ The full list of topic summaries is at www.nypartnerships.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=26760

¹⁴ For example, looked after children, children with SEND, young offenders etc.

disorder, of which around 2500 are likely to be from a vulnerable group and to have more complex needs. This has been used to develop the following key priorities, which have in turn informed the development of this Plan:

- *Promote emotional well-being and resilience in all children & young people;*
- *Provide a clear and transparent view of the services available to promote positive mental and emotional wellbeing in North Yorkshire;*
- *Increase understanding amongst children and young people of emotional and mental ill-health in order to reduce discrimination and stigma;*
- *Ensure earlier identification of children and young people exhibiting emotional problems so that they are able to access help and support in a timely way;*
- *Develop and implement integrated, multi-agency service pathways for all levels of service provision, that improve both access to services and the timeliness of response;*
- *Services will put children, young people, families and carers at the centre of their care and ensure they are involved in the planning, design and evaluation of services;*
- *Services will be evidenced and informed to ensure that they deliver quality outcomes;*
- *Understand the current and expected future demand for these services, so as to inform future commissioning decisions around priority needs and vulnerable groups.*

These are consistent with the government Mental Health Strategy, *No Health without Mental Health*¹⁵ published in 2011, which sets out six shared mental health outcomes for children, young people, working age adults and older people.

5.16 Similarly, an analysis of *North Yorkshire's 14-19 Education and Skills* needs has resulted in the new "position statement" which contains the following priorities for 2014-15:

- *ensure the attainment gap between vulnerable learners and the wider cohort is minimised.*
- *ensure all young people have access to good quality and appropriate education and training*
- *increase the number of pupils attending a good or outstanding school so more young people can benefit from a high quality education*
- *increase young people's participation in education and training and thereby reduce the number of young people Not in Education, Training or Employment (NEET).*
- *ensure young people leave training and education with the employability skills they need to succeed.*

Strategic Linkages and National Policy Drivers

5.17 We have been keen to ensure that this Plan has clear *strategic links* to other relevant County-wide strategies and Plans. For example, the Joint Strategic Needs

¹⁵ See www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-mental-health-strategy-for-england

Assessment referred to in the previous section has been used by the Health and Wellbeing Board to draw up a *Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy*¹⁶ for North Yorkshire. This document addresses the particular challenges posed by rurality and pockets of deprivation. It contains "children and young people" as one of its strategic priorities:

"Giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing health inequalities in the whole of people's lives. To have an impact on health inequalities we need to address children's access to positive early experiences. Interventions in later life, although important, are considerably less effective when good early foundations are lacking. It is therefore vitally important that we help to support the early development of healthy behaviours and foster a supportive community for parents and families to give children the best opportunities in life."

5.18 The other key strategic document that has fed into this Plan is the *North Yorkshire Community Plan 2014-17*¹⁷, which refreshed at the same time as the development of this Plan, and the related *Council Plan 2014-15*¹⁸, which is updated each year. In particular, our Vision for Children and Young People, set out in the next chapter, deliberately relates to the overall Community Vision:

"We want North Yorkshire to be a thriving county which adapts to a changing world and remains a special place for everyone to live, work and visit."

In addition, in drawing up the priorities in this Plan, we have had regard to the three priorities in the Community Plan, particularly the second and third ones:

- *Facilitate the development of key housing and employment sites across North Yorkshire by delivering necessary infrastructure investments through partnership;*
- *Supporting and enabling North Yorkshire communities to have greater capacity to shape and deliver the services they need and to enhance their resilience in a changing world;*
- *Reduce health inequalities across North Yorkshire.*

5.19 A key *Business Plan* which has been influential in drawing up this Plan is that produced by the independent North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board¹⁹. This Plan has three strategic themes:

- to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Children and Young People involved in or at risk of sexual exploitation and who are subject to multiple vulnerabilities;
- to ensure that partner agencies promote early help, recognise, and respond to neglect of children and young people;

¹⁶ This document is available at www.nypartnerships.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=20933

¹⁷ See <http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=16841>

¹⁸ See www.northyorks.gov.uk/councilplan

¹⁹ See www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/business-plan.html

- to develop and implement effective mechanisms for collecting and evaluating feedback from children, young people and their families and ensure that this is used to influence service development.

The first of these themes is consistent with the increased national focus on Child Sexual Exploitation. This has provided momentum for a step-change in improving the response to Child Sexual Exploitation and preventing its occurrence.

5.20 The other key local Plan is the *Youth Justice Strategic Plan* published by the North Yorkshire Justice Service²⁰. The most recent Plan highlights the following strategic themes:

- targeting those who repeatedly offend and present the highest risk;
- focus on young people who are in or at risk of custody;
- Restorative Practice is integral;
- some young people can be diverted from the criminal justice system;
- identify and prevent child sexual exploitation;
- less funding this year, further savings in the future;
- tailor services to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

5.21 In a similar vein, we are keeping in close contact with the Police and Crime Commissioner as she develops her new priorities for the County²¹, and have noted in particular her emphasis on residents feeling safe, and support for victims of crime (who can often be young people).

5.22 We have also taken account of other national policy and legislative changes. It is not sensible to attempt to list all of these here, but it is worth highlighting four *key strategic national policy drivers* that have particularly influenced the development of this Plan:

- Changes in educational policy
- Changes in the commissioning of health services
- Renewed emphasis on improvement in outcomes for children in care
- Changes in policy for those with Special Educational Needs and Disability

Changes in Educational Policy

5.23 The last four years have seen unprecedented changes in the way education services are organised. Nationally, the Academy programme has been accelerated and Free Schools, established by independent groups and organisations but funded directly by central government, have been introduced. There has been reform of the national curriculum; an overhaul of examinations at Key Stages 2, 4 and 5; an extension of the participation age to 18 by 2015; and the introduction of additional funding through the Pupil Premium to support "closing the gap" between vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

²⁰ See www.ny-yot.org.uk/performance.htm

²¹ See www.northyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/vision/

5.24 The emphasis for school improvement is now on a sector-led approach, bringing together teachers, governors, school-improvement specialists and local authorities in partnership to develop innovative and collaborative approaches to improve the quality of schools and teaching.

Changes in the Commissioning of Health Services

5.25 In 2012 the Health and Social Care Act established Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to commission services in local areas from a mixed economy of providers, supported by Commissioning Support Units and NHS England. In North Yorkshire, there are six Clinical Commissioning Groups; four²² of the six CCGs are supported by a Partnership Commissioning Unit, hosted by Scarborough & Ryedale CCG.

5.26 The Act also led to the creation of Public Health England, an executive agency of the Department of Health, charged with improving the nation's health and addressing inequalities. Local authorities now have responsibility for improving public health. As part of its new public health commissioning responsibilities, the County Council is leading the re-commissioning of the 5-19 Healthy Child Programme, and will take responsibility for the 0-5 Healthy Child Programme in October 2015. We intend to commission an integrated 0-19 Healthy Child Programme during the lifetime of this plan.

Renewed emphasis on improved outcomes for children in care

5.27 There has been an increasing focus on improving outcomes for our most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and their prospects as they move from childhood into adult life. This has included the introduction of additional funding via the Pupil Premium to help schools close the gap in attainment between looked after children and their peers. There is now greater emphasis on ensuring that those young people about to leave care are supported by the local authority and, where appropriate, their existing foster carers through the transition to an independent adult life. There have also been reforms to the adoption process to prevent delays which impact on the development and wellbeing of children.

5.28 National policy also recognises the importance of early intervention, working with families to turn around the lives of children and young people without recourse to statutory child protection practices. Earlier, targeted intervention underpins the Government's Troubled Families Programme, launched in 2011, which is locally known as 'Developing Stronger Families.' Nationally, the programme aims to turn around the lives of 120,000 families in challenging and chaotic circumstances through consent-led multi-agency support working hand in hand with individual families.

Changes in policy for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

²² Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby CCG, Harrogate & Rural District CCG, Scarborough & Ryedale CCG and Vale of York CCG

5.29 The Children and Families Act will be implemented in stages from September 2014. It will bring about transformational changes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Key elements of the Act are greater influence and control for parents; integrated assessment and decision making; improvements in preparation for adulthood; and improved partnership working by agencies on behalf of children and families. Assessment and planning will be with families present, based on their aspirations for the future of their children. Plans will include life outcomes, and the support that families and the local community could contribute to help to achieve them. The reforms include:

- The conversion of “Statements” of Special Educational Needs into Education Health and Care Plans and the joint commissioning of care and health services specified in such plans;
- The requirement to set out clearly what support is available locally across all agencies so that parents can make informed choices;
- Allowing parents of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan to ask the local authority about their own ‘personal budget’ for the amount of money the council has to pay for the help they need with their education and social care. They can then ask for some or all of this money as a direct payment to spend on the support they choose to meet their needs.

The Financial Position

5.30 The final element we have taken into account in preparing this Plan is the financial position of the Authority and its partners. **Appendix C** provides an illustration of the scale of funding for Children's Services that passes through the Local Authority, based on the position at the outset of the period covered by the Plan. In an ideal world, we would have included in this illustration the sums also spent by our partners across the Children's Trust; however, this presents formidable technical difficulties (for example, there are six CCGs whose boundaries do not necessarily align with the County's; nor do GPs normally identify the time spent on children's health as distinct from that spent on the adult population).

5.31 What can however be stated with confidence is that all of the partners within the Trust face extreme and unprecedented financial pressures. We have therefore developed a partnership-wide approach to delivering the savings targets we are faced with which recognises that:

- Building community capacity and providing excellent, wide reaching support will reduce the need for more targeted involvement;
- The Local Authority is not necessarily the direct provider of all universal provision;
- Families need to have access to high quality information and advice including web-based advice;
- Individual whole family interventions may need to be provided to those in need of more targeted prevention in order to prevent those problems escalating;
- We need to integrate management structures and enhance partnership working;

- We need to accept opportunities for creative shared use of existing buildings;
- We need to protect the provision of care and protection for those with higher level needs; and
- We should aim for children to live safely with their families within communities but, where care is needed, ensure that high quality provision is available locally.

6. Our New Vision and Guiding Principles

Vision

6.1 In preparing this Plan, we felt it important to refresh our overall Vision for the future of services for children and young people, and to express this in a succinct fashion. As explained in the previous chapter, we had particular regard to the new Vision contained within the Community Plan for the County. We also asked children and young people what they thought should be the future Vision. In the end, we have decided to run with two complementary versions of the Vision alongside each other.

6.2 The children's version, based on their *Postcards to Pete*, is:

“We want North Yorkshire to be a cool place with loads of great things to do.”

The Vision statement drawn up by the professionals who work with children and young people is:

“We want North Yorkshire to be a special place where every childhood is magical and every young person thrives.”

Taken together, these two statements express our over-arching hopes and ambitions for the future.

Principles

6.3 We also thought it important to draw up a set of *guiding principles* that will underpin our work with children and young people. This is particularly important because in this Plan, as the next Chapter sets out, we have reduced the *Priorities* to just three in number. The *Principles* serve to remind us of the things that remain important in *everything* we do as professionals, all of the time, in supporting children, young people and their families.

6.4 There are ten such principles, as set out below:

Involve children, young people and their families at all stages of planning, delivering and evaluating services

We already consult children and young people through a variety of mechanisms. We need to ensure that this translates into regarding them as key partners in the design and delivery of services, and that we truly listen to their views and feedback. This principle is founded on proper respect for children's rights as enshrined in the United Nations Convention.

Resolve families' problems before they escalate by offering early help that develops resilience and self-reliance

We firmly believe in the principle of investing in early help so as to prevent costly and more intrusive later interventions. This applies both in the area of health (such as promoting breastfeeding, exercise, healthy eating and good sexual health) and in working with vulnerable families to ensure that problems do not escalate. The emphasis in the period covered by the next Plan will be on ensuring that individuals, families and communities are helped to develop the confidence and resilience to help themselves.

Ensure that the safety and protection of children and young people is everybody's business

We will continue to ensure that safeguarding lies at the heart of all of our work, and that our procedures for raising, and responding to, concerns about a child are as straightforward as possible. We will adopt a policy of "zero tolerance" towards bullying in any form (including cyber-bullying, which is of particular concern to young people) and will be sensitive to the possibilities of exploitation or extremism, even in apparently tranquil communities.

Strive for excellence in everything we do

North Yorkshire already enjoys high educational and health standards compared to the national average. As this Plan makes clear, however, this is not necessarily true for every for every child and young person. And it will never be a cause for complacency: there must be no artificial limits on the dreams and aspirations of the young people who grow up in this County.

Work in close partnerships, in the best interests of children, young people and families

Partnership working is already well embedded in North Yorkshire, but we must strive to ensure that working relationships remain positive and creative at all times. Artificial demarcations must never get in the way of the best interests of children and young people in North Yorkshire. Where necessary, we will share information, and pool budgets. The changing organisational landscape in both education and health must be seen as an opportunity to develop even better services. We will join up support around the needs of children and young people and focus on outcomes, not organisational silos. We will promote discussions about how to work even better together within each of the transitional stages during the growth of a child towards adulthood.

Recognise and use the capacity of the voluntary and community sector in enhancing provision and choice

It has never been more important to respect and celebrate the contribution of the "third sector" in providing services for children and their families. Local Authorities and other publicly-funded bodies have diminishing capacity to deliver services directly: it is vital that the voluntary and community sector are supported in their role, and treated as equal partners in future planning. This will be particularly important in realising young people's stated wish to have more "things to do" in their local area.

Make sure we can demonstrate the impact we have on the lives of children, young people and families

When resources are constrained, it is especially important to be able to demonstrate the effectiveness of our interventions. This is not always a straightforward task when multiple agencies may be involved, and the results may not be immediately apparent. We must nevertheless strive to develop ever-better ways to assess our impact, drawing on national and international best practice.

Spend money wisely and effectively

We have responsibilities to the taxpayer as well as to young people, and our job at all times is to ensure that we spend public money prudently and transparently. Children and young people care about this principle just as much as adults.

Celebrate diversity

We will work relentlessly to ensure that no child, young person, family or community is at a relative disadvantage. This applies particularly to those from a black or minority ethnic background, disabled children, and those who are lesbian or gay or questioning their sexuality. This principle is about eliminating the negative - but, even more, about celebrating the positive.

Recognise that fun, happiness, and enjoyment of life are also important

Sometimes in drawing up a Plan like this, we can get diverted into graphs, percentages and performance measures - and lose sight of the fact that we are dealing with children and young people in all their marvellous unpredictability. This principle exists to remind us of this, and that not everything that is important to children and young people can be measured in conventional ways.

7. Our Priorities for 2014-17

7.1 When it comes to deciding our *priorities* for the duration of this Plan, we have taken very careful note of all of the feedback from children and young people set out in Chapter 4, as well as the objective evidence in Chapter 5. There are far fewer priorities than in previous Plans: just three for 2014-17.

Priorities for 2014-17

- **Ensuring that education is our greatest liberator**, with a greater proportion of pupils attending a good or outstanding school;
- **Helping all children enjoy a happy family life**, with a safe reduction in the care population;
- **Ensuring a healthy start to life**, with more children and young people leading healthy lifestyles.

7.2 In selecting these priorities, we are mindful that they will not necessarily cover all areas of our work. This is why we devised the guiding principles set out in the previous chapter, which will apply across *all* of our activities. We are also conscious that it has not been possible to respond directly to every point made to us in consultation; in particular, some of the points made about transport are beyond the remit of the Children's Trust, but we will ensure that they are passed on to the relevant decision-makers. The expressed wish for more "things to do" will also present particular difficulties at a time of diminishing public funding for such activities; however we will ensure that young people's views about this are built into the plans to develop more self-reliant local communities, and will keep them in mind as and when suitable funding becomes available.

