

Draft Strategy for meeting the social care needs of disabled children, young people and their families 2015-2018  
Notes taken at Consultation Meeting held at Knaresborough Children's Centre – 20 January 2015  
Closed meeting for parents and carers of children who attend Nidderdale and Beck House Children's Resource Centre

**FOCUS AREA 1 –**

**PROTECTING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

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**FOCUS AREA 2 –**

**REDUCING BUREAUCRACY**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 3 –**

**ENABLING MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Need more choice of services, more Nidd would be preferable not less. Having a DP is fine but can't always be spent. Can't find what you need. Need much more flexibility to meet need.
- Downside of DP – all your eggs in one basket.
- Can work well when the service works but not so good if it breaks down.
- More flexible use of personalisation is needed.

Comments noted.

A general discussion around personalisation took place.

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**FOCUS AREA 4 –**

**REDUCING THE COST OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES OF SUPPORT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 5 –**

**ENHANCING LOCAL PROVISION BY PROVIDING MORE FAMILY BASED SHORT BREAKS**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- It depends on circumstances if families want foster care or not – personal choice of families and young people must be considered.
- Training for Foster Carers is needed for complex needs/challenging behaviour – carers need to be able to do this sort of work.
- Recruiting and maintaining FPs will be hard. 'We live for the short break at Beck'.
- Involve parents in FP recruitment.
- Families should be able to access both CRC's and Foster Care as part of a mixed package of support

Comments noted

Q. It is easier said than done to recruit FPs for disabled children. What will the Authority do if it doesn't recruit enough foster carers.

A. We will need to revisit the proposal to close one of the CRC's if insufficient foster carers are recruited. We will monitor the recruitment of foster carers carefully.

Q. What is the respective cost of foster care compared to CRCs.

A. At the moment we spent approximately £1.75 million per year providing 80 children with access to Children's Resource Centre. It costs the authority approximately £425 per night to place a child in a CRC. A contract carer costs approximately £130 per night and a foster carer approximately £55 per night. .

Q. Is funding available for adaptations to foster carers homes and how much has been set aside?

A. Yes funding is available to adapt foster carers homes. The council has set aside capital funding of £300,000 in order to fund adaptations to the homes of foster carers, where required, in order to ensure that the needs of children and young people can be properly met.

**FOCUS AREA 6 –**

**CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- People do need these breaks and access to a Children's Resource Centre
- CRCs could support new foster carers.
- Staff who work in Children's Resource Centres are trained to support disabled children.

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**FOCUS AREA 7 –**

**MAINTAINING SOME DISCRETIONARY PROVISION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 8 –**

**IMPROVING PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Workers supporting young people in their transition into adulthood is welcomed
- Transitions need to improve – 13 months to get a service is too long. Services aren't available. More providers are needed.

Comments Noted

Q. How soon will the new model for integrated transitions start?

A. The aim is to have the new model in place in the Autumn.



**FOCUS AREA 9 –**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

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- Expanding the use of sitting services in communities is needed.
- There is the potential to use the EHCP to better coordinate support for families

Comments noted.

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**FOCUS AREA 10**

**IMPROVING COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTING**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 11**

**IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Not all parents are in NYPACT or want to be. .
- Parents groups do feed in to NYPACT.

Comments noted.

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**FOCUS AREA 12**

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 13 –**

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- There are difficulties in getting to know what is available. The EHCP Review is a good place to see everyone at once. Embedding SEN and DCS through SEND is the way to improve that communication

Comments noted.

A general discussion took place around the importance of the Local Offer

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**FOCUS AREA 14 –**

**REVIEWING COUNCIL SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RIASED**

No additional comments or questions made

## FOCUS AREA 1

### PROTECTING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVICES

Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel

- The criteria for DCS is set at too high a level – leading to gaps in service provision
- Children are falling through these gaps. There is no service in Children's Social Care to pick these children up (for example children with high functioning autism and FAS).
- There is likely to be an increase in referrals because of Education Health and Care Plans identifying unmet need. This will increase demand for services.

Comments noted.

Q. There are 450 open cases to DCS but has the authority considered any future increase in demand for services as a result of an increase in the number of children born with complex medical needs? What forecasting/mapping has been done?