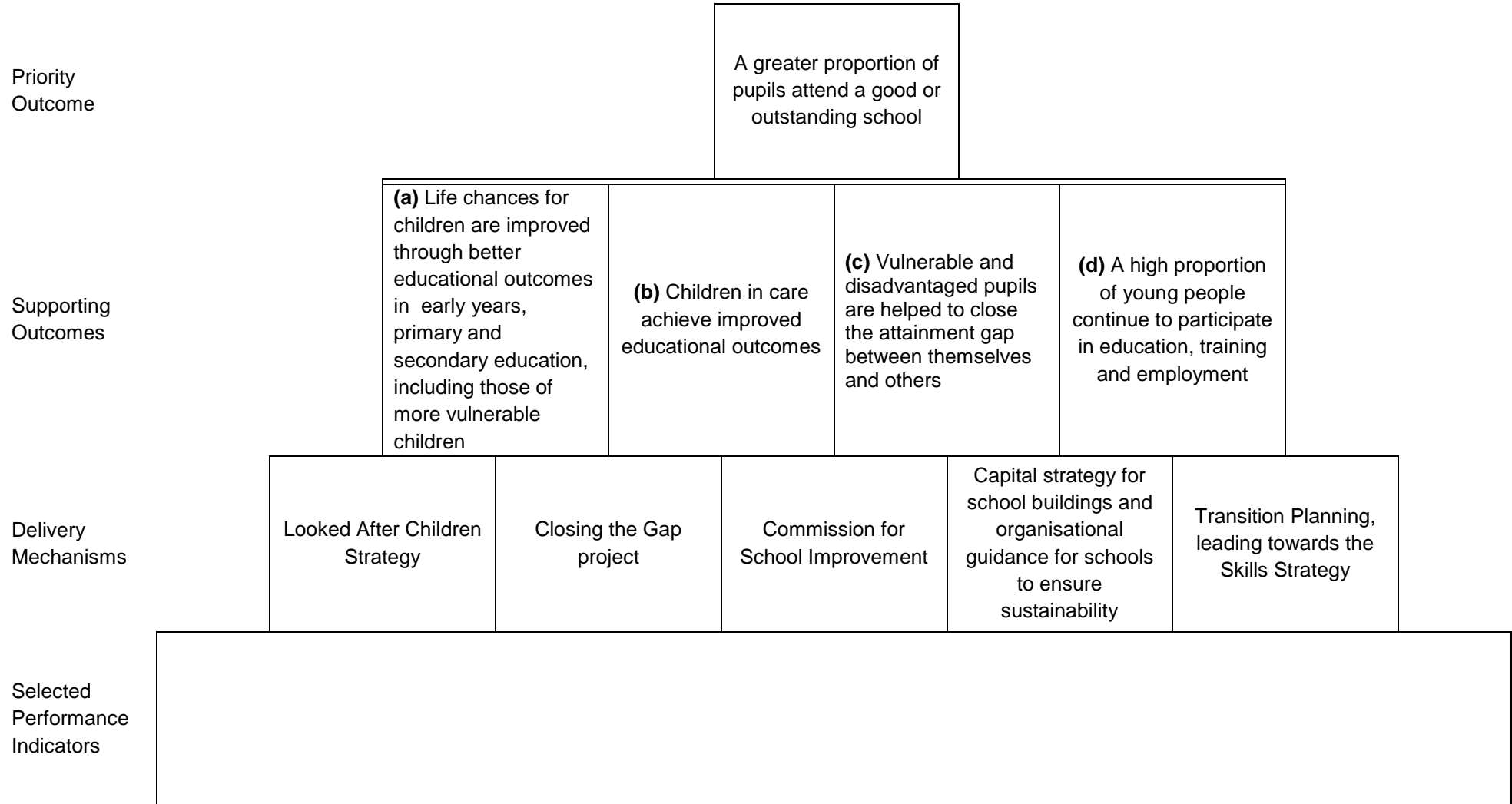
7.3 The three priorities that we have selected represent the key areas where the evidence suggests we need to improve outcomes and concentrate our collective resources at a time of sustained reductions in public expenditure. The following pages describe these priorities in more detail. For each of them there is also an illustrative "pyramid" diagram which shows the main priority outcome at the top, a series of supporting outcomes, the indicative delivery mechanisms, and a selection of performance indicators that we will use to keep track of our progress. For a full set of performance indicators that will be monitored during the next Plan period, see **Appendix D**.

7.4 It is important to state at the outset that we believe all three priorities, and all of the supporting outcomes, are relevant to all of the partners in the Children's Trust. Words such as "health" or "education" should not be taken to imply that only one set of professionals need take heed of the section in question: we all have a part to play in delivering these shared priorities.

7.5 Similarly, we believe that all three priorities apply to children and young people of all ages, from 0-19, and from 0-25 for certain groups²³. As we develop detailed plans in accordance with these priorities, we will do so on a shared basis across the Children's Trust, and will challenge ourselves to think of actions that will apply at all of the stages of a child's journey towards adulthood.

²³ See the definition of a "child" at the beginning of this Plan.

Priority 1: Ensuring that Education is our Greatest Liberator



Priority 1: Ensuring that education is our greatest liberator

7.6 The North Yorkshire Commission for School Improvement describes the role and importance of a good education as follows:

“High quality education transforms lives. It brings alive knowledge and skills and ignites enterprise and endeavour. It liberates the talent and ingenuity of everyone it touches...we are determined that every young person in our schools must have access to the right opportunities, experiences and support that they need to succeed.”

7.7 This passion for education continues to drive us. Most children and young people in North Yorkshire already receive a high quality education. The majority of our schools are good or outstanding. Many pupils do well at school, obtain good qualifications, and succeed in life after school. But this is not true of all children or all parts of the county. Through this Plan we want more schools to become good or outstanding so that more children and young people benefit from a high quality education. We want more pupils to do well at school, especially those who might need extra help such as children in care or children from low-income households. We want more school leavers to be properly prepared to succeed in their next steps, whatever and wherever they are. And finally, we want to ensure that we have sufficient and sustainable schools to meet the predicted changes in the County's population as set out in Chapter 3.

7.8 More specifically, over the period of this Plan we want to achieve the following:

Priority Outcome: A greater proportion of pupils attend a good or outstanding school:

7.9 At present around 76% of primary school pupils and 74% of secondary school pupils attend a good or outstanding school. We want to increase these proportions so that all children can benefit from the best possible educational opportunities. The Commission for School Improvement is working on a new, sector led approach with the emphasis on improvement being generated through strong school to school collaborations.

Supporting Outcome (a): Life chances for children are improved through better educational outcomes in early years, primary and secondary education, including those of more vulnerable children

7.12 A high quality education is not defined only by pupils doing well in tests and exams. However, achieving well at school supports children to succeed in the next stage of their lives. We will support and challenge schools to deliver a curriculum that prepares children for their next steps. In 2013, young children in North Yorkshire appeared not to do well at the Early Years Foundation Stage; we want to improve our early years outcomes to give children the best possible start. We want to work with parents and early years providers to help more young children to do well and be ready for school. In recent years in North Yorkshire test results at the end of primary education have not been as good as

previously. We will support and challenge primary schools to improve pupils' achievement and so prepare them to do well at secondary school. Pupils in North Yorkshire already achieve well at GCSE, but we want even more young people to leave school with a good set of qualifications, and be ready for their step into adulthood.

Supporting Outcome (b): Children in care achieve improved educational outcomes

7.10 Children in care should not be excluded from high quality education that transforms lives and liberates talent. Some children in care do well at school and achieve good educational outcomes. Too often, however, some children in care do not do as well as they could do at school. In North Yorkshire in recent years children in care have not achieved good educational outcomes at either primary or secondary school. We want children in care to have access to the right opportunities, experiences and support they need to succeed at school. The *North Yorkshire's Children and Young People Looked After Strategy 2014-2016* sets out our ambitious approach to improving the educational outcomes of children in care. The "ELAC" (Education of Looked After Children) Virtual School oversees, monitors and supports all North Yorkshire's looked after children, wherever they are placed, to improve achievement, ensure progression and remove barriers to learning so that their educational needs are met.

Supporting Outcome (c): Vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils are helped to close the attainment gap between themselves and others

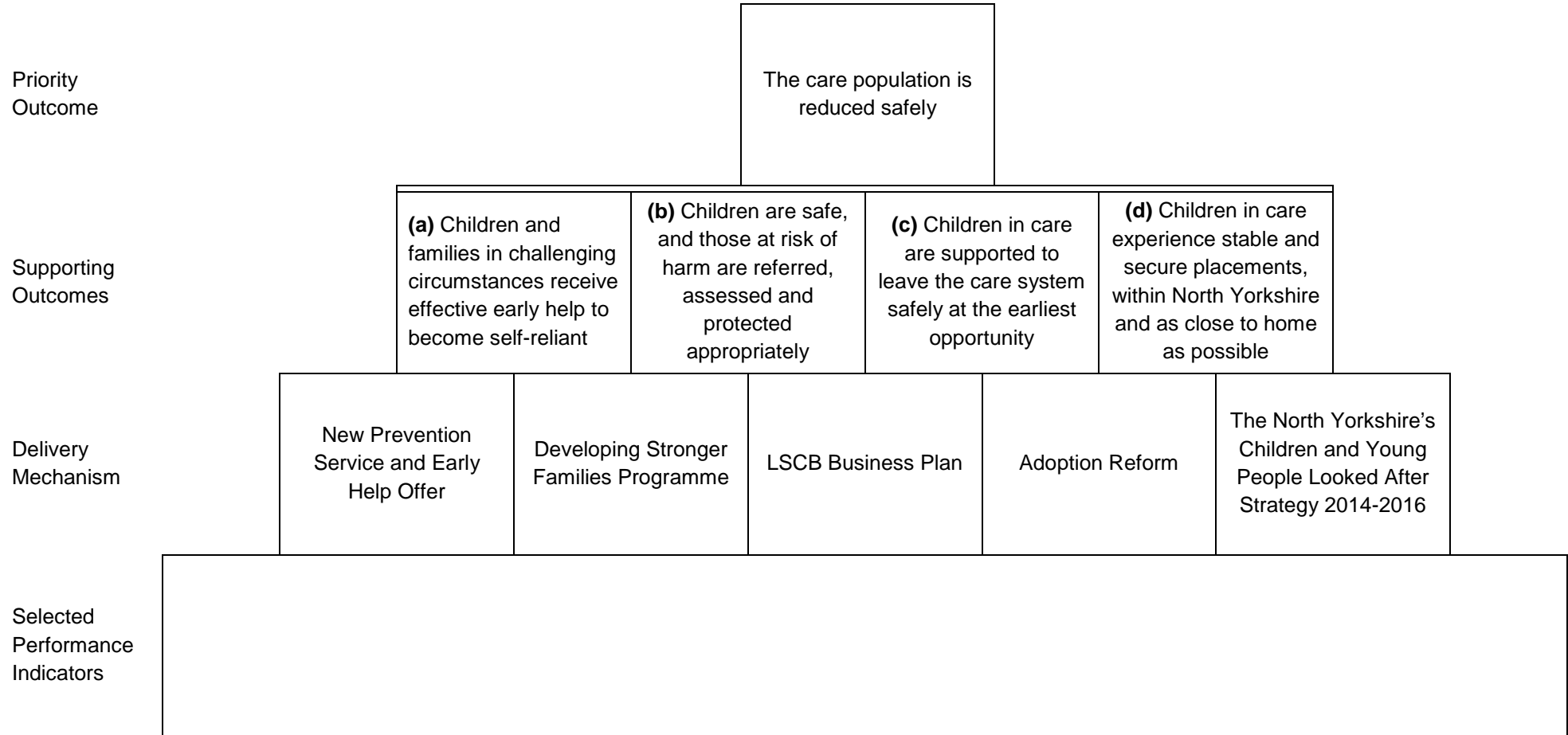
7.11 Children from low-income households should also not be excluded from high quality education that transforms lives and liberates talent. Some children from low income households do well at school and achieve good educational outcomes. Too often, however, children from low income households do not do as well as they could do at school. In North Yorkshire the gap between the educational outcomes achieved by children from low income households and those of their fellow pupils is too wide and is not closing quickly enough. We want children from low-income households to have access to the right opportunities, experiences and support they need to succeed at school. The Closing the Gap initiative is one way in which we will support innovation to improve the educational outcomes of children from low-income households.

Supporting Outcome (d): A high proportion of young people continue to participate in education, training and employment:

7.13 A good proportion of school leavers in North Yorkshire carry on in education or enter training or employment, but this not true of all. Compared with other parts of the country, not enough young people in North Yorkshire are offered a place in education, training or employment when they leave school. Young people have told us that they want to be better prepared for life after school. They want stronger employment skills, more relevant work experience, and better information, advice and guidance about their next steps. We will support and challenge secondary schools to deliver a curriculum that prepares young people to succeed in life, and will develop better links with employers to ensure that young people have improved opportunities to do well in the workplace. We will

work with the Local Economic Partnership to ensure we keep abreast of the Skills Strategy, and are able to transmit this to schools and colleges.

Priority 2: Helping all children enjoy a happy family life



Priority 2: Helping all children enjoy a happy family life

7.14 We want children to live safely at home with their parents, and through this Plan we will develop a range of support services to help families to achieve this. We believe that households in difficulty should receive help at the earliest opportunity, so that children and families can stay together safely. In North Yorkshire the *Early Help Strategy* aims to provide services and support at the earliest opportunity to families, children and young people who need extra help, so that emerging problems can be controlled and do not escalate further. The Early Help Offer will give families the opportunity to regain control of their circumstances and ensure that their children stay safe and achieve their full potential.

7.15 Most children and young people in North Yorkshire live with their parents or other family members. However, some families face challenging circumstances that make it difficult to provide a stable and secure home for their children. Some families experience crises that make it unsafe for the children to live at home. Where children do need to enter care, we will ensure they experience placements as close to home as possible and we will support them to find a safe route out of care at an early opportunity. The *North Yorkshire's Children and Young People Looked After Strategy 2014-2016* describes our approach to supporting children and families as follows:

"In North Yorkshire we work hard to support children and families to stay together... We believe that children and young people are best cared for wherever possible with their natural or extended family; that is what young people tell us. Where that is not possible, we will do our very best to ensure all children grow up in stable and secure arrangements and are supported to safely leave the care system."

7.16 More specifically, over the period of this Plan we want to achieve the following:

Priority Outcome: The care population is reduced safely

7.17 We believe that children and young people are best cared for with their natural or extended family wherever possible; that is what young people tell us. Evidence shows that children and young people who spend periods in care tend to do less well in terms of education, health, transition to adulthood and life chances generally. There will always be some children in certain circumstances for whom a period in care is the best way to keep them safe. In North Yorkshire we already admit relatively low numbers of children to care. Our goal is to reduce the care population further by helping to reduce the number of families in crisis and by ensuring that whenever possible children are offered safe and effective alternatives to care. The *North Yorkshire's Children and Young People Looked After Strategy 2014-2016* sets out how we will work with children and families to reduce the number of admissions to care.

Supporting Outcome (a): Children and families in challenging circumstances receive effective early help to become self-reliant

7.18 The best way to reduce the number of children who require social care protection or admission to care is to prevent families from experiencing circumstances that place children at risk of harm. We aim to provide support at the earliest opportunity to families who need extra help so that emerging problems can be controlled and do not worsen. A new Prevention Service will support children, young people and families in challenging circumstances, helping them to resolve their problems before they escalate further and to become more self-reliant. The Developing Stronger Families programme will provide intensive help to households facing particularly complex problems. The Early Help Offer and Strategy sets out the range of services and support for families across all partners in the Trust.

Supporting Outcome (b): Children are safe, and those at risk of harm are referred, assessed and protected appropriately

7.19 We want all children to be safe and to feel safe, and to ensure that all children at risk of harm are identified, referred, assessed and protected appropriately. We believe that the child protection system in North Yorkshire is effective and does keep children safe. However, we are not complacent and will work with partners to ensure that all agencies fully understand the risks that children face and know what to do if they have concerns about the safety of a child. In particular, we will be sensitive to the potential harm to a child who has witnessed domestic violence or its consequences. We will ensure that the child protection system is effective in improving the lives and circumstances of children, thereby preventing them from needing to enter care. We will work with the Local Safeguarding Children Board to strengthen arrangements concerning particular aspects of safeguarding and child protection, including the arrangements for children who go missing.

Supporting Outcome (c): Children in care are supported to leave the care system safely at the earliest opportunity

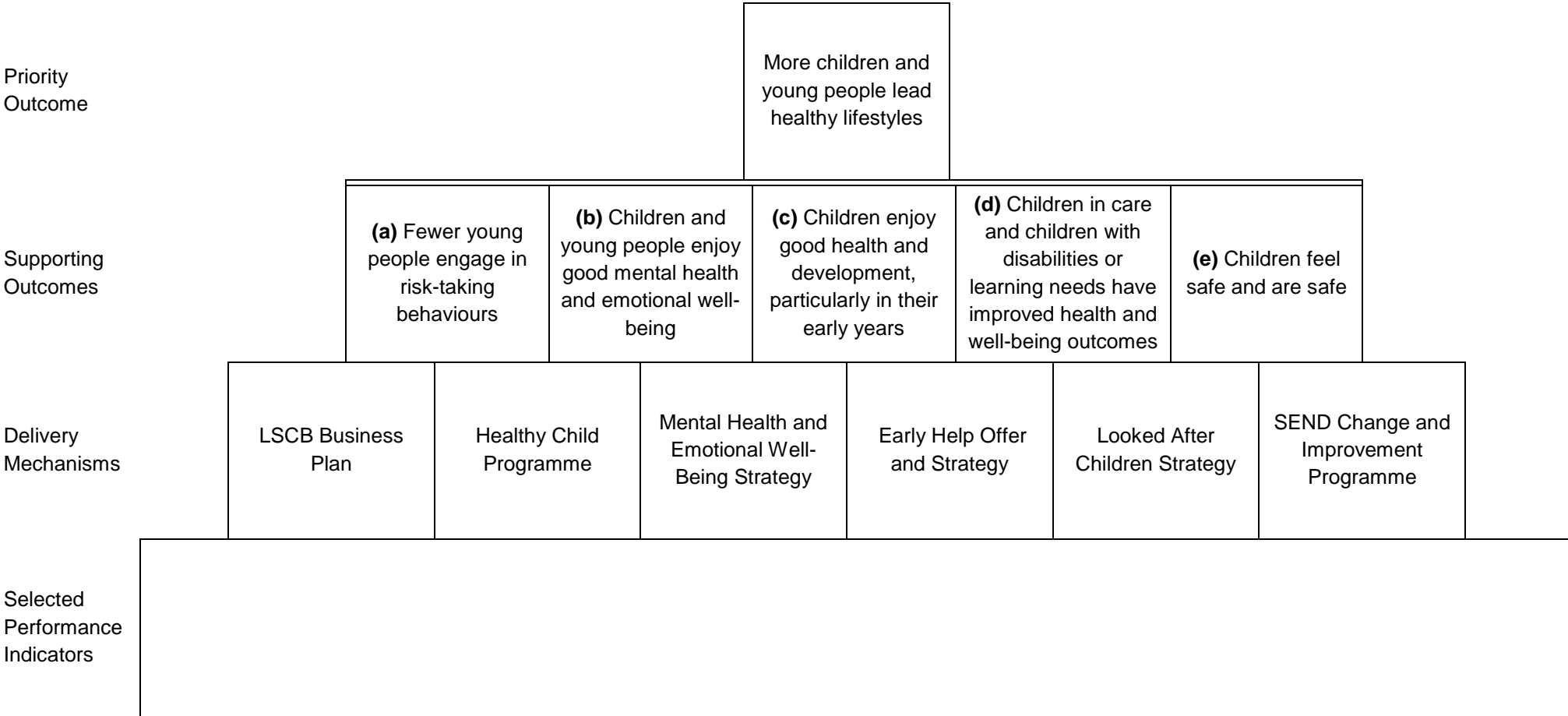
7.20 Entry to care should be no more than a temporary and short-term solution for a child or young person, and so from the earliest opportunity we will work with children and their families to plan a safe route out of care. We believe that children and young people are best cared for wherever possible with their natural or extended family, and so we will support all children to safely return to the family home where possible, or to alternative permanent arrangements outside care, including family and friends arrangements or adoption. North Yorkshire already does well in terms of the speed and effectiveness of adoption arrangements. However, in line with national expectations, we will further improve and speed up the adoption process. The *North Yorkshire's Children and Young People Looked After Strategy 2014-2016* sets out how we will support children to leave the care system safely and at the earliest opportunity.

Supporting Outcome (d): Children in care experience stable and secure placements, within North Yorkshire and as close to home as possible

7.21 There will always be some children in certain circumstances for whom a period in care is the best way to keep them safe. We will support all children in care to live in stable

placements with high quality care and a minimal chance of disruption. Children in care in North Yorkshire generally experience good levels of placement stability but we strive to do even better, especially for older children for whom placement stability is less good. Compared to other parts of the country, in North Yorkshire relatively high numbers of children in care are placed more than twenty miles from home. We aim to provide more children in care with placements closer to their home. The *North Yorkshire's Children and Young People Looked After Strategy 2014-2016* sets out how we will improve the quality and stability of placements and place more children closer to their home.

Priority 3: Ensuring a Healthy Start to Life



Priority 3: Ensuring a Healthy Start to Life

7.22 We believe that all children and young people should enjoy good physical and mental health and well-being. The North Yorkshire Health and Well Being Strategy describes the importance of a healthy start to life as follows:

“Giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing health inequalities in the whole of people’s lives. To have an impact on health inequalities we need to address children’s access to positive early experiences. Interventions in later life, although important, are considerably less effective when good early foundations are lacking. It is therefore vitally important that we help to support the early development of healthy behaviours and foster a supportive community for parents and families to give children the best opportunities in life.”

7.23 Most children and young people in North Yorkshire are healthy and have good levels of physical and emotional well-being. However, this is not true of all children or all parts of the county. There are distinct pockets of ill health, often associated with poverty. For example, across the County, 21% of children aged 4 and 5, and 28% of children aged 10 and 11, are overweight or obese, and these figures are rising. Child obesity prevalence in the most deprived tenth of local areas is almost double that in the least deprived tenth, while boys from all minority groups are more likely to be obese than White British boys, as are girls from some groups. Similarly, although the majority of Districts in North Yorkshire had below average teenage conception rates, in Scarborough the rate is above the national average. We want to reduce and ultimately remove such inequalities.

Priority Outcome: More children and young people lead healthy lifestyles

7.24 Giving every child a healthy start in life is crucial to reducing health inequalities in the whole of people’s lives. Only 15% of 15 year olds eat five portions of fruit or vegetables a day, 29% of 15 year olds do not eat a proper breakfast, and 22% of 15 year old girls eat nothing at all before starting school. 63% of primary school aged respondents said they do 5 or more hours of physical activity in a typical week; only 50% of secondary school respondents did at least this level of exercise. We are determined to use the opportunities created by the transfer of public health responsibilities to the Local Authority to ensure that all children and young people are encouraged to adopt healthy lifestyles from the outset, and are supported to address any problems as they arise. This Plan is therefore aligned with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, as set out in Chapter 5, and the success of this priority will depend on actions from right across the partnership, including Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Supporting Outcome (a): Fewer young people engage in risk-taking behaviours

7.25 23% of 15 year olds in North Yorkshire are sexually active, but 41% of these do not always use contraception. One result of this is that the number of teenage conceptions, although comparatively low in the County, is rising. Survey results show

that 12% of 15 year olds smoke, while 14% have taken drugs at some time and 42% had consumed alcohol during the week before the survey. To help reduce the numbers of young people engaging in such risk-taking behaviours like these we will review and re-commission sexual health services, and develop a new alcohol strategy. We will work together to ensure young people develop a healthy approach to risk-taking, recognising that it cannot be eliminated entirely (and indeed, to some extent, is an essential part of growing up).

Supporting Outcome (b): Children and young people enjoy good mental health and emotional well-being

7.26 Emotional and mental wellbeing is important across all age groups. In North Yorkshire around 16000 children and young people are likely to have some form of emotional or mental health disorder. Around 2500 of these are likely to have more complex emotional and mental health needs. However, good mental health is not just about the absence of a disorder: it is a state of wellbeing in which individuals have a good level of self-esteem, cope well with daily life, and develop healthy relationships with others. Some young people in North Yorkshire have low self-esteem, and others are anxious about their weight, body shape, and exams. The Mental Health and Emotional Well Being Strategy sets out how we will support good mental health for all children and young people, while providing tailored help for those with more complex needs.

Supporting Outcome (c): Children enjoy good health and development particularly in their early years

7.27 It is important that we help to support the early development of healthy behaviours and foster a supportive community for parents and families to give children the best opportunities at the start of their life. In North Yorkshire less than half of children reach a good level of development by the age of five. Not all young children are immunised against diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus and polio. Some mothers still smoke during pregnancy, and breastfeeding is not as much the norm in some communities as others. The Healthy Child Programme and the Early Help Offer describe how we will work with parents, early years providers and community health services to ensure that all children have a healthy start to life, from birth onwards.

Supporting Outcome (d): Children in care and children with disabilities or learning needs have improved health and well-being outcomes

7.28 Children often enter care with poorer health than other children and longer-term health outcomes for young people leaving care may be less positive. *North Yorkshire's Children and Young People Looked After Strategy 2014-2016* commits partner organisations to 'making a real difference for looked after children in North Yorkshire.' In particular, we will improve access to appropriate health services. We will also empower all children and young people to make health decisions, lead healthy lifestyles and receive the personalised support to which they are entitled, including dental screening and

treatment, and support from sexual health services and drug and alcohol services as required.

7.29 The responsibility for the commissioning of specialist services for disabled children and young people and their families will be managed for the Clinical Commissioning Groups by the Partnership Commissioning Unit. The first services to be considered for joint commissioning are those which support speech, language and communication needs. Work is also being put in hand between partners to align processes and funding arrangements for Continuing Healthcare between children's and adults services, which will assist in Transition Planning.

Supporting Outcome (e): Children feel safe and are safe

7.30 We will work together across the Children's Trust to ensure that children feel safe and are safe at all stages of their lives. This work will include further measures to promote safety on our roads and to reduce deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents. We will monitor carefully children's hospital admissions to ensure that we understand the reasons, and that preventable admissions are avoided. We will work closely with the Local Safeguarding Children Board to ensure that all of our staff are aware of the possibility of Child Sexual Exploitation, and what to do if it is suspected. More generally, we will continue to operate a zero policy towards bullying of any kind. Encouragingly, 56% of North Yorkshire pupils have told us that they think their school takes bullying seriously; we need to increase this percentage to 100%. We also know, because young people tell us, that internet safety and cyber-bullying are an increasing worry for many. We have recently published comprehensive guidance for schools and other settings on bullying, and a separate note on cyber-bullying. Finally, we know that for young people who are old enough to go out on their own, community safety, and safe transport, is also an issue. Our aim is for all children and young people to feel safe, to be safe and to understand how they themselves can contribute to making that happen; and how to access additional, effective support as necessary.

8. Bringing the Plan to Life

8.1 We want this Plan to make a difference. This chapter explains how we will work in partnership to achieve this. It outlines the arrangements we will put in place to monitor how we are doing at regular intervals; it explains in more detail our Children's Trust and other delivery arrangements; it confirms our approach to managing finances in difficult times; and it sets out how we will support our workforce across the partnership.

A Plan that Makes a Difference

8.2 To make sure that we are making a difference for children, young people and their families, we must be certain that progress is made against this Plan's three priorities and thirteen supporting outcomes. We will check on this in a variety of ways. Firstly, and most importantly, we will regularly listen to what children and young people are saying. In the past, this so-called "soft" intelligence was not necessarily given as high a priority as numerical data or information about processes. For this new Plan, we will place the "voice of the child" at the top of our methods for checking our performance.

8.3 In particular, we will continue to engage with young people through a variety of mechanisms including:

- The North Yorkshire Youth Council
- The Young People's Council
- Flying High
- School Councils
- The *Growing Up In North Yorkshire* survey

There is more about these groups in Chapter 4.

8.4 In addition, we will make careful use of objective information to supplement the feedback we receive directly from those who use our services. The Performance Scorecard at **Appendix D** has been developed for this purpose. It contains ambitious shared targets for each year covered by this Plan. We will review progress against these targets at least every six months and report the results to the Children's Trust Board. Where it is clear that we need to take action in order to ensure progress is maintained and improved, the Board will ensure that this happens.

8.5 We will also undertake a critical review of this Plan on an annual basis to ensure that it remains relevant and dynamic. This will allow us to take a holistic view of the effectiveness of support for children, young people and their families, and where we must still improve. At the same time, we will monitor and review the full range of detailed operational plans and strategies which underpin this Plan.

8.6 Finally, we will listen carefully to any recommendations from inspections carried out during the lifetime of this Plan, such as those by Ofsted, and act swiftly to make improvements; and we will participate actively in regional peer reviews.

The Children's Trust and Other Delivery Arrangements

8.7 The priorities identified in this plan cannot be achieved by any single organisation: they require committed and effective partnerships. North Yorkshire Children's Trust²⁴ is a strong, well-established body whose participants share a common goal to work together to improve the wellbeing and life chances of every child in North Yorkshire. Members of the Board are not afraid to challenge one another, and to offer constructive criticism, if the occasion demands. The Board's responsibilities include:

- Articulating the vision and direction for the Children's Trust, including developing, publishing and reviewing the Children and Young People's Plan;
- Monitoring the extent to which the partners act in accordance with the Children and Young People's Plan and publishing an annual report;
- Outlining how partners will cooperate to improve the wellbeing of children and young people in North Yorkshire;
- Working with other key Partnership Boards.

8.8 The most important of the other Boards or Partnerships with an interest in services for children are

- *The North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board*. This Board has a key role in the strategic planning and coordination of NHS, public health, social care and related children's services. It is responsible for commissioning the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, described in more detail in Chapter 5.
- *The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board*. This independent Board represents the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how all the relevant agencies will cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and for ensuring the effectiveness of agencies' safeguarding activity. The Board has a particular focus on child protection and seeks to ensure all children and young people in North Yorkshire are protected from physical or mental injury or abuse, neglect, maltreatment, sexual abuse or exploitation or harm caused by witnessing violence or abuse.
- *The proposed North Yorkshire Education Partnership*. In response to the rapidly changing landscape in education services, we have decided to establish an Education Partnership in 2015. This will be the highest strategic decision-making body for education across the County. The Partnership will replace the Schools Forum, absorbing its statutory functions, and will be sector-led by Headteachers.

²⁴ Further information about the Children's Trust, including Governance Arrangements and current membership, can be found at <http://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=13897>

8.9 In addition to these top level Boards, there are a number of Children’s Safeguarding and Strategy Groups. These are the delivery arm of the Children’s Trust and Safeguarding Boards at a local level: there are five groups which cover North Yorkshire. These groups use local knowledge to bring services together to meet the needs of local children and families. In doing so, they have a key role in developing and maximising the effectiveness of services in their communities. They also play an important part in sharing understanding of local need and helping to ensure that resources are directed to where they will be most effective.

8.10 The Partnership arrangements described in this section are illustrated at **Appendix A**. The arrangements can also be described in terms of the key Plans and Strategies which link to this one; this "Planning Bookcase" is illustrated at **Appendix B**. There is more information about these Plans and Strategies in Chapter 5.

Managing our Finances

8.11 Chapter 5 has already outlined the serious financial pressures faced by all the partners in the Children's Trust. To achieve our ambitions within these financial constraints we will need to transform the delivery arrangements for local services including:

- the organisation of teams delivering services;
- the management of those services; and
- the places from where those services are delivered.

Where it is in the best interests of children and their families, we will accelerate arrangements for services to be *jointly commissioned* by partners from across the Children's Trust. We will continue to explore every opportunity to pool and align funds and resources at a local level.

8.12 The proposals in this Plan will shift the focus from direct delivery of universal provision to one which is targeted on those in the greatest levels of need whilst retaining our shared recognition of the importance of early intervention. In developing these proposals, we have given priority to those children and young people who are at risk of harm or are in need of care and protection. We recognise that this means it will be difficult to achieve everything that children and young people have asked of us (for example, the wish for more “things to do”) through conventional funding routes, and will therefore explore ways to approach this more creatively, for example by helping communities to develop local solutions.

8.13 We will expect all Children's Trust partners to take account of the priorities in this Plan when setting their annual budgets, and to have regard to the predicted changes in the make-up of the population under 25. Young people’s own wishes should also be taken into account wherever possible.

The Children's Trust Workforce

8.14 Across the Children's Trust, we have a large and complex workforce. It includes the voluntary, public and private sectors; delivers services in a diverse range of settings; and provides services to children of all ages. It is a workforce made up of dedicated and hard-working people, spanning a number of roles, from frontline staff such as teachers, GPs, health visitors, social workers, and foster carers, to managerial support staff. There is also a highly important body of staff who work on a voluntary basis, which is frequently unpaid.

8.15 Our commitment to valuing, respecting and investing in the Children and Young People's workforce to ensure that they have the skills, abilities, knowledge and motivation to support children, young people and their families, underpins this Plan. A 2014-2020 Workforce Strategy has been produced to support our staff and ensure we can help our colleagues to be more adaptable, agile and capable of meeting changing needs. The Strategy will ensure that the Children and Young People's workforce has the right people with the right skills working in the right way within effective roles and structures. It will ensure the workforce is confident, competent and well equipped to deliver positive outcomes for children, young people and their families.

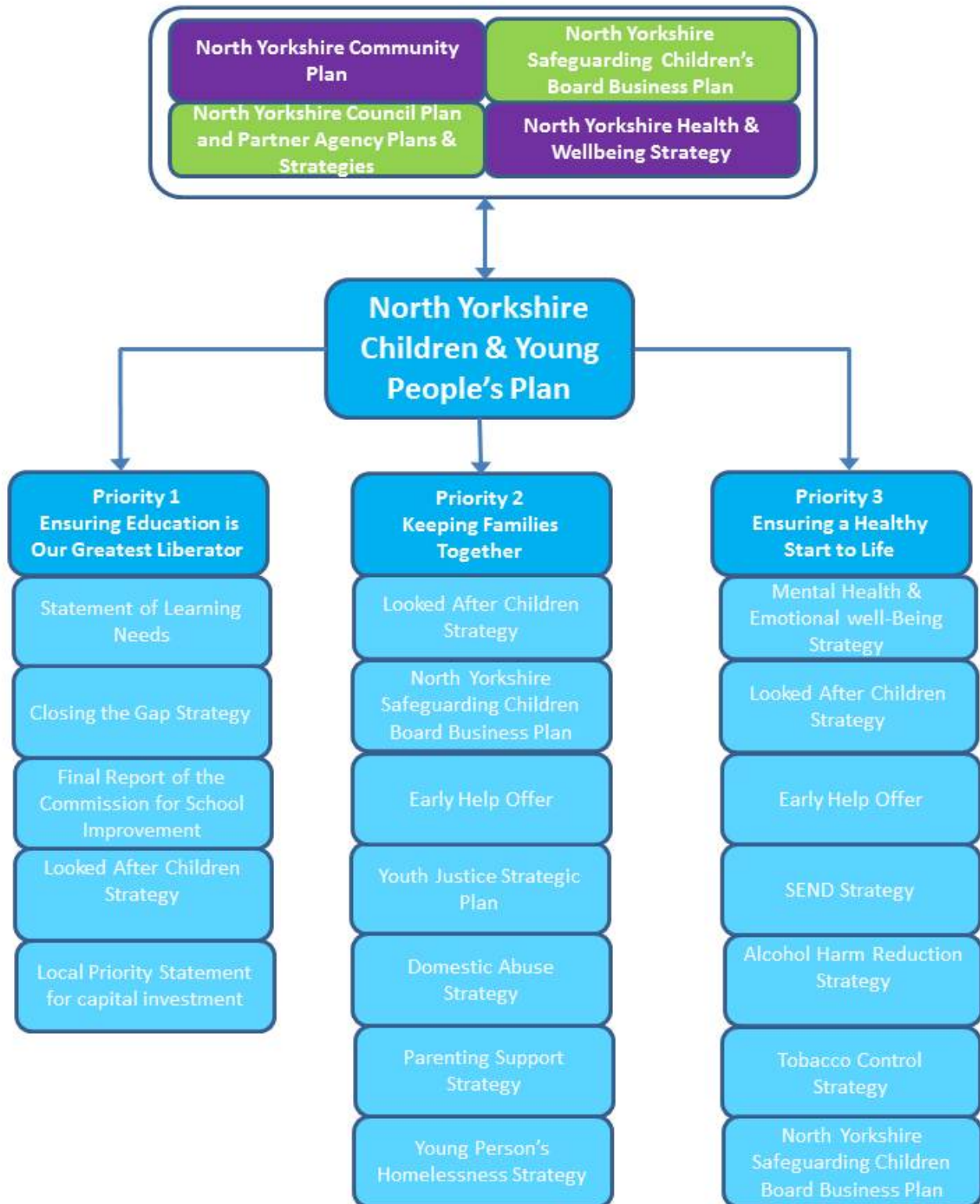
8.16 This strategy will be complemented by the Learning and Improvement Framework that has been developed by the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board²⁵. The aim of this Framework is to:

- Improve services to children and their families by developing the children's workforce;
- Ensure that the NYSCB fulfils its statutory obligations;
- Ensure that the outcomes from reviews and other learning opportunities are used to influence practice development;
- Ensure the children's workforce is suitably skilled;
- Ensure that pathways are in place which identify the link between learning outcomes and improved services;
- Ensure that single and multi-agency training and learning is consistently audited and reviewed to ensure best quality and that learning from this is used to develop training programmes accordingly.