A We have considered trends over recent years and the number of children open to the Disabled Children's Service. As outlined in the draft strategy, the number of children accessing the Disabled Children's Service has remained at similar levels over recent years with no significant increase.



**FOCUS AREA 2**

**REDUCING BUREAUCRACY**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- The authority could save money by reducing the number of Inclusion Officer posts.

Comment noted

### **FOCUS AREA 3**

#### **ENABLING MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Direct Payment recipients face a lot of bureaucracy.
- Support costs for Direct Payments, especially payroll are expensive and some processes are very bureaucratic. It is expensive to use payroll services.
- Finding the time to manage Direct Payments is hard for some families.
- Parents could use advice or templates (for example for zero hours contracts).

Comments noted.

Q. Recipients of Direct Payments need much more advice. What is the Authority doing to support families.

A. The Authority has a Direct Payment Support Service that can provide support and advice to parents. We will feedback the concerns that have been raised.

**FOCUS AREA 4**

**REDUCING THE COST OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES OF SUPPORT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q. What is the reduction in the overall budget for disabled children's as a %?

A There is an overall reduction of £887k required in provision and staffing budgets for disabled children. This represents a 16.66% reduction.

## **FOCUS AREA 5**

### **ENHANCING LOCAL PROVISION BY PROVIDING MORE FAMILY BASED SHORT BREAKS**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Fragility of foster care – foster care arrangements can break down very easily unlike CRCs which have more resilience.
- The Authority will need to over provide foster care to have sufficient capacity in case of resilience issues.

Comments noted

Q. How will you recruit foster carers and train them? .And is there sufficient time to recruit them?

A We will invest in our in-house fostering service which is well established and well regarded. There will be a targeted recruitment campaign. We will regularly monitor how many foster carers are being recruited. We cannot move to closure of a Children's Resource Centre until we have a sufficiency of foster carers in place.

Q. Has a separate feasibility study been carried out about the availability of foster carers?

A. No but we are confident we have set realistic targets

**FOCUS AREA 6**

**CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 7 –**

**MAINTAINING SOME DISCRETIONARY PROVISION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- The LA is using the grant to 'protect' DCS. Inclusion Officers are gatekeepers of the Eligibility Criteria.
- Some families feel 'fobbed off' by the grant – not a proper service to meet need.
- The grant isn't sufficient to meet need in the families that they meet.
- A lot is spent on the Inclusion Service for very little. Seems too much money is spent on staff to administer a small grant.

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 8 –**

**IMPROVING PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 9 –**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- It takes only a very small amounts of money to help a lot of families to have a break. There seems to be little in Harrogate.

Comments noted.



**FOCUS AREA 10**

**IMPROVING COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTING**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

## **FOCUS AREA 11**

### **IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Seems a lot of funding to give to NYPACT
- Can't get on key strategic groups unless you are a Committee member for NYPACT. NYPACT aren't a wide enough group. You need paid leaders to make a difference. Share out the money into 3 areas to form smaller local groups.
- NYPACT don't engage with all parents. Representation needs widening. NYPACT numbers include professionals and their numbers are misleading.
- Not all parents can engage at the 'right time'.
- Need to use local parent groups not NYPACT – they don't represent the wider groups.
- Not everyone is aware of NYPACT. The authority needs to check if NYPACT is the correct model before funding it further.
- Need to move beyond NYPACT – they don't engage with all parents. You need to widen representation.

Comments noted.

A general discussion took place in relation to NYPACT. It was explained that NYPACT have 900 members and are establishing locality based groups.

**FOCUS AREA 12**

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 13 –**

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 14 –**

**REVIEWING COUNCIL SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED**

- £887k is a drop in the ocean for the Council. Where is the wisdom in cutting this service? There is a lot of bureaucracy elsewhere in the County Council – this amount could be saved elsewhere.
- NYCC fails parents of children with disabilities.
- It appears to be a system running at full capacity already with not a lot of slack. There isn't any give in the service. If further capacity is taken out it will put some families into crisis
- In NY money gets squandered. £887k in that context is nothing. The public sector is poor at managing services with public money
- NY don't have crisis facilities available to families. NY don't enable families to go to work.
- There are insufficient resource to meet the current needs of families.
- Disabled children are not a priority for the Council.
- The Council has 'form' in not consulting properly

Comments noted

Q Has the authority considered the impact to the council's budget as a result of cuts to services leading to family breakdown

A A risk log has been completed

Q Has the expenditure on Foremost not been a lesson learned for NYCC? This should be considered. You have found £12m for Foremost. It quietly got buried and pushed away. It feels like disabled children's services are being punished for the Council's poor management of Foremost.