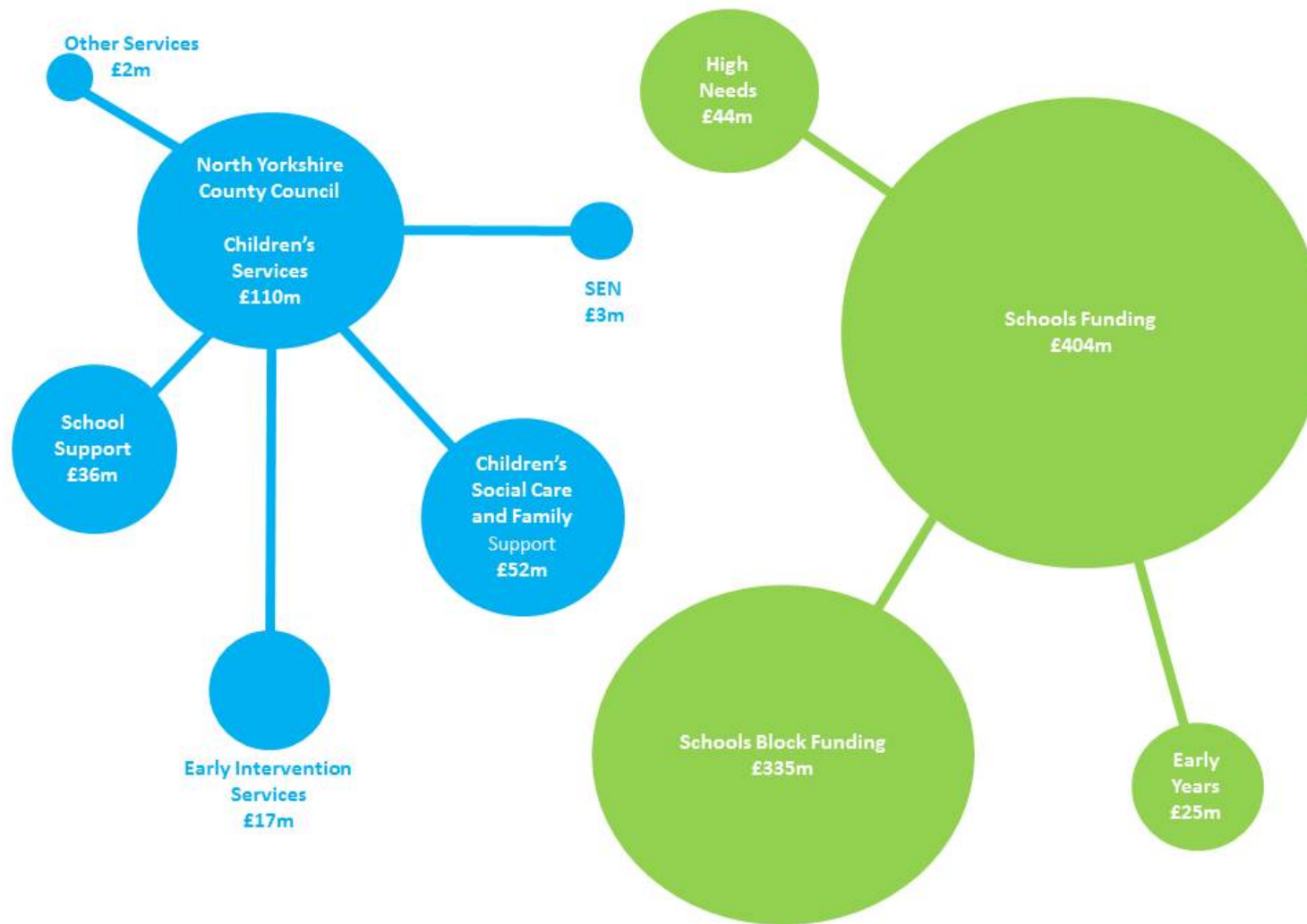
8.17 Taken together, the Strategy and the Framework will ensure that all the dedicated staff in our workforce are supported to do the job that they love. We end this Plan by celebrating the work they do, every day, with dedication and professionalism, on behalf of the children and young people of North Yorkshire.

²⁵ See www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/lif.html

Appendix B: The "Planning Bookcase"



Appendix C: An Illustration of the funding for Children's Services that passes through the Local Authority



Appendix D: The Performance Scorecard

Priority Outcome	Supporting Outcome	Measure	Position at the start of the Plan		Target		
			North Yorkshire	National	Year 1	Year 2	End of the Plan
Ensuring that education is our greatest liberator- A greater proportion of pupils attend a good or outstanding school	Life chances for children are improved through better educational outcomes in early years, primary and secondary education, including those of more vulnerable children	The percentage of children reaching a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage					
		The percentage of pupils reaching Level 4 or above in Reading, Writing and Maths as KS2					
		The percentage of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs at A* to C including English and Maths					
		The percentage of pupils who attend a good or outstanding school					
		% of childcare and early years settings rated good or outstanding by Ofsted					
		Education Health and Care Plans issued in 20 weeks					
		Percentage of people who felt that their involvement in EHCP had a positive impact					
		Number of young people aged 16-25 with SEND undertaking personalised pathways					
		Total school absence					
	Persistent absence rate						
	Children in care achieve improved educational outcomes	Percentage of secondary pupils with one or more fixed period of exclusion from school					

Priority Outcome	Supporting Outcome	Measure	Position at the start of the Plan		Target		
			North Yorkshire	National	Year 1	Year 2	End of the Plan
		Number of children and young people in alternative education					
		The percentage of LAC achieving Level 4 or above in Reading, Writing and Maths at KS2					
		The percentage of LAC achieving 5 GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths					
		The percentage of looked after children who are not in education, training or employment					
Vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils are helped to close the attainment gap between themselves and others	The FSM/non FSM attainment gap: The percentage of children reaching a good level of development in the Early Years Foundation Stage						
	The FSM/non-FSM attainment gap: Level 4 or above in Reading, Writing and Maths at KS2						
	The FSM/non-FSM attainment gap: 5 GCSEs at A* to C including English and Maths						
	The SEN/non-SEN attainment gap: English & Maths at KS2						
	The SEN/non-SEN attainment gap: 5 GCSEs at A* to C including English and Maths						
A high proportion of young people continue to participate in education, training and employment	The percentage of young people aged 16-19 who are NEET						
	The percentage SEN children aged 16 aged 16-25 who are NEET						

Priority Outcome	Supporting Outcome	Measure	Position at the start of the Plan		Target		
			North Yorkshire	National	Year 1	Year 2	End of the Plan
Helping all children to have a happy family life - the care population is reduced safely	Children and families in challenging circumstances receive effective early help to become self-reliant	The number of families 'turned around' as a result of a Developing Stronger Families intervention					
		The percentage of Team Around the Child common assessment cases closed because the situation of the child had improved sufficiently to allow safe de-escalation to universal services					
		The percentage of parents reporting that the lives of their children has improved as a result of a TAC CAF					
		The percentage of children reporting that their lives have improved as a result of a TAC CAF					
		Percentage of Children's Social Care or Prevention Service interventions where domestic abuse is reduced as a result of intervention					
	Children are safe and those at risk of harm are referred, assessed, and protected appropriately	The number of referrals to children's social care					
		The total number of looked after children					
		The percentage of referrals to children's social care that are repeat referrals					
		The total number of children subject to a child protection plan					
		The percentage of new child protection plans that are second or subsequent plans					
		Percentage of children and young people reporting that their lives have improved as a result of CSC intervention					

Priority Outcome	Supporting Outcome	Measure	Position at the start of the Plan		Target		
			North Yorkshire	National	Year 1	Year 2	End of the Plan
	Children in care are supported to safely leave the care system at the earliest opportunity	The average time taken entering care to moving in with an adoptive family (DfE Adoption Scorecard, threshold one)					
		Care leavers at 19- suitable accommodation					
		Care leavers at 19- education, employment or training					
		The percentage of care leavers who have lived in accommodation where they felt safe since leaving care					
		The percentage of care leavers who when they left care felt ready and prepared to leave care					
	Children in care experience stable and secure placements, within North Yorkshire and as close to home as possible	The percentage of looked after children who experience three or more placements in the year					
		The percentage of looked after children whose placement has lasted two years or more					
		The percentage of looked after children placed more than 20 miles from their home address					
	Ensuring a health start to life- More Children and young people lead healthy lifestyles	Fewer young people engage in risk-taking behaviours	The rate of teenage conceptions				
The rate of hospital admissions due to alcohol specific conditions							
The rate of hospital admissions due to substance misuse							
% Children who currently smoke tobacco							
% Children who drank alcohol in last 7 days							
% Children who have used drugs in the last year (Secondary Schools)							
First time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10-17 per 100,000							
Children and young people enjoy good mental health and emotional	The number of children and young people admitted to hospital for mental health conditions per 100,000						

Priority Outcome	Supporting Outcome	Measure	Position at the start of the Plan		Target		
			North Yorkshire	National	Year 1	Year 2	End of the Plan
	well-being	The number of children and young people admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm					
		% of Children with a high score on the mental well-being scale ²⁶					
		% of Children with a high measure of resilience					
		% of SEND Children with a high measure of resilience					
		% SEND pupils with a high score on the mental well-being scale ²⁷					
	Children enjoy good health and development, particularly in their early years	The percentage of babies born with a low birth weight					
		Breastfeeding initiation					
		Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks after birth					
		0-5 Admissions to A&E					
		The percentage of children aged 4 or 5 (reception) who have a healthy weight					
		The percentage of children aged 10 or 11 (Year 6) who have a healthy weight					
		% Children who engage in 5 hours or more physical activity per week					
	Children in care and children with disabilities or learning needs have improved health and wellbeing outcomes	The percentage of Looked After Children who have an annual health assessment					
		The percentage of Looked After Children who have an annual dental check					
		Waiting time for medical diagnosis of autism					
		% SEND Children who engage in 5 hours or more physical activity per week					

²⁶ Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale

²⁷ Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale

Priority Outcome	Supporting Outcome	Measure	Position at the start of the Plan		Target		
			North Yorkshire	National	Year 1	Year 2	End of the Plan
	Children feel safe and are safe	% Children reporting that they had been bullied at or near school in the last 12 months					
		% SEND Children reporting that they had been bullied at or near school in the last 12 months					
		The percentage of children and young people who have been asked to meet someone they don't know through the internet.					
		The percentage of children and young people who have experienced cyber-bullying.					
		Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children per 100,000					
		Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents					
		Number of referrals to Children's Social Care which identify child sexual exploitation as an issue					
		Number of child sexual exploitation prosecutions/convictions					
		Number of children and young people presenting as homeless successfully diverted into suitable accommodation					

Appendix E: Feedback and How to find out More

Feedback

If you have any comments on this Plan, we would like to hear from you. Please visit www.xxx in order to register your views.

Useful links and further information

www.northyorkshire.gov.uk

www.education.gov.uk

www.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/north-yorkshire

<http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk>

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 June 2014

The Promise (Draft) - Covering Report

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report asks the Committee to:

- a. Note the information in this report.
- b. Comment on the draft document 'The Promise' attached as Annex A

2.0 About 'The Promise'

The Promise is a tool to encourage organisations and services to involve children and young people in every aspect of their planning and decision making where appropriate.

The Promise is made up of 5 separate principles, each one covering a different aspect of participation. Children and young people from across the county, representing their areas on the North Yorkshire Youth Council, have informed the County Council of what they think of these principles and have expressed the importance of them for participation to be possible.

North Yorkshire County Council will:

Principle 1

Involve children and young people in designing, developing and reviewing services which are provided for them.

Principle 2

Involve children and young people when making decisions on services which affect them.

Principle 3

Provide children and young people with opportunities to raise issues which are important to them, and to ensure they are listened to.

Principle 4

Feedback to children and young people on what has been said and what we are going to do as a result.

Principle 5

Provide information which may be used by children and young people in accessible and appropriate formats.

3.0 How will The Promise be used?

Services should discuss the Promise with any children and young people they work with to ensure each young person understands their right to express their views and have those views considered across the county.

This is a promise that belongs to the children and young people of North Yorkshire and so they should be made to feel comfortable in exercising the rights which it has outlined.

Services within North Yorkshire County Council should ensure all staff are aware of the Promise and ensure that they are able to adhere to it.

When services are satisfied that they understand their duties as outlined in the Promise they will be required to assess their current compliance by filling in a participation evaluation (Evaluation

section). Once an evaluation has been completed the service will then be expected to fulfil any requirements highlighted to improve the participation of children and young people.

4.0 What can County Councillors do to encourage the use of The Promise by services?

In the first instance comments from the Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the draft version of 'The Promise' attached at Annex A would be welcomed.

Members might also like to consider constructive challenge for any future reports to the Committee in light of the 5 principles outlined above.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a. Note the information in this report.
- b. Comment on the draft document 'The Promise' attached as Annex A

**Pete Dwyer Corporate Director Children and Young People's Service
County Hall, Northallerton**

Report compiled by: Jon Coates
Email: Jon.coates@northyorks.gov.uk
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Background Documents: None
Annex: Annex A – The Promise (Draft)

The Promise

North Yorkshire County Council's commitment to
the participation of children and young people



FOREWORD



In recent years there has been a significant move towards giving children and young people more opportunities to become involved in the design, development and evaluation of policies that affect them or services they use. The 'Every Child Matters: Change for Children'¹ programme, for example, aimed to ensure that policies and services were designed around the needs of children and young people, and that they were involved in decision making at every level. More recently, 'Positive for Youth', the current cross-government policy for young people aged 13-19, has emphasised the need "for young people's voice and involvement in decision making at both local and national level"² and statutory guidance on the requirement to capture "pupil voice" in schools has been issued by the Department for Education³.

In North Yorkshire the importance of involving children and young people in decision making is recognised in 'Children and Young People's Plan 2014-17' with 'Involve children, young people and families at all stages of planning, delivering and evaluating services' being one of the key principles underpinning all of the work we do.

We believe there are huge benefits to be gained from the participation of children and young people within our decision making

processes and organisational planning. We aim to make the most of these benefits through true participation. This obviously takes a great deal of commitment, planning and investment on both sides. Our commitment is to create the opportunities for children and young people to participate, to facilitate this participation and to feedback the outcome of any decisions or planning which they have been involved in. What we ask in return is for as many children and young people to engage with us as possible to help us develop a council that meets their needs and the needs of all children and young people across the county.

The Promise has been developed locally to support this process and to help ensure that children and young people play an increasingly important role in North Yorkshire County Council.

We understand that our various departments and services will be at different stages with regard to children and young people's participation. However, through supporting and adhering to the 5 principles and the guidance accompanying them in this document, we hope that the council will be able to more effectively meet the needs of the children and young people who live within its boundaries.

Pete Dwyer

Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services, North Yorkshire County Council.

¹ 'Every Child Matters: Change for Children' (DfES, 2004)

² 'Positive for Youth: A new approach to cross-government policy for young people aged 13 to 19' (DfE, 2011) p 77

³ 'Listening to and Involving Children and Young People' (DfE, 2012)

“Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child”.

Article 12: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
(1989)

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THE PROMISE

The Promise is made up of 5 separate principles, each one covering a different aspect of participation. Children and young people from across the county, representing their areas on the North Yorkshire Youth Council, have informed us of what they think of these principles and have expressed the importance of them for participation to be possible.

North Yorkshire County Council will:

Principle 1

Involve children and young people in designing, developing and reviewing services which are provided for them.

Principle 2

Involve children and young people when making decisions on services which affect them.

Principle 3

Provide children and young people with opportunities to raise issues which are important to them, and to ensure they are listened to.

Principle 4

Feedback to children and young people on what has been said and what we are going to do as a result.

Principle 5

Provide information which may be used by children and young people in accessible and appropriate formats.

How to use the Promise

Services should discuss the Promise with any children and young people they work with to ensure each young person understands their right to express their views and have those views considered across the county.

This is a promise that belongs to the children and young people of North Yorkshire and so they should be made to feel comfortable in exercising the rights which it has outlined.

Services within North Yorkshire County Council should ensure all staff are aware of the Promise and ensure that they are able to adhere to it.

When services are satisfied that they understand their duties as outlined in the Promise they will be required to assess their current compliance by filling in a participation evaluation (Evaluation section). Once an evaluation has been completed the service will be expected to fulfil any requirements highlighted through the evaluation to improve their participation.

HOW IT WORKS

This section outlines in more detail what each principle will mean to a service, child or young person, and will provide suggestions on what could be done in order to better fulfil the promise.

Principle 1

North Yorkshire County Council will involve children and young people in designing, developing and reviewing services which are provided for them.

When making designing, developing and reviewing a service children and young people should be involved at every stage. Whether it is during the initial consultations around how a new service will look, through their involvement on interview panels for new staff, or working alongside members of staff to review service performance.

A young person's interview panel is a great way to find a member of staff who can positively interact with young people and therefore be of greater benefit to a service.

Case study

The Growing up in North Yorkshire is a questionnaire completed in schools on a biennial basis. This important survey captures reliable information about the lifestyles of over 15,000 children and young people in the county. It also allows comparisons to be made between the experiences of children in North Yorkshire with those who live in other local authority areas. The results of this survey provide valuable information which is used ensure

services are meeting the needs of children and young people.

Principle 2

North Yorkshire County Council will involve children and young people when making decisions on services which affect them.

Any decisions made regarding services that will have an impact on children or young people, no matter the size of that impact, must involve taking the views of the children and young people it affects into consideration.

Involving young people in decision making can ensure that the resulting decisions are more encompassing of children and young people's needs thus ensuring the service is more efficient and effective.

Case study

During 'Team Around the Child' meetings a child or young person always has the opportunity to have their say on issues that are being discussed. This allows the child or young person the opportunity to contribute to plans that are being made in the meeting and also ensures that any actions involving them are more likely to be followed through.

Principle 3

North Yorkshire County Council will provide children and young people with opportunities to raise issues which are important to them, and to ensure they are listened to.

All services must have appropriate means for children and young people to provide their own feedback and insight about the service. Most importantly, once views are expressed by

young people they must be shown to have been genuinely considered and, where appropriate, acted upon.

Case Study

The North Yorkshire Youth Council provides a platform for young people to discuss and campaign on issues that they feel need addressing across the county. They feed their opinions and ideas back to managers and councillors within the council and also link in with national campaigns through the British Youth Council.

Principle 4

North Yorkshire County Council will feedback to children and young people on what has been said and what we are going to do as a result.

Once one of the first three promises has been fulfilled, a service must feedback to children and young people how their views or suggestions have been taken into consideration. In many cases this will not mean only feeding back to the individual young person who raised the issue, but all young people involved in the service.

Through spreading the feedback wider, children and young people will see that the service is taking their views and opinions seriously and will therefore be more keen to offer them. This will provide the service with a great opportunity to become more effective and efficient through a greater understanding of the children and young people using them.

Case Study

The Children and Young People's Plan for North Yorkshire was produced, taking into consideration feedback gained from children

and young people. Initiatives such as 'Pete's Postcards' allowed children and young people an opportunity to express their ideas directly to those writing the plan. This ideas were all considered during the drafting of the plan.

Principle 5

North Yorkshire County Council will provide information which may be used by children and young people in accessible and appropriate formats.

All information provided by a service that may be required to be understood by children or young people must be in an age or ability appropriate format. If this is not possible immediately the child or young person must be informed how quickly a copy could be produced that meets their needs.

For formats such as those to support a child or young person with a disability or who speaks another language, it would be advised that a service ensure they know in advance where they would need to go to source the formatting required.

Case Study

The Flying High group is a children and young people's group that works to represent the views and opinions of disabled young people across the county. They are funded by the council to ensure that the voices of disabled young people are heard when it comes to decision making and planning. Through their own experiences, the experiences of other disabled young people whom they consult and the expertise of the staff involved in ensuring information is appropriate this group is able to make a real difference to the lives of disabled young people in North Yorkshire.

PARTICIPATION

What is participation?

Youth participation is about children and young people having a say in decisions that affect their lives, organisations and communities. In particular it means that:

- children and young people have an important contribution to make in decisions that impact on their lives, organisations and communities;
- children and young people have the skills, knowledge and confidence to get involved with decision making; and
- a culture exists within which children's and young people's opinions and contributions are recognised, valued and acted upon by wider society.

The following ideologies⁴ should underpin all of participation undertaken by services within North Yorkshire County Council.

1. Children and young people are involved because they want to be

The involvement and participation of children and young people is on a voluntary basis because they believe in the importance of the issue and that their participation will make a difference.

2. Children and young people have a choice about how they get involved and at what level

Children and young people have the opportunity and choice to get involved at any and all levels of decision making, through activities that are fun and creative and that suit their skills, abilities and interests.

3. The diversity of children and young people is valued

Children's and young people's diversity of experience, background, belief and talent offers a unique resource for organisations, communities and society. Celebration of diversity is a key part of participation and increased understanding and acceptance should be an outcome.

4. Participation is accessible to all children and young people

All children and young people should be valued equally and opportunities offered fairly. Children/ young people who need extra support to take up these opportunities should be given it. Anyone who discriminates against a child or young person should be challenged. This also means that decision-making processes should be accessible and welcoming to children and young people, whether in terms of language, location, timing, costs or other factors.

5. Everyone is honest and open about process

Adults and staff should be open and honest with young people about what they are trying to do, why they are doing it and how much influence or power children and young people will have.

6. There is equal partnership between adults and children and young people

Children and young people and adults can learn a lot from working together. Opportunities for adults and children and young people to work and learn together should be created and valued.

⁴ Adapted from 'Principles of Youth Participation' (National Council for Voluntary Youth Services): www.ncvys.org.uk/UserFiles/File/Youth%20Participation/Principles%20of%20youth%20participation.pdf

7. Children and young people are encouraged to come up with their own ideas and solutions

Children/young people-led approaches enable children and young people to take action themselves on issues they want to address or things they want to achieve, in a way they feel happy with. This brings enormous benefits for children and young people and should be encouraged.

8. Barriers that stop children and young people from getting involved challenged

If the way decisions are made or the way an organisation is set up prevents children and young people from getting involved and having a say, it should be challenged and where possible changed.

9. The value of children's and young people's work, ideas and skills is recognised

It is important to recognise the contribution of young people, value it, use it and ensure that there are real outcomes for children and young people, both as a group through their impact and individually through their empowerment.

10. Children's and young people's involvement makes a difference

Ultimately children and young people should have made a difference through their involvement and they should know it. Children and young people should receive feedback, be involved in monitoring, evaluation and deciding what happens next.

How will The Promise help?

The Promise is a tool to encourage organisations and services to involve children and young people in every aspect of their planning and decision making where appropriate.

Using the evaluation toolkit within this document organisations and service will be able to evaluate their current level of participation and build upon what they have learnt through completing the self-evaluation.

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Evaluation

This Action Plan will provide information for you and your organisation so that you know:

- what participation activities are already happening
- what needs to be done to advance children and young people's participation.

It may give ideas for future participation activities with children and young people. Do not feel that you have to fill every box, but you may find it useful to address at least one activity for each Principle.

It is a good idea to read it through first, before beginning to fill it in. Try to write specific actions into the action plan rather than ideas or general intentions. You may wish to revise this action plan each year to celebrate good practice... and plan for the future.

Participation activity	Do we do this? (details)	What needs to be done?	By whom?	By when?
<u>PRINCIPLE 1</u>				
Children and young people's views are sought and they influence planning				
Children and young people's views are sought when monitoring and evaluating the service				
Children and young people are involved in the delivery of our service and are encouraged to take on responsibility (eg peer mentoring / welcoming / other helping roles)				
Children and young people are involved in recruiting new staff (eg short-listing, interviewing and choosing new staff)				
Adults encourage, value and appreciate young people's views and are prepared to change the way they work if necessary				

A senior member of staff is responsible for meeting with children and young people to ensure that their views influence planning, policy and procedures				
<u>PRINCIPLE 2</u>				
Children and young people influence decision-making in a variety of different ways and our organisation ensures that they receive feedback about their influence on decisions made				
Children and young people's views are sought when deciding how they will participate and they know how much influence they have				
<u>PRINCIPLE 3</u>				
There are participation opportunities for children with different abilities, needs, cultural and social backgrounds (eg children with learning difficulties and disabilities, looked After, hard-to-reach, black and minority ethnic)				
Our staff encourage each other and children and young people to avoid prejudice and stereotyping. All young people are encouraged to develop self-confidence and self-esteem				
We ensure that children and young people in our organisation are made aware of their right to have a say in decisions that affect them				

Staff are regularly updated regarding relevant guidance about participation via induction, training and appraisals				
The organisation has standards of good practice and a robust complaints procedure				
We have a policy for young people's payment and expenses for participation				
Staff actively encourage children and young people to participate outside our organisation in local, regional and national settings				
Our staff receive training so that they can support children's participation at all levels (eg in equal opportunities, young people-centred attitudes, motivational skills, communication skills)				
Children and young people receive training so that they can develop skills that enable them to participate at all levels in our organisation (meetings, communication skills, interviewing skills, prioritising)				
Children and young people are involved in helping each other learn new skills and are helped to identify their own learning needs				
Children and young people have access to opportunities to raise issues which are important to them.				

<u>PRINCIPLE 4</u>				
Our staff recognise and celebrate the achievements of children and young people				
<u>PRINCIPLE 5</u>				
Children and young people benefit from sufficient resources allocated to them to support their participation (eg training, consultation and feedback, expenses, equipment, staffing, space, refreshments)				
Children and young people have access to enough information so that they can be fully involved in our organisation				
Children and young people are involved in producing information about our organisation				
Children and young people have access to information in a variety of visual (pictures, videos) and language-based media. Language is informal and jargon-free				
<u>Any other activities?</u>				

How has participation improved your organisation during the last year?
What will be your three key priorities for next year so that Children and Young People's participation is more influential in the planning and evaluating of services in your organisation?
Priority One
Priority Two
Priority Three

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USEFUL RESOURCES
<TO BE COMPLETED>

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 June 2014

Covering report –
Draft report of the Online Safety of Children and Young People Task Group

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report asks the Committee to:

- a. Note the information in this report.
- b. Consider the information in the draft final report of the Online Safety of Children and Young People Task Group, attached at Annex A
- c. Consider the recommendations set out in section 4 of the draft final report

2.0 Background

In October 2013 the Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee (YP O&SC) responded to a request from a member of the committee to take a closer look at online safety for children and young people by setting up a task and finish group to look at what could be done in North Yorkshire.

The task group was chaired by County Councillor Joe Plant and included County Councillors; Val Arnold, David Jeffels and Janet Sanderson as well as the Church of England representative on the Committee Mr Graham Richards.

3.0 Focus of the review

Typically, schools and partner organisations in North Yorkshire tend to deal well in ensuring that children and young people are aware of the dangers that can manifest through technology, alongside promoting its positive application. However, there remain a number of key challenges that have never fully or consistently been addressed and the task group sought to take a closer look at the challenges that are essentially focussed around a child's digital life within a social context and especially within their home environment.

There are many aspects to keeping safe online and advances in technology continue to present new and complex challenges. The issues this review seeks to address are:

- The need for parents to better understand the risks their children may be exposed to, and how they can supervise and support their children effectively.
- Children and Young People themselves will need to develop the skills to evaluate the way they use technology at home, in their social lives and at school, identifying risks and developing ways to balance the risks with the benefits.

4.0 Next Steps

After the draft report is considered and agreed by the Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee it is scheduled to be presented to the Executive on the 8th July 2014 and the North Yorkshire Children Safeguarding Board on the 14th July 2014. The recommendations are set out in section 4 of the draft report for consideration and agreement.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a. Note the information in this report.
- b. Agree and / or amend the draft final report of the Online Safety of Children and Young People Task Group attached at Annex A
- c. Agree and / or amend the recommendations set out in section 4 of the draft final report

Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader
Central Services
County Hall, Northallerton

Report compiled by:	Lorraine Laverton Corporate Development Officer Ext: 2108
Email:	lorraine.laverton@northyorks.gov.uk
Date:	June 2014
Background Documents:	None
Annex:	Annex A – Draft report of the Online Safety of Children and Young People Task Group

Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Online Safety of Children and Young People
Task Group

June 2014

Foreword

We all have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and that responsibility must apply to the online world which is such an important part of everyday life of children and young people.

New technologies open up many exciting benefits and opportunities for children and young people but they can also present some risks. Technology is becoming all pervasive, touching all areas of society, with children and young people having increasing access to personal technology such as web – enabled phones. We must ensure, therefore, that a framework is in place to help children and young people stay safe when using technology, and to ensure that where problems do occur, children and young people and their parents and carers have support dealing with them effectively.

The local safeguarding children board (LSCB) have a key role to play in this process. They co –ordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what their member organisations do both individually and together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

It is only through a combined and consistent approach to online safety that we can ensure that all children and young people are safeguarded from harm, wherever and whenever they go online.

I would like to thank fellow members and officers and everyone else involved in the review for their valuable input for what is becoming more and more important for children and young people.



County Councillor Joe Plant
Chairman Online Safety Task Group

1 - INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

We need to teach our children not just about how to stay safe online but how to behave online too – on social media and over phones with their friends. And it's not just children that need to be educated – but parents.”

- Prime Minister, July 2013

Typically, schools and partner organisations in North Yorkshire tend to deal well in ensuring that children and young people are aware of the dangers that can manifest through technology, alongside promoting its positive application. However, there remain a number of key challenges that we have never fully or consistently addressed and we now seek to apply further, more direct, attention. These challenges are essentially focussed around a child's digital life within a social context and especially within their home environment.

There are many aspects to keeping safe online and advances in technology continue to present new and complex challenges. The issues this review seeks to address are:

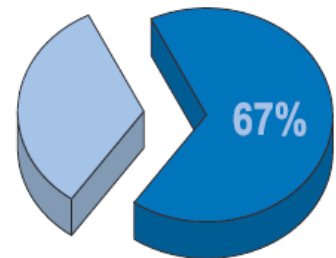
- The need for parents to better understand the risks their children may be exposed to, and how they can supervise and support their children effectively.
- Children and Young People themselves will need to develop the skills to evaluate the way they use technology at home, in their social lives and at school, identifying risks and developing ways to balance the risks with the benefits.

1.2 Background

The results of the North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) survey 'Growing up in North Yorkshire'¹, with particular reference to internet safety are shown on the right. However, although the figures look quite positive in that $\frac{3}{4}$ of those responding said they follow the advice they have been given, that still sees 24% who do not follow that advice. This is why any work done to promote online safety needs to work with young people to ensure that effective methods are identified, and that parents are armed with the correct information in order to help keep their children safe.

INTERNET SAFETY

- ❑ 67% of the sample reported that they have ever chatted online.
- ❑ 8% of all pupils reported that they have ever received a chat message that scared or upset them.
- ❑ 81% of the sample reported that they have been told how to safe while chatting online.
- ❑ 76% of all pupils reported that they always follow the advice they have been given.
- ❑ 5% of pupils responded that anyone can see their profile on Facebook or Bebo, while 4% said they 'don't know' who can.



¹ The survey was undertaken in 2012 and had responses from over 16,000 pupils across North Yorkshire

1.3 Background

In October 2013 the Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee (YP O&SC) responded to a request from a member of the committee to take a closer look at online safety for children and young people by setting up a task and finish group to look at what could be done in North Yorkshire.

The task group was chaired by County Councillor Joe Plant and included County Councillors; Val Arnold, David Jeffels, Janet Sanderson (it should be noted Janet is also the Chairman of Looked After Children Members Group and Young People's Champion) as well as the Church of England representative on the Committee, Mr Graham Richards.



From left to right C Cllrs Val Arnold, David Jeffels & Janet Sanderson & co-opted member Graham Richards

The first meeting of the task group opened our eyes to what a huge subject online safety is! We had concerns that young people under the age of 13 were accessing social networking sites but perhaps not receiving appropriate advice, that online bullying might be an issue for our young people and they might not know what to do about it, that they might be accessing inappropriate content and even that they may be putting themselves in harm's way and open to sexual exploitation. But what could we do about this through our scrutiny review?

We decided to look at what national information and support is already available, to satisfy ourselves that our schools and children's residential homes promote and monitor online safety, to see if other local authorities were putting advice concerning online safety on their websites, to consult with the North Yorkshire Police and get their views on how North Yorkshire might support its young people to stay safe online and most importantly to talk to the children and young people and listen to their ideas.