A We will feedback your comments. Foremost is funded via the Dedicated Schools Grant. This is a separate funding stream to that which supports the Disabled Children's Service.

Q Has the budget reduction been decided?

A We have been set a target of £887k

Q When will Members decide on the draft strategy?

A. Members will consider the outcome of the consultation and make a final decision in May

Q Who has received the letter about the consultation .

A All families open to the Disabled Children's Service and all families who received a short break grant have received the letter about the consultation (450 families open to DCS and 377 SB grant recipients).. All schools have also received the letter.

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**FOCUS AREA 1**

**PROTECTING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVICES**

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No specific comments made

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**FOCUS AREA 2**

**REDUCING BUREAUCRACY**

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No specific comments made



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**FOCUS AREA 3**

**ENABLING MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL**

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No specific comments made

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**FOCUS AREA 4**

**REDUCING THE COST OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES OF SUPPORT**

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No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 5 –**

**ENHANCING LOCAL PROVISION BY PROVIDING MORE FAMILY BASED SHORT BREAKS**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- It will be difficult to find FPs in this area. .
- Giving your child to a family isn't easy and there are problems with continuity when carers aren't available. Foster Carers can be unreliable and are sometimes poorly or on holiday themselves.
- Will still involve travelling, probably quite large distances in NY. Might not feel 'local'.
- There will be significant transport issues for families in Craven (especially North Craven) if the resource is in Harrogate and the CRC closes.
- Families rely on The Ghyll and foster care isn't suitable for their child.

Comments noted:

Q. Foster care is difficult to provide for some children who need night care staff or who have challenging behaviour (for example children who run away). Are you planning foster care for all children?

A. We recognise that we will need to continue to provide access to a children's resource centre for children with very complex medical or behavioural needs. Foster care is not appropriate for all children but many children are suited to family based care.

**FOCUS AREA 6 –**

**CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- We need a local resource.
- There will be high costs in transporting children to Harrogate. This will be a very long journey for children who need to continue to access a CRC if The Ghyll closes.
- Parents really value The Ghyll. It is a good quality service and we want to keep it.
- The children here deserve to have their breaks here.
- Why has the authority spent money on The Ghyll if it may potentially close
- The Ghyll is close to local medical facilities that know the children. Harrogate clinicians will not know our children because their health services are in Craven.
- The authority runs the risk of de-stabilising a really good service while there is a threat of cuts because staff may leave the Ghyll rather than risk losing their jobs later.
- The Ghyll is our lifeline
- There will be a real impact on those families and children who need to move to another CRC in the event of closure.
- We get a fantastic service at The Ghyll. Our children like coming here.

Comments noted

Q. Could Beck and Nidd not be closed and The Ghyll retained? Does The Ghyll have to be the one to close. Why look to Morton and The Ghyll when there are two sites in Harrogate area? What led the LA to focus on Morton and The Ghyll?

A. The authority carried out a detailed analysis of all of the units in putting forward the draft proposals

Q. Could children move to the service of a neighbouring LA if the Ghyll closes? Could the authority commission services from other local authorities.

A. Yes it is possible for the Authority to commission services from other Local authorities. We would look at each child's needs individually.

Q. What is the staff turnover? Is it low? .

A. Staff turnover at the Ghyll is low

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**FOCUS AREA 7 –**

**MAINTAINING SOME DISCRETIONARY PROVISION**

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General support for families who have received a discretionary service to continue to have it in the future.

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**FOCUS AREA 8 –**

**IMPROVING PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 9 –**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

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Parents don't have the time to contribute to community activity and organisation and are often exhausted by carrying out their care role.

Comments noted.

Q. Doesn't the authority face a challenge in getting the VCS active in very rural areas.

A. We recognise the challenge for rural areas but there are some very good examples of rural areas having strong support via the VCS. A good example is Ryedale Special Families in Ryedale. This type of support needs to be promoted in Craven. The LA's Stronger Communities team can help with this.