It was important to recognise the work on-going by the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board (NY-SCB). An eSafety Strategy and eSafety Policy was published on their website in February 2014 and a Task Group had already started a review of eSafety. We were keen that our work did not duplicate that of the NY- SCB and hope that each task groups' work would complement each other.

2 - RESEARCH

Our research began with a look at what information was available online.

2.1 Online

We found many different publications and websites providing lots of advice ranging from academic studies to self-help or parental help guides. We soon realised that the amount of information is overwhelming and for parents with busy lives a one stop shop for clear and simple guidance would be much more helpful. We also learnt that it is not simply about the home computer as our children have access to the internet in their pockets and bags through smart phones and tablet devices.



2.2 National Campaign

We found a National Campaign that had been launched by Central Government working through the UK Council for Child Internet Safety. The campaign seemed to have limited take up but the mobile phone company Talk Talk used it on their website and at the time Dixons and PC World also agreed to use it. The campaign advocated 'Click Clever Click Safe!' and used a simple banner to catch the attention.



This week (13 May 2014) has seen the launch of a web portal providing child safety tips created by Sky, TalkTalk, Virgin and BT after finding that most parents wanted more information. [Internet Matters](#).



(Sky News 13 May 2014)

The Task Group would suggest that a joined up and visible approach to providing online safety advice is a good way to reach a wide audience. The internet is the obvious place to put this information but it should be used together with other approaches such as posters, publicity on radio and television, banners on the side of buses and public sector vehicles.

2.3 Other Local Authorities

Our look at other Local Authority websites showed us there were few that chose to include any information on online safety but Norfolk County Council was an example of an Authority that used “Click Clever Click Safe!” and provided further information on children’s use of the internet in libraries.



We feel consideration should be given to providing this information on the North Yorkshire County Council website as some of the libraries in North Yorkshire are run by the local community and as such guidance needs to be clear on this.

2.4 Schools online safety policies



We looked at examples of school e safety policies and were advised by key officers that although NYCC can provide support and guidance it is the responsibility of the school to decide how the policy is put into practice. The implementation of the policies is the most important part of this and good practice saw pupils and teaching staff engaged and promoting online safety regularly rather than basing information on one lesson in the year.

The task group suggest it would be helpful to schools and would ensure a consistent message about online safety if ‘off the shelf’ lesson plans could be available. It would also assist schools in continuing to improve in this area, and to evidence the good work they are doing, so that others can learn from it, if regular online safety audits were undertaken.

2.5 Looked After Children

C Cllr Janet Sanderson is a member of our Task Group and as the Chairman of the County Council’s Looked After Children Members Group and the Young People’s Champion Janet consistently reminded the Task Group that any recommendations coming out of this review have to reflect the needs of the County Councils Looked After Children. Janet works tirelessly to spread the message that any consultation with children and young people should be done in an appropriate and innovative way not simply through the production of another questionnaire.

The County Council’s children’s residential homes have their own policies and procedures around online safety but it is encouraging to see that opportunities are taken to have informal discussions with young people about their safety online. The computers within the residential homes do have firewalls and security software installed that prevent inappropriate content being accessed, but as many young people have access to a smart phone, it is important to raise their awareness, and develop their understanding, and this may often be more successfully done through informal open discussion.

2.6 The voice of children and young people

We met with groups of children and young people and members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board on 12th February 2014 at North Yorkshire Police headquarters, Newby Wiske to discuss the issue of on-line and eSafety. The event, organised by the NY- LSCB, coincided with the National Safer Internet Day and provided a platform for groups of children and young people from primary and secondary schools as well as youth clubs and young volunteers, to put forward their top tips for parents, share their views on the internet and social networking and present a series of short films entitled “My Digital Life”. Their key message was that digital networking is their way of life, so adults need to get on board and work with them to raise awareness about the risks and consequences.

This event was the start of a conversation and a partnership with children and young people

Our task group not only found the ideas of the children and young people insightful but we would like to endorse them here:



- Young people should be involved in presenting, talking to and supporting other children and young people
- Young people can be mentors and campaigners on eSafety
- Parents need advice, support and training
- There should be a North Yorkshire eSafety Campaign – aimed at children, young people and parents
- There needs to be continued involvement of children and young people around the issue of eSafety
- Good practice and children and young people’s work needs to be shared
- People who work directly with children and young people need training on eSafety

2.7 North Yorkshire Police

Our conversation with colleagues in North Yorkshire Police reassured us that we were thinking along the right lines! The key message we took away from the discussion was that we need to be consistent across the County. It is not enough to all want to make sure our children and young people are as safe as they can be online; We; the Public Sector; Private Sector; Voluntary Sector have to be spreading the same messages in the same way.

We were reminded that it is not enough to give the message to children and young people in schools but that parents also require education. We all recognise that this is not an easy task!

2.8 Public Health

In canvassing the opinion on a county wide campaign around online safety for children and young people, the Director of Public Health Lincoln Sargeant said *“The digital age provides many new opportunities for children and young people but also poses new risks. The Public Health team is keen to work with partners to promote online safety for children and young people and to explore the best means to achieve this in North Yorkshire.”*

2.9 Safeguarding Lead Officers in District & Borough Councils

Feedback from the safeguarding lead officers in the District and Borough Councils was equally as positive to the idea of a county wide approach. They agreed it would be helpful if they could access an - 'off the shelf' information pack so that a consistent approach could be applied.

The officers suggested that a similar approach might also be useful in raising awareness of online safety for vulnerable adults.

3 - CONCLUSION

3.1 Online Green Cross Code!

The task group concluded that we need a 'green cross code' for online safety that has the potential to reach a wide audience. We have to be advising the children and young people but we also need to be reaching and educating their parents and foster parents.... But we believe it shouldn't stop there! As well as Mums and Dads there are other family members who can influence and help keep children and young people safe online, aunties, uncles, grandparents, as well as brothers and sisters.



3.2 Lesson plans

We believe that the information that is provided needs to be consistent and that a quality signposting service is a basic requirement. 'Off the shelf' lesson plans should be available to assist schools and children's residential homes in delivering the same message and children and young people should be advisors to the development of any campaign and instrumental in its delivery.

3.3 Debating competition

Through our discussions we learnt that the County Council led by County Councillor Cliff Trotter is involved in organising a school's debating competition. We thought that this might also be a useful way to spread the message about online safety and give children and young people the opportunity to debate the different viewpoints that surround the use of the internet. What we must not do however, is demonise the internet. We have to accept it is a valuable resource of the 21st century, one that opens doors to a vast array of information.

3.4 Indicators of success

The range of success indicators might include

- Wider coverage (and completion) of eSafety Audits in schools and partner agencies
- Increase in schools and partner agencies requesting eSafety Training (and offering eSafety training to parents in a way that is interesting and engaging)
- Raised awareness of the dangers of internet and social media misuse, evidenced through the 'Growing up in North Yorkshire' Questionnaire.
- Reduction in % of young people leaving their online identity visible, evidenced through the 'Growing up in North Yorkshire' Questionnaire
- Reduction in the incidence of cyber-bullying, , evidenced through the 'Growing up in North Yorkshire' Questionnaire

- Reduction in % children playing inappropriate, age restricted games, with full awareness of their parent/ carer, evidenced through the 'Growing up in North Yorkshire' Questionnaire
- Increase in communication with parents/ carers regarding issues of online safety.

3.5 North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board

In April this year Mr William Shaw presented a report to the NY-SCB on behalf of their task group on eSafety which proposes a partnership with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) Campaigns Unit for a dual branded eSafety campaign. Our task group would like to support the NY-SCB in this proposal for a cross county campaign utilising the expertise and resources of the NSPCC.

We would stress the importance of working with children and young people in the development of the campaign and suggest the Youth Council, the Young People's Council and the Flying High Group might be a good starting point.

We would call on the County Council and the District and Borough Councils to work together with the NY-SCB, as appropriate, in the development, promotion and implementation of the campaign.

We would encourage the NY-SCB to; look at how local businesses might be part of the campaign (the Local Enterprise Partnership may be able to help with that), and contact the Director of Public Health to see how Public Health might be involved.

We would request that the regular updates provided to the NY-SCB on progress with the work with the NSPCC and the development of the campaign also be shared with the Young Peoples O&SC.



4 – RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the task group are set out below:

We would ask the North Yorkshire County Council Executive to consider:

1. supporting the NY-SCB decision to work with the NSPCC on a county wide campaign to raise the profile of online safety for children and young people
2. working in collaboration with other Local Authorities in the County as well as the North Yorkshire Police, Public Health, the voluntary sector and the private sector to promote a county wide campaign
3. promoting a consistent approach to the provision of further information and signposting on online safety for children and young people
4. putting forward the topic of 'online safety' to the organisers of the schools debating competition for 2015 for their consideration
5. raising with the Care & Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee and relevant NYCC officers how the county region might raise the profile of online safety for vulnerable adults
6. Supporting the recommendations of the task group to the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board set out below:

We would ask the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board to consider

1. assuring the County Council that they will work closely with children and young people including the County Council's Looked After Children in the development of any campaign
2. ensuring that the County Local Authorities, NY Police, Fire & Rescue, Public Health and representatives of the voluntary and private sector have the opportunity to input into the development of the campaign
3. sharing regular progress reports on the development of the campaign with the Young Peoples O&SC

This may be the end of this report but it is most definitely the beginning of this most important piece of work. In focussing attention on online safety we have to ensure that the measures we employ to make children and young people safer online are continuously reviewed and updated as this is an area that will never stand still.

Glossary

NYCC	North Yorkshire County Council
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
NY-SCB	North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board
YPO&SC	Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Facebook & Bebo are social networking websites

Websites

We have looked at many different websites about online safety, a selection are included here

www.NSPCC.org.uk

www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk

www.onlinecompass.org.uk

www.saferinternet.org.uk

www.yhgl.net

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.saferinternetday.org.uk

www.wisekids.org.uk

www.childnet.com

A big Thank You to:

The children and young people involved in the safer internet event

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board

North Yorkshire Police

North Yorkshire District / Borough Councils Safeguarding officers

NYCC officers in Children and Young People's Service, ICT and Communications

Dr Lincoln Sargeant Director of Public Health North Yorkshire

North Yorkshire County Council

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27 June 2014

Welfare Benefit Reforms and child poverty in North Yorkshire

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To report on the impacts of benefit changes brought about by the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and associated regulations in relation to children, young people and their families.
- 1.2 To provide details of child poverty data in North Yorkshire.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Welfare Reform Act 2012 introduced a wide range of reforms with the stated aims of making the benefit and tax credits system for people of working age more affordable and simpler by:
- Creating incentives to get more people into work by ensuring that work always pays.
 - Merging out of work benefits and tax credits to create a single universal credit.
 - Reforms to other benefits aimed at reducing the cost of the benefits system.
- 2.2 The following welfare benefit changes have or are in the course of being implemented:
- Council Tax Support (CTS)
 - Housing Benefit Size Criteria in the social rented sector
 - Local Welfare Assistance, replacing Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans
 - Local Housing Allowance (LHA), paid to people living in the privately rented sector, uprated in line with the Consumer Price Index (previously capped to the 30th percentile of rents in the locality)
 - Personal Independence Payments (PIP), the replacement for Disability Living Allowance – affecting at present new claimants only
 - the benefit cap for working age people (introduced from 15 July to 30 September 2013)
 - the cap on the annual increases in most working-age benefits
- 2.3 A number of other significant changes are planned to take effect between now and 2020:

- the roll-out of Universal Credit (beginning with claims from the newly unemployed - current benefit claimants will be moved onto Universal Credit in a phased approach)
- the migration of existing Incapacity Benefit claimants onto Employment and Support Allowance
- the migration of existing DLA claimants to PIP
- the rise in the State Pension age to 66 years for both men and women

2.4 The purpose of the report is to chiefly outline the key changes of the reforms and the impacts faced by claimants and their families, together with the initiatives that are being undertaken by local authorities and housing associations in North Yorkshire. The latest child poverty data is also included.

3 National developments

3.1 Universal Credit: revised timetable for roll-out

3.1.1 Universal Credit is a new benefit that has started to replace six existing benefits with a single monthly payment paid direct to claimants normally aged between 18 and 64 years¹. Universal Credit will eventually replace: Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Housing Benefit. Claimants will be expected to apply on-line.

3.1.2 The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has acknowledged that it might miss its own deadline for moving all claimants to Universal Credit by 2017, with only 400,000 benefit claimants forecast to be added to the system in 2015-16 compared with the 4.5m that had been planned. Instead, the vast majority of the seven million people due to transfer will do so in the two years leading up to 2017². All new claims, apart from those currently entitled to Employment Support Allowance (ESA), will be within Universal Credit by 2016; all existing claimants, apart from those on ESA, will be transferred by 2017. The government estimates about 700,000 people receiving ESA might not be moved to Universal Credit until after 2017³.

3.2 Universal Credit Pathfinder/Pilots

3.2.1 In 2013 Universal Credit was being trialled in Greater Manchester. DWP evaluation from the 'pathfinder' there found that 90% of claims were made

¹ There are five categories of young people aged 16 and 17 who are to be able to claim Universal Credit in their own right:

- those with dependent children - lone parents or couples
- sick or disabled young people who have satisfied the Work Capability Assessment or are waiting to be assessed with medical evidence
- those who are caring for a severely disabled person
- young women who are pregnant between 11 weeks before and 15 weeks after their estimated due date
- young people who are without parental support

² <http://cdn.budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/Economic-and-fiscal-outlook-December-2013.pdf>

³ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25230158>

successfully online; and 78% of those getting monthly payments were confident they could budget over the month⁴.

3.2.2 Research conducted by the Citizens Advice Bureaux ('Managing migration pilot project') however shows that the transition to Universal Credit is not simply about people mastering ICT. The research examined the readiness of clients in the Universal Credit pilot areas affected by Universal Credit for the transition. Clients were mapped against five key capability areas: budgeting, monthly payments, banking, staying informed and getting online. Nine out of 10 CAB clients were not ready for Universal Credit in at least one capability area and 38% were not ready in all five. However after receiving advice and support from the CAB service over half of clients had improved skills in all five key areas. The importance of the CAB and local authorities working together is underlined in the research, including in respect of getting people online.

3.3 Housing Benefit Size Criteria in the social rented sector (a.k.a. 'spare room subsidy' or 'bedroom tax')

3.3.1 From last year social housing tenants' saw a reduction in their Housing Benefit where they are considered to have a surplus bedroom (14% for one bedroom and 25% for two bedrooms). Children up to the age of 10 are expected to share a bedroom and two youngsters of the same sex are expected to share a bedroom up to the age of 16. Approved foster carers are allowed an additional bedroom so long as they have fostered a child or become an approved foster carer in the last 12 months.

3.3.2 The DWP has confirmed that social housing tenants who have had a continuous claim for Housing Benefit since at least 1 January 1996 and occupied the same dwelling since that date should not have been subject to the size criteria rules. Transitional protection should have applied. Claimants have been asked to contact their local authority if they are in this position to have their claim reassessed under the correct rules and receive money backdated to April 2013. The government is in the process of changing the law so that these same households will not be exempt from the size criteria in the near future.

3.4 Personal Independence Payments (PIP)

3.4.1 The Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is intended to help people with some of the extra costs caused by long-term ill-health or a disability if they are aged 16 to 64. The weekly amount awarded depends upon how the condition affects the person, not the condition itself. A payment of between £21.55 and £138.05 a week is awarded.

3.4.2 PIP is being introduced in stages. From 28 October 2013 the DWP started to invite some existing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants living in Wales, West Midlands, East Midlands and East Anglia to claim PIP. From 3

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/universal-credit-working-together-for-improved-outcomes>

February 2014 the reassessment of DLA claimants for PIP began in our region for the following postcodes: CA, DL, HG, LA and YO6.

3.4.3 The DWP has said that further decisions on extending reassessment will be communicated to the rest of the country in due course. However the DWP expects that from October 2015 all the remaining claimants in receipt of a DLA award will be invited to make a claim for PIP. By October 2017 all existing DLA claimants (aged 16 to 64 on 8 April 2013) will have been invited to claim PIP.

3.5 Council Tax support localisation

3.5.1 The Council Tax Support Scheme became effective from April 2013, replacing Council Tax Benefit. The level of support provided under Council Tax Support is in many circumstances significantly lower for working age customers than they previously received under the Council Tax Benefit scheme.

3.5.2 From April 2014, unitary/district councils have to fund council tax support through their general resources with government no longer providing a separate dedicated stream of funding. One in three councils affected is likely to have to reduce levels of council tax support for 2014/15, according to a survey carried out by the Society of District Council Treasurers⁷.

4 **Macro and micro economic prospects and the impact of the welfare benefit reforms**

4.1.1 The number of people aged 16+ and in employment in the UK rose by 283,000 between the October to December 2013 quarter and the January to March 2014 quarter, to stand at over 30.43 million. This is a working age employment rate of 72.7%. UK unemployment fell by 133,000 over the same period to stand at 2.21 million - the lowest for five years. Average earnings grew 1.7% year-on-year, meaning that with inflation at 1.6% in March as measured by CPI, wages outpaced inflation for the first time since 2010.

4.1.2 Nationally more women are also in work than at any time since records began in 1971. However 1.4 million people are in part-time jobs because they cannot find full-time work. Youth and long-term unemployment have both fallen, but there has been little change in the number of people classed as 'economically inactive', which has remained just under nine million⁸.