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**FOCUS AREA 10**

**IMPROVING COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTING**

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No specific comments made



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## **FOCUS AREA 11**

### **IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Q. Who are NYPACT? We have little understanding about who NYPACT are and who 'represents' Craven.  
A. Explanation given as to who NYPACT are. Parents/carers signposted to the Local Offer Website and NYPACT website.

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**FOCUS AREA 12 –**

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- It is a good service – don't change it!

Comments noted

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**FOCUS AREA 13 –**

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

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No specific comments made

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**FOCUS AREA 14 –  
REVIEWING COUNCIL SERVICES**

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No specific comments made

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED:**

It is a great service at The Ghyll. Don't change it.

You must get the views of the young people who actually use The Ghyll-even if they can't tell you sometimes you can see that they are happy there.

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 1 –**

**PROTECTING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 2 –**

**REDUCING BUREAUCRACY**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Current SB Grant system is very bureaucratic. It needs to be simplified.

Comments noted.

Q. Families need to know that a worker is involved. How will this be managed?

A. All families will be provided with a named worker who they can contact at any time should they have questions or concerns.

**FOCUS AREA 3 –**

**ENABLING MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- We need a more individualised approach to meeting assessed needs using DP has to be more flexible.
- Using DP is sometimes difficult.
- Procedures as a PA are difficult.
- PAs are lone workers. Rates of pay are very low and don't attract quality workforce.
- Take home pay of £6.40 an hour is very low to attract good carers.
- Greater support for families to access DPs is needed.
- Difficulty in getting people to buy care from or to purchase other services.
- Families feel a huge responsibility taking a DP and being an employer for 'little payback'.

Comments noted



**FOCUS AREA 4 –**

**REDUCING THE COST OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES OF SUPPORT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Could have a knock on effect for agencies. Will it be about agencies reducing their costs too
- A reduced offer to new entrants might not be fair and would be inconsistent. Any changes to service response needs to be across the board and not just for new entrants..
- Families talk to one another about the overall level of support offered
- This element of the proposal needs to be carefully managed

Comments noted.

**FOCUS AREA 5 –**

**ENHANCING LOCAL PROVISION BY PROVIDING MORE FAMILY BASED SHORT BREAKS**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Family based isn't for everyone. Some families may feel that their child is at greater risk in a family based setting than in a residential care setting.
- Children like to see their friends at the CRC.
- Not all families will be keen on it. Family based care isn't for all children
- The Authority needs to consider the needs of looked after children who use the CRC's
- It is not likely to be possible to find two sets of (Contract) carers with that level of skill.

Comments noted

Q. What will the Authority do if it cannot find the volume of foster carers it requires.

A- We will review carefully our recruitment campaign. If we cannot recruit a sufficiency of new foster carers then we will review the proposal to close a CRC

**FOCUS AREA 6 –**

**CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Relationships between Brooklands Special School and The Ghyll will be lost if The Ghyll closes.
- If the child's CRC is a long distance from home and school it will add to the Authority's transport costs
- Some children have mixed packages of support. This needs to be protected.

Comments noted

Q. What is the definition of LAC in the context of a CRC.

A- Fully LAC or shared care over 120 nts.

Q. Has the authority looked at the complexity of disabled children who require a CRC.

A- Yes. We have looked carefully at what is needed. We acknowledge that children with the most complex medical and behavioural needs will still require access to a CRC.

**FOCUS AREA 7 –**

**MAINTAINING SOME DISCRETIONARY PROVISION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Managing the short break grant could be done better
- The system is too bureaucratic. It needs to be simplified.
- The short break grant system could focus on children who have had a TAC
- The short break grant needs to be more based on need at a certain time to get away from the sense of entitlement that some families think that they have at the start of the financial year. It shouldn't be every family every April. Need does not work like that.

Comments noted

Q. Will the short break grant be capped and what will be the eligibility criteria and amount per family?

A. We are proposing that the short break grant is capped at £100,000 per annum. We are proposing that the details of the grant scheme (eligibility, application process and amount per family) would be consulted upon in the 2015 Short Break Statement review

**FOCUS AREA 8 –**

**IMPROVING PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 9 –**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

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- Would be welcoming in Craven for a voluntary/community group to take a lead in this area. SELFA, Brookland Buddies & Sparkles are existing local groups and are all keen to engage.
- There is an appetite to grow a local service similar to Ryedale Special Families in the Craven area

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 10**

**IMPROVING COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTING**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 11**

**IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made



**FOCUS AREA 12 –**

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 13 –**

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 14 –**

**REVIEWING COUNCIL SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- There is a risk of separating care, health and education by making savings in one particular area
- Need to ensure consistency in assessment and provision.