4.1.3 Conditions in the North Yorkshire labour market are continuing to improve⁹. In April there was a large fall in the total number of JobSeekers Allowance (JSA) benefit claimants. There were also falls in the number of people claiming for more than six months and those claiming for more than a year. The number

⁶ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275656/PIP-toolkit-factsheet-reassessment.pdf

⁷ LGA press release, January 2014,

http://www.local.gov.uk/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10180/5819176/NEWS

⁸ *Labour Market Statistics, February 2014*, Office for National Statistics

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/february-2014/statistical-bulletin.html>

⁹ North Yorkshire Economic Monitor, May 2014

of claimants aged 18 to 24 year olds fell by nearly a fifth. In addition, all of these measures of unemployment showed an improvement over the same period last year. Confidence in the strength of Yorkshire's rural economy and job market has increased almost 30% in the last two year's according to a recent survey by the NFU Mutual. The availability of employment and long-term prospects for local business and for young people are driving the confidence boost¹⁰.

- 4.1.4 The government's tax and benefit reforms will, on average, modestly strengthen people's incentives to work. In the absence of such reforms work incentives would have weakened as a result of falling real earnings. Specifically Universal Credit will strengthen the incentive for couples to have one person in work rather than none but weaken the incentive for both members of a couple to work rather than just one. Incentives are strengthened much less for those with children than those without children¹¹.
- 4.1.5 The high cost of child care, the sharp withdrawal rates of Universal Credit once an individual is employed above a set number of hours and the persistence of low pay could combine to undermine the success of the new system. For people working fewer hours though Universal Credit will allow them to be better off than not working at all (something that was not always true under the previous system), albeit with an income below the minimum income standard¹².
- 4.1.6 It is worth bearing in mind that the impact of welfare benefit reforms also falls upon those who are already in work as well as those out of work. According to a study carried out by the Centre for Social Justice¹³, almost 60% of all welfare reform reductions fall on households where somebody works. The study also calculates that as a result of the welfare reforms (excluding the impact of Universal Credit¹⁴) households claiming benefit will on average lose £1,615 a year (£31 per week) by 2016. According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation there are more people in working families living below the poverty line than in workless and retired families in poverty combined¹⁵.
- 4.1.7 Despite the signs of national economic recovery, personal debt in the UK remains close to its all-time high of £1.43 trillion, with unsecured consumer debt reaching £158 billion, according to the Centre for Social Justice. Indebted households in the poorest 10% of the country have average debts more than four times their annual income¹⁶. Research¹⁷ by the Money Advice

¹⁰ <http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/business/business-news/boost-as-rural-economy-turns-corner-1-6617651> (May 2014)

¹¹ 'Government's welfare reforms mean overall work incentives modestly strengthened despite wage falls', Institute for Fiscal Studies, September 2013

¹² Updated annually, the Minimum Income Standard compiled by the JRF shows the cost of items and activities the public think are needed for a decent standard of living. It also calculates the earnings required to enable different household types to achieve this living standard. Single people need to earn at least £16,850 a year before tax in 2013 for a minimum acceptable living standard. Couples with two children need to earn at least £19,400 each.

¹³ 'The local impacts of welfare reform: an assessment of cumulative impacts and mitigations', Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (August 2013)

¹⁴ The DWP has calculated that almost three million households will gain under Universal Credit

¹⁵ *Monitoring Poverty & Social Exclusion*, JRF/NPI, 2013

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/monitoring-poverty-and-social-exclusion-2013>

¹⁶ *Maxed Out: Serious personal debt in Britain*, Centre for Social Justice, November 2013

http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/UserStorage/pdf/Pdf%20reports/CSJ_Serious_Debt_report_WEB_final.pdf

Service (MAS) found that nearly nine million people across the UK are living with serious debt problems but of those very few people access free advice. Using data produced from Experian, the credit reference agency, the MAS has ranked each district and unitary authority area in the country by the proportion of the resident population who are over 'indebted'¹⁸. The results for North Yorkshire are shown in the table below.

District/unitary local authority area	Rank <i>(where '1' has the highest level of indebtedness in the population (43.11%) and '406' has the lowest level (1.2%))</i>	Percentage of population identified as indebted.
1. Scarborough	119	22.8%
2. Selby	198	14.7%
3. Richmondshire	229	13.2%
4. Craven	282	9.8%
5. Ryedale	290	9.1%
6. Harrogate	297	8.8%
7. Hambleton	309	8.1%

4.1.8 Children also suffer from the main 'debt effects' of those around them. They can experience problems with their own mental health and well-being, the effect of material deprivation caused by the existence of problem debt and income fragility and the disruption of their lives in terms of housing, family stability and school experiences¹⁹.

4.1.9 The number of people receiving benefit sanctions has continued to grow over the past year, following the introduction of the new JSA sanctions regime in October 2012²⁰. The new regime is intended to encourage people to engage with the support being offered by Jobcentres by making it clearer to claimants what they are expected to do in return for their benefit. Parliament's Work and Pensions Committee²¹ has, however, called on Jobcentre Plus to revise its key performance indicators immediately to ensure that staff are incentivised to get jobseekers into work, not just to get them off benefits. A limited independent review of sanctioning has now been established by the DWP. The Committee has also recommended that there should be a separate, broader independent review, which amongst other things would look at whether, and to what extent, sanctioning and benefit conditionality (the use of negative incentives to encourage a return to work) is having the desired effect of encouraging claimants to engage more actively in job-seeking.

¹⁷ *Indebted lives: the complexities of life in debt*, MAS, November 2013

<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/static/indebted-lives-the-complexities-of-life-in-debt>

¹⁸ Individuals who have been at least three months behind their bills in the last six months or have said that they feel their debts are a heavy burden.

¹⁹ *The Debt Trap, Exposing the Impact of Problem debt on Children*, StepChange Debt Charity, May 2014

²⁰ DWP figures show that there has been a rise in the number of sanctions compared with last year – between November 2012 (the first full month of the new sanctions) and September 2013 there were 789,000 sanctions. This compares to 705,000 sanctions between November 2011 and September 2012.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/benefit-sanctions-ending-the-something-for-nothing-culture--2>

²¹ <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/work-and-pensions-committee/news/jcp-rpt/>

5 Impact of the changes introduced to date in North Yorkshire

5.1 A study²², produced in 2013 by the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research measured the impact of the welfare benefit reforms on working age adults across all district and unitary authority areas by 2014/15²³. The findings show that in terms of the overall financial loss per working age adult (£ per year) by local authority area, Scarborough district is in the highest 16% nationally (61st out of 379 district/unitary authority areas, 379th having the lowest financial loss per individual) and the fourth highest in Yorkshire and the Humber. All other district local authority areas in North Yorkshire are in the lowest quartile. Scarborough district is also named in another study²⁴ as one of the areas where the impact of the reforms is likely to be most strongly felt alongside a range of other coastal towns and cities with a high dependence upon benefits.

5.2 Housing Benefit Size Criteria in the social rented sector

5.2.1 Local authorities in North Yorkshire continue to report that the majority of the work has been to explain and advise customers about the size criteria. A range of measures are in place to provide support including home visits to identify potential exemptions for carers and disabled children and support and advice provided to enable home moves.

5.2.2 Most of the tenants who are affected by the size criteria in North Yorkshire have one excess bedroom. Taking Harrogate and Scarborough districts as examples, in 2013/14 over 80% of cases related to tenants with an excess of one bedroom. The average weekly loss for council tenants living in Harrogate district with an excess of one bedroom was £13.42 and £27.98 for those with an excess of two bedrooms or more. For Selby the average weekly loss for council tenants with an excess of one bedroom was £11.56 and £22.22 for those with an excess of two bedrooms or more. The average weekly loss for housing association tenants in Selby district with an excess of one bedroom was £12.93 and £24.42 for those with an excess of two bedrooms or more.

5.2.3 Hambleton District Council's Housing Department has seen an increase in homelessness representations along with a rise in advice and support needs. It reports that the size criteria rules have affected homeless clients and the properties for which they can bid i.e. due to the limited amount of one bed accommodation for single people/couples. In general there are limited housing options for residents due to high private sector rentals and limited housing association stock. Across the county, the North Yorkshire District Councils' Homeless Prevention Services saw an increase in households assisted in 2013 compared to 2012. A significant portion of those related to Housing Benefit problems.

²² *Hitting the poorest places hardest: the local and regional impact of welfare reform*, Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research, April 2013.

²³ The figures relating to the impact of the welfare benefit reforms by 2014/15 exclude DLA by 2017/18, incapacity benefits and 1% up-rating by 2015/16

²⁴ *The local impacts of welfare reform: an assessment of cumulative impacts and mitigations*, Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (August 2013)

5.2.4 The National Housing Federation recently commissioned Ipsos MORI to conduct a research project to look at the impact of welfare reform. The findings showed that from the sample used, people affected by the size criteria have cut back on food and heating and are concerned about falling behind on rent²⁵. Rising rent arrears are a key issue for Housing Associations in North Yorkshire. This is due in part to the effects of the welfare benefit changes to date but also due to the rising cost of living. Most but not all of the Housing Associations across North Yorkshire have consistently reported that their total level of rent arrears has increased since the size criteria rules were introduced. This is in spite of Housing Associations having put support measures in place such as assisting tenants to downsize. The level of rent arrears is masked to some degree by customers who are in receipt of DHP awards.

5.2.5 The numbers affected by the size criteria in 2013/14 in North Yorkshire varied from the initial estimates taken at the start of that financial year. This is due to a number of factors such as the ruling that transitional protection should have applied to social housing tenants who have had a continuous claim for Housing Benefit since 1 January 1996 and occupied the same dwelling since that date. Other factors include families having downsized to smaller properties; the size of households increasing so that there is no longer a 'spare room' in the property; a change in a household's benefit circumstances; and exemptions because of easement of rules on foster parents, severely disabled children and non-dependants on active military service.

5.3 Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)

5.3.1 At the end of the 2013/14 financial year, the amount of DHP funding left in local authority budgets varied across North Yorkshire, though most saw significant increases in applications when compared with 2012/13. All housing authorities received additional transitional funding in 2013 and Craven, Richmondshire and Ryedale district councils received a further tranche of funding provided to the 21 least densely populated areas in Great Britain.

5.3.2 The key influence on the growth in DHP applications has been the introduction of the social sector size criteria.

5.4 Benefit Cap

5.4.1 The benefit cap (the total amount of benefit that most people aged 16 to 64 can get) was introduced in 2013. The cap has been set at the average net earned income of working households (currently £500 a week for couples (with or without children living with them), £500 a week for single parents whose children live with them and £350 a week for single adults who do not have children, or whose children don't live with them). The cap affects families with several children who are potentially in receipt of higher than average amounts of child tax credit and are more likely to live in larger homes

²⁵ 'One year on: The impact of welfare reforms on housing association tenants', (May 2014), National Housing Federation

meaning more housing benefit. The benefit cap does not apply to carers caring for a disabled child. However carers caring for an adult disabled child could see their benefits capped.

5.4.2 North Yorkshire district councils found that at the end of 2013/14 the actual number of households affected by the benefit cap was lower than earlier DWP estimates. Losses per family affected in Selby ranged from £0.50 per week to £91.58 per week; in Ryedale £11.87 to £138.93 per week and in Craven from £29.42 to £108.19 per week. However the local authorities and housing associations are providing help with budgeting and opportunities to relocate to smaller properties if appropriate.

5.5 Council Tax Support (CTS) – 10% reduction in Council Tax Benefit introduced nationally for claimants under pensionable age.

5.5.1 Local authorities in North Yorkshire report that although the amount of Council Tax collected in 2013/14 remains in line with 2012/13, or fell only very marginally, there was a noticeable increase in the number of reminders and, in the case of some, an increase in the number of summonses issued. The collection rate for pensioners was higher than for working age claimants.

5.6 Universal Credit

5.6.1 Harrogate district has been selected as a progressive roll-out site for Universal Credit with effect from February 2014. The role of Harrogate Borough Council in supporting Universal Credit is limited to the provision of personal budgeting and support; on-line access and support for people to apply for the benefit; and expert support and advice to Universal Credit processing teams in relation to housing costs.

5.6.2 Work is on-going to establish working practices and organise partnership arrangements to deliver these services. The numbers of claims are expected to be very low, approximately 100 per month due to the qualifying criteria²⁶, and not be of significant impact to services or the households who claim the new benefit.

5.7 Personal Independence Payments (PIP)

5.7.1 Harrogate district has been selected as an area to extend the roll-out of the migration of disability living allowance claims to the new PIP benefit. Data has been requested from the DWP on the impact expected by this change in the district but has not been confirmed.

²⁶ The qualifying criteria includes amongst other things being single, with no dependent children; aged between 18 years and 60 years and 6 months; not being pregnant nor having given birth within the last 15 weeks; not receiving various existing benefits or Tax Credits nor awaiting a decision on, nor be appealing against, a decision not to award any of those; not have any caring responsibilities; and not being self-employed or in education.

5.8 Local Welfare Assistance/Emergency food provision

- 5.8.1 In April 2013 the DWP statutory Social Fund Community Care Grant and Crisis Loan scheme ended and was replaced with discretionary local schemes. Responsibility for implementing local schemes lies with unitary and upper tier local authorities. North Yorkshire County Council's Local Assistance Fund has been designed to target only those in greatest need – emergency support for vulnerable adults to move into or remain in the community and to help families under exceptional pressure. This means that fewer people are eligible to apply than under the previous DWP scheme. The County Council is using 'authorised agencies' to undertake initial eligibility checks. Expenditure is budgeted on monthly basis and is being fully spent.
- 5.8.2 From 2015/16 unitary and upper tier local authorities will have to fund the cost of their local welfare assistance funds from their base budgets, with no additional funding provided from central government. This could lead some local authorities to abandoning their schemes.
- 5.8.3 The bulk of awards made in relation to North Yorkshire County Council's Local Assistance Fund (NYLAF) in 2013/14 were from families under exceptional pressure (40% of all awards made), followed by people who were homeless or at risk of homelessness (12%) and by people with a mental health problem (10%). The location by district of the successful applicants is provided in the table below.

District	% of awards
Scarborough	46%
Harrogate	13%
Selby	11%
Hambleton	10%
Ryedale	8%
Richmondshire	6%
Craven	5%

- 5.8.4 White goods have been the most requested item (35% of awards) closely followed by food (34% of awards).
- 5.8.5 Changes were made to the fund throughout its first year in order to better serve its client group, deliver on budget and react to issues. Utility top-ups and food provision have been made available to applicants who fall outside the 'vulnerability categories' of the fund but who are able to demonstrate an urgent need that cannot be met by other forms of support. From February 2014 rent deposits/bonds were removed. This decision was taken due to the increasing financial pressure on the fund and because district councils have the option to provide this using Discretionary Housing Payments. Beginning in March 2014 applications were restricted to one white good per application as opposed to the previous possible three.
- 5.8.6 More generally in terms of food banks, Children's Centres in North Yorkshire have been working with food banks to make referrals and/or act as food

donation points. Our Children's Centres try to complement referrals to food banks though with longer term support by making referrals to the CAB, providing budgeting advice, and providing access to Adult Learning Courses such as cooking on a budget and healthy eating. There is now at least one food bank in every district of the county.

5.8.7 Research carried out by Harrogate and Ripon Centres for Voluntary Service between April and August 2013 shows that across all districts the main reason that people are citing for needing to use a food bank is due to having received a benefit sanction or because their benefits have been delayed. There is no data available from the DWP to verify this anecdotal information. This is because since April 2013 the DWP has dropped the rule that Jobcentres must record the reason why they have referred a client on to a foodbank. However benefit sanctions is also one of the reasons that applicants are giving when applying to the NYLAF for food provision.

5.9 Other welfare benefit impacts

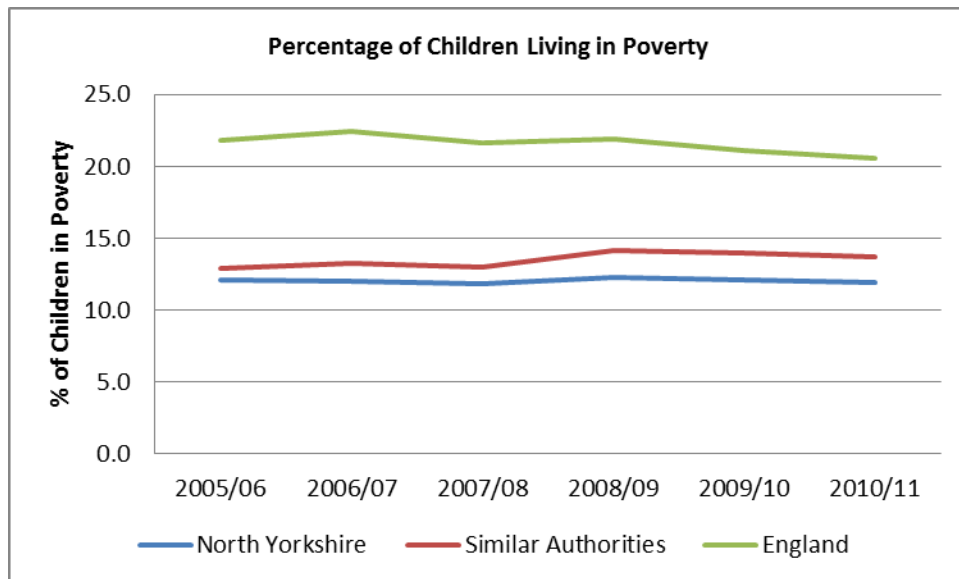
5.9.1 Debt and benefits advice remained the largest types of enquiry locally by some margin for North Yorkshire CAB in 2013/14.