Comments noted

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED**

- We are keen to further promote the voluntary and community sector in the Craven area and we need support from the Council to do this

Comment noted.

Draft Strategy for meeting the social care needs of disabled children, young people and their families 2015-2018  
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**FOCUS AREA 1 –**

**PROTECTING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- I think you have done well overall with the strategy – in view of the cuts which have to be made
- If the service was spread any thinner it would be unsafe.
- The service should focus on the most severely disabled children.
- Will we get a good quality service, but less of it
- Are you taking more children with behavioural needs.

Comments noted

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**FOCUS AREA 2 –**

**REDUCING BUREAUCRACY**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Would not like to have to start the process all over again.
- There should be a courtesy call every now and again for de-escalated cases – to check if things are ok.

Comments noted

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**FOCUS AREA 3 –**

**ENABLING MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 4 –**

**REDUCING THE COST OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES OF SUPPORT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- It does not seem fair! I came from Wakefield and there was a maximum number of nights. Any number over 75 nights had to use a different resource.
- More is not necessarily better. May need to use what you have in a different way.
- My child only gets 18 nights a year but I want that to increase gradually. Would the authority be seeking to reduce existing cases
- We are lucky to have had the same Social worker for some time. We think our assessment is accurate as the Social Worker has seen us in all our situations. Our Social Worker is Intuitive and a good listener.
- It is not fair to give a newcomer less. Families will miss out on the care they need.

Comments noted.

A broad discussion took place around personalisation and personalised packages and what families may come up with by way of creative solutions.



**FOCUS AREA 5 –**  
**ENHANCING LOCAL PROVISION BY PROVIDING MORE FAMILY BASED SHORT BREAKS**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- We used to use family based. Family carers used to cancel at the last minute. A second placement ended because of a need for adaptations.
- Concern raised that some foster carers locally with adaptations are retiring.
- What if a family does not want a family placement. Need to consider the views of parents/carers
- Families should have funding for their own adaptations.
- If children are capable of being in a family why are they in a CRC?

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 6 –**

**CHILDREN’S RESOURCE CENTRES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Some families may feel children are more at risk of abuse in a family.
- Children can be abused anywhere.
- It is better to send children to a family if they can – to save money.
- If a CRC is closed – will some children need to come to May Lodge and will this put pressure on May Lodge?

Q. Can some children stay at the CRC until they are 19 and they leave special school

A. We are looking to extend the age range of CRC’s to 19 in order to aid more effective transition to adulthood for some children. This will require Ofsted approval.

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**FOCUS AREA 7 –**

**MAINTAINING SOME DISCRETIONARY PROVISION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- It would be better to give families £500 to ‘keep them out of your hair’ and reduce the need for statutory services
- It was £250 in Wakefield.
- Summer holidays are the most difficult time for families.

Comments noted

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**FOCUS AREA 8 –**  
**IMPROVING PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- We welcome this part of the proposal

Comments noted

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**FOCUS AREA 9 –**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- How do you know the voluntary sector are not already struggling
- Are you relying on them
- How do you assess what voluntary agencies can do
- It is very hard to get information about what is available locally

Comments noted

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**FOCUS AREA 10**

**IMPROVING COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTING**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Will there be a Framework Agreement for voluntary providers?
- I would rather pay a Direct Payment so I know the job is done well.
- We want a list of providers available to parents.
- I prefer to use an agency.
- We should have a ‘provider’s fair’ to show what is available

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 11**

**IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Local parents are not involved with NYPACT
- NYPACT is more about Education (not Social Care)
- The voice of children with complex needs are not heard
- A child has to be able to talk to be heard.
- Children with severe learning and communication difficulties – need to be taken into account.
- How will you meet the needs of children with challenging behaviour? Need to make sure the cuts don’t affect them.