6 **Child Poverty**

6.1 Child poverty is currently measured as the proportion of children living in households with an income 60% less than median household income, and is described as the "Percentage of Children in Low Income Families". The data is reported approximately two years in arrears and the most recent measure is for the year 2010/11.

6.2 North Yorkshire has a lower proportion of children living in poverty in comparison with similar authorities and England as a whole. Data for the period 2006/07 to 2010/11 indicates that the percentage of children in poverty in North Yorkshire as a whole has averaged 12.0%, and a fall has been observed in the most recent three years for which data is available²⁷ from 12.3% to 11.9%. This compares to an average across similar authorities of 13.9% and 21.2% across England in the same three year period. This is illustrated in the following chart:

²⁷ 2008/09 to 2010/11



- 6.3 The data indicates that North Yorkshire has the ninth lowest proportion of children in poverty among local authorities in England. However, across North Yorkshire there are areas where the percentage of children in poverty is much higher, rising to over 25% in some wards in Scarborough and Selby.
- 6.4 In late 2013 the government launched a consultation seeking views on how best to improve the measurement of child poverty. This was followed in February 2014 by a further consultation seeking views on a Child Poverty Strategy for the period 2014 to 2017. The draft strategy focuses on tackling poverty through supporting families into work, improving living standards and raising educational attainment of the poorest children in society. The current consultation closed on 22 May 2014 and a response from the government is anticipated later this year.

7 Recommendation

- 7.1 The Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note and comment upon the findings in the report.

Neil Irving
 Assistant Director - Policy and Partnerships
 North Yorkshire County Council

12 June 2014

Report compiled by: Jonathan Spencer, Corporate Development Officer
 Telephone: 0845 8 72 73 74
 Email: jonathan.spencer@northyorks.gov.uk

Background Documents: None

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****27th June 2014****SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT – SCHOOL OFSTED OUTCOMES****1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To inform Members of the Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee of :-

- Ofsted inspection judgements for primary, secondary, special and PRUs and the percentage of schools that are outstanding, good, requiring improvement or inadequate.
 - the current position in June 2014
 - improvements from September 2013
 - a North Yorkshire area profile
- the percentage of pupils that attend good or outstanding schools.

2.0 Ofsted outcomes

2.1 The percentage of schools that are outstanding or good and the percentage of pupils that attend good or outstanding schools. These are the key Ofsted judgements for LAs.

2.2 Current position in June 2014

1st June 2014 (Watchsted) % schools	NY	National	NY rank vs National	NY rank vs SN (11 LAs)	Rank vs Y&H (15 LAs)
Primary (317)	80	81	83 3 rd quartile	5	5
Secondary (44)	68	70	91 3 rd quartile	9	5
All (361)	78	79	88 3 rd quartile	6	5

1st June 2014 (Watchsted) % pupils	NY	National	NY rank vs National	NY rank vs SN (11 LAs)	Rank vs Y&H (15 LAs)
Primary (317)	76	79	105 3 rd quartile	7	5
Secondary (44)	75	73	76 3 rd quartile	6	5
All (361)	75	77	93 3 rd quartile	5	6

Note: This data does not include the one sponsored academy which has not been re-inspected since its Special Measures judgement was removed

2.3 Position in December 2013 for PRUs, special schools and nursery schools (not available in June 2014).

December 2013 (Dataview)			
% schools	NY	National	Rank vs SN (10 LAs)
Special (10)*	80%	87%	9
PRS (5)	80%	80%	4
Nursery (3)	100%	95%	1

% pupils	NY	National	Rank vs SN (5 LAs)
Special	88%	89%	8
PRS	70%	77%	3
Nursery	100%	95%	1

*Dataview figure adjusted to show only the 10 LA maintained schools.

2.4 Current position for all judgements June 2014

% of schools	Primary		Secondary		Special		PRsS	
	NY	Nat	NY	Nat	NY	Nat * 31 st December 2013 (Ofsted DataView)	NY	Nat * 31 st December 2013 (Ofsted DataView)
1 st June 2014 (Watchsted) except *								
Outstanding	16%	17%	23%	22%	20%	36%	40%	16%
Good	64%	63%	46%	49%	60%	51%	40%	64%
Outstanding or good	80%	81%	68%	70%	80%	87%	80%	80%
Requiring improvement	18%	17%	25%	23%	10%	11%	20%	16%
Inadequate	2%	2%	7%	6%	10%	2%	0%	4%

2.5 Improvements since September 2013

% of schools	Primary		Secondary		Special		PRUs	
	Sept 13	June 14	Sept 13	June 14	Sept 13	June 14	Sept 13	June 14
31 st Aug 2013 (Ofsted DataView)								
Outstanding	16%	16%	25%	23%	20%	20%	50%	40%
Good	63%	64%	43%	46%	60%	60%	50%	40%
Outstanding or good	79%	80%	68%	68%	80%	80%	100%	80%
Requiring improvement	20%	18%	25%	25%	10%	10%	0%	20%
Inadequate	2%	2%	7%	7%	10%	10%	0%	0%

2.6 Current profile across the five districts as published by 15th May 2014.

Number of schools.

Primary Total 317 + 3 nursery	West	North	South	East	Central
Outstanding	16	8	7	6 (+1 nursery)	12
Good	37 (+ 2 nursery)	46	39	39	44
RI	9	13	15	11	10
Inadequate	3	0	0	2	0

Secondary Total 44	West	North	South	East	Central
Outstanding	7	1	0	0	2
Good	2	4	6	2	6
RI	1	3	1	4	2
Inadequate	1	0	0	2	0

2.7 Current profile across the five districts as published by 15th May 2014.

Percentage of schools, from total NYCC.

Primary	West	North	South	East	Central
Outstanding	5%	2%	2%	2% (+33% nursery)	4%
Good	12% (+66% nursery)	15%	12%	12%	14%
Good or outstanding	17%	17%	14%	14%	18%
RI	3%	4%	5%	4%	3%
Inadequate	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%

Secondary	West	North	South	East	Central
Outstanding	16%	2%	0%	0%	5%
Good	5%	9%	14%	5%	14%
Good or outstanding	21%	11%	14%	5%	19%
RI	2%	7%	2%	9%	5%
Inadequate	2%	0%	0%	5%	0%

3.0 Analysis and summary

- 3.1 Whilst North Yorkshire schools are in-line with national comparisons for the percentage of schools that are good or outstanding, both primary and secondary schools are slightly below, 1% and 2% respectively. Primary are gradually improving whilst secondary is maintaining its performance. The percentage of pupils who attend a good or outstanding school compares well with national figures for secondary and is below national for primary. However, rankings place North Yorkshire schools in the third quartile and this is an absolute key priority for improvement.
- 3.2 The percentage of pupils who attend a good or outstanding school can be influenced by the size of the schools that are good or outstanding. A number of good schools that are small can be offset by fewer schools, but larger ones, that are requiring improvement.
- 3.3 Within the area profile the percentage of outstanding or good schools is within a 14-18 % range for primary and 11-21% range for secondary. Overall, the West and Central have a higher proportion of outstanding or good schools.

It is interesting that the KS4 outcomes for secondary schools are well above national figures, yet the Ofsted outcomes are below national figures.

- 3.4 Special school judgements are “skewed” by the performance of one school is in Special Measures.
- 3.5 There are variable performances across the County with the coastal strip and the Skipton area being the most notable. For example, children and young people growing up in these areas could attend a primary school that is inadequate followed by a secondary school that is inadequate.
- 4.0 Schools causing concern
- 4.1 The percentage of schools that are inadequate are in-line with national figures. Currently, there are two primary schools with Serious Weakness (Braeburn Junior and Barrowcliff Junior) and one secondary (Filey). There are three primary schools that are in Special Measures (St. Stephens in Skipton, Skipton Ings and Farnley) and two secondary (Aireville and Graham).
- 4.2 With regard to the schools in Special Measures, structural and local solutions are underway for St. Stephen’s, Farnley and Aireville. The other schools have received very positive monitoring visits and the LA is in discussion with the DfE as to whether a sponsor is necessary given the rapid pace of improvement.
- 5.0 Moving forward and next steps
- 5.1 The ambition is for all schools to be good or outstanding by 2017, as reflected in the new Children’s and Young People’s Plan. There is also the significant work through the Commission for School Improvement. Recommendations are that the Education Partnership will be in place by January 2015 and the six Improvement Partnerships will be in place by Easter 201
- 6.0 Current strategies include:-
- The use of trained and active Ofsted inspectors within the School Improvement Service to bring rigour to school improvement discussions and activity
 - The use of National Leaders of Education (NLEs) and Local Leaders of Education (LLEs) to drive and support school improvement
 - The use of partnerships and collaboratives to drive improvement
 - The use of structural solutions including academy sponsors, mergers and federations that will make a positive difference to outcomes
- 6.1 The following actions have already been taken:-
- The LA has a refined risk assessment enabling the school improvement service to be more preventative and proactive. This will also include colleagues from HR, Strategic Planning and Finance to ensure that all

triggers and indicators for decline of performance are considered. This is through the Strategic Priority Schools Group.

- The LA has carried out a self-evaluation process resulting in a document measuring the LA's performance and progress against the evaluation schedule for inspections of LA school improvement services. Actions resulting from this evaluation will feed into the School improvement Service Plan.
- The LA is working with HMI on a Pathfinder Project about moving schools requiring improvement to good. Initial impact shows a faster rate of progress
- The LA has established a Coastal Challenge group of 10 LAs that is focussing on issues that are particular to schools on the coast.
- A refreshed School improvement Strategy that is slimmer and sharper and that will take us through to summer 2015 when Improvement Partnerships will supercede the current ways of working. This is currently being shared with schools.

6.2 What still needs to be done:-

- Work with schools to have a much clearer picture of attainment and progress through the collection of in-year data. This will enable relevant and appropriate support and challenge at an earlier stage.
- Develop the embryonic Coastal Challenge work so that the coastal issues around underperformance are addressed e.g. retention and recruitment.
- Implement the recommendations of the Commission building upon current best partnership working.

6.3 How will we know whether our strategies are making a difference?

The outcomes and measuring points are:-

- 2014 Early Years, KS2 and KS4 outcomes and the regional, statistical neighbours and national comparisons
- Regular data updates of Ofsted outcomes with national comparisons. These will be done formally on a quarterly basis and also a monthly basis based on Watchsted.
- The number of schools currently requiring improvement moving to good and the number of schools in a category reducing. No schools declining. These performance indicators are kept under review constantly.
- 2015 and 206 outcomes

7.0 Future reports

7.1 Updates on schools' Ofsted outcomes (October 2104)

Updates on settings' Ofsted outcomes (October 2104)

2014 performance outcomes for all key stages (October 2104)

Recommendations

8.0 Members of the Committee are requested to note and comment on the information in this report.

Pete Dwyer
Corporate Director Children and Young People Service
County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

Author: Jill Hodges
Contact Details: Tel 01609 532843
E-mail jill.hodges@northyorks.gov.uk

18 June 2014

Background Documents: None

Annexes: None

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 June 2014

Work Programme Report

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report asks the Committee to:

- a. Note the information in this report.
- b. Note the information in response to a question to your Chairman County Councillor Shields.
- c. Confirm, amend or add to the list of matters shown on the work programme schedule (attached at Annex A).

2.0 Question at full council 21 May 2014

A question was posed to the Chairman of this Committee at the full Council meeting on the 21 May 2014. The question concerned the known instances of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the county and information on any work being done to prevent it.

2.1 What is FGM?

The term FGM covers all harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes. There are 4 types - all are illegal and have serious health risks.

There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM. It doesn't enhance fertility and it doesn't make childbirth safer. It is used to control female sexuality and can cause severe and long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health.

It has been a criminal offence in the UK since 1985. In 2003 it also became a criminal offence for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to take their child abroad to have female genital mutilation. Anyone found guilty of the offence faces a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison.

www.nspcc.org.uk

2.2 Domestic Abuse Strategy 2014

The new North Yorkshire and York Domestic Abuse Strategy 2014 (<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/28900/Consultation-for-the-draft-North-Yorkshire-and-City-of-York-domestic-abuse-strategy>) recognises the need to take a victim focused approach in order to increase confidence in reporting domestic abuse and to protect victims from experiencing further harm. This includes the aim to improve our understanding of the local impact and our response to so called Honour Base Violence/ Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This is further acknowledged in the 2014-2015 Action Plan for our multi-agency Domestic Abuse Joint Coordinating Group (DAJCG). In collaboration with the Local Safeguarding Board current work is focussing on scoping the local need and level of this 'hidden crime'. Further information and guidance can be found at <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/28675/Domestic-abuse> or through contacting Gemma Ingles NYCC Domestic Abuse Officer at gemma.ingles@northyorks.gov.uk.

In addition all Members are encouraged to engage with their Local Domestic Abuse Forums delivering local action plans reporting to the DAJCG. For further details please contact Gemma Ingles.

3.0 Work Programme Schedule

The Work Programme Schedule is attached at Annex A and Members are asked to consider, amend and add to the Committee's Work Programme.

4.0 Future dates for the Committee

The dates of the next meetings are:

- Friday 24th October 2014
- Friday 30th January 2015
- Friday 1st May 2015

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a. Note the information in this report.
- b. Approve, comment or add to the areas of work listed on the Work Programme schedule.

Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Team Leader
Central Services
County Hall, Northallerton

Report compiled by:	Lorraine Laverton Corporate Development Officer Ext: 2108
Email:	lorraine.laverton@northyorks.gov.uk
Date:	June 2014
Background Documents:	None
Annex:	Annex A – Work programme table

**YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15**

Scope

The interests of young people, including education, care and protection and family support.

Meeting dates

Scheduled Mid Cycle Attended by Lead Members of Committee	TBA	12 Sept 2014 10:30am	5 Dec 2014 10:30am	13 March 2015 10:30am
Scheduled Committee Meetings <i>Agenda briefings to be held at 9.30am prior to Committee meeting. Attended by Lead Members of Committee</i>	27 June 2014 10:30am	24 October 2014 10:30am	30 January 2015 10:30am	1 May 2015 10:30am

In-depth Scrutiny Review

Meeting	SUBJECT	AIMS/TERMS OF REFERENCE	ACTION/BY WHOM
Timescale – Oct 2013 – 27 June 2014	Online safety of children and young people	Agreed by the Young Peoples Overview & Scrutiny Committee at the meeting on 18 Oct 2013. Task Group: C Cllrs Joe Plant, Val Arnold, David Jeffels, Janet Sanderson and co-opted member Graham Richards	Member Task Group Richard Irvine

Meeting	SUBJECT	TERMS OF REFERENCE	ACTION/BY WHOM
27 June 2014	Executive Member / Corporate Director Update	Update from Executive Member / Corporate Director as available Regular update on 2020 North Yorkshire	Executive Member / Corporate Director
	Accommodation and Homelessness	The Young Peoples Accommodation Pathway for 16-25 year olds was launched on the 1 November 2011. Update and progress report	David Walker Jill Boak
	Preventative Services Review	Update for the Committee on the Preventative services Review	Carolyn Bird
	Draft Children and Young Peoples Plan	Draft plan for comment	Pete Dwyer Emma Hubert
	The Promise	Community Engagement Promise - Youth Participation	Jon Coates
	Welfare Reform Act 2012	The impact of the benefits reforms on children, young people and their families.	Jonathan Spencer
	School Improvement – Ofsted outcomes	Update for the Committee on Ofsted outcomes	Jill Hodges Phil Bennington
	Work Programme report	Asking the Committee to comment / amend the work programme for the Committee	Lorraine Laverton
24 October 2014	Executive Member / Corporate Director Update	Update from Executive Member / Corporate Director as available Regular Update on 2020 North Yorkshire	Executive Member / Corporate Director
	Child sexual exploitation	Update on work on-going to prevent child sexual exploitation	Susan Colville
	Update on school improvement		Jill Hodges
	Public Health - Draft Tobacco Control Strategy	Draft Tobacco Control Strategy	Katie Needham / Emma Davis
	Public Health - Draft Mental Health Strategy	To comment on the Public Health - Draft Mental Health Strategy	Claire Robinson Katie Needham

Meeting	SUBJECT	TERMS OF REFERENCE	ACTION/BY WHOM
	Work Programme report	Asking the Committee to comment / amend the work programme for the Committee	Lorraine Laverton
30 January 2015	Executive Member / Corporate Director Update	Update from Executive Member / Corporate Director as available Regular Update on 2020 North Yorkshire	Executive Member / Corporate Director
	Work Programme report	Asking the Committee to comment / amend the work programme for the Committee	Lorraine Laverton

Please note that this is a working document, therefore topics and timeframes might need to be amended over the course of the year.

Reports to be scheduled	Update on North Yorkshire Alcohol Strategy	<i>Update on progress of action plan following presentation of draft strategy to committee in April 2014</i>	
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