Comments noted

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**FOCUS AREA 12 –**

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made



**FOCUS AREA 13 –**  
**IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- There needs to be more information about what is available.
- All information needs to come from one source.
- Parents don’t always know about the Local Offer

Comments noted

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**FOCUS AREA 14 –**  
**REVIEWING COUNCIL SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**Draft Strategy for meeting the social care needs of disabled children, young people and their families 2015-2018**  
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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED**

No additional comments made

Draft Strategy for meeting the social care needs of disabled children, young people and their families 2015-2018  
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**FOCUS AREA 1 –**

**PROTECTING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

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**FOCUS AREA 2 –**

**REDUCING BUREAUCRACY**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 3 –**

**ENABLING MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Families need more flexibility. There are different ways of meeting assessed need
- Some families end up in services because there is so little choice. May give choice but you still need something to buy.
- Not all families want to take up a direct payment or personalisation

Comments noted.

Discussion took place around Direct Payment Support Service, the establishment of a Provider Forum and how we could encourage families and workers to be more flexible in terms of their approach to personalisation.

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**FOCUS AREA 4 –**

**REDUCING THE COST OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES OF SUPPORT**

Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel

**FOCUS AREA 5 –**

**ENHANCING LOCAL PROVISION BY PROVIDING MORE FAMILY BASED SHORT BREAKS**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q. - Has the Authority considered the cost of adaptations?

A. - Yes. We have a budget to make adaptations to carers home.

Q. - Won't it be a struggle to recruit FPs for disabled children?

A. - We do have a good Fostering Service in North Yorks. We are investing in the service. There will be a targeted recruitment of carers for disabled children.

Q. - Some YP have very complex needs and foster care might not be suitable.

A. - We acknowledge that not every child can be cared for in a family based setting by a foster carer .

Q. - Some families have experienced family based breaks and them breaking down or falling through. It is heart breaking to have a match break down. Foster carers need to be trained and to be able to cope.

A. - This is unfortunate. Many families do, however, have a very positive experience of placing their child with a foster carer for a short break.

Q. - It is a 24 hour responsibility. Some children's needs get more complex over time, how will foster carers have the skill to meet these needs? .

A. - We recognise the need for specialist training of foster carers.



**FOCUS AREA 6 –**

**CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- We are proud of the CRC and it should be retained. Children like coming here and they enjoy peer relationships.
- Family based care will not suit all families
- Some children will continue to require a CRC
- Transport costs need to be factored in
- It is such a fight to get a service. The Authority should be expanding not reducing its services
- There are highly skilled staff at Morton on Swale CRC. It would be a loss to lose such skilled staff.
- You are at risk of losing good quality staff because of the threat of cuts to jobs.
- It is unfair to target Morton and The Ghyll

Comments noted

Q. What if a CRC was closing. What is the plan?

A. We will carefully review our recruitment of foster carers. If sufficient foster carers were recruited then we would need to separately consult on the closure of any CRC.

Q. Have the proposals in relation to CRC's been influenced by the value of land?

A. No. Capital receipts have not been considered at this stage.

Q. You have said you have looked at all children currently accessing a CRC – of the 80 children currently using CRC's you have said that nearly half could be placed in a family based setting if such a setting were available. Would all of these children have to go into foster care?

A. This was a benchmarking exercise to look at the overall make up of children currently accessing the CRC's and to consider how many children could be placed in foster care if it were available (with adaptations to properties where necessary). Moving forward if foster care was being proposed for a child – each child would be looked at individually.

Q. - Has the age and location of families been looked at?

A. - Yes. We considered this as part of our proposals.

**FOCUS AREA 7 –**

**MAINTAINING SOME DISCRETIONARY PROVISION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- We want to have it recorded that we really value the service at East Barnby.
- The services provided at East Barnby are fantastic! Other groups wouldn't take a disabled young person.

Comments noted

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**FOCUS AREA 8 –**

**IMPROVING PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments raised

**FOCUS AREA 9 –**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- There are families who need services in communities and don't receive services. Need to expand not save.

Comments noted

A discussion took place regarding the importance of VCS in localities to help families.

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**FOCUS AREA 10**

**IMPROVING COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTING**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

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**FOCUS AREA 11**

**IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

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**FOCUS AREA 12 –**

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

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**FOCUS AREA 13 –**  
**IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made



**FOCUS AREA 14 –  
REVIEWING COUNCIL SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Don't cut services for disabled children.

Comments noted

**Draft Strategy for meeting the social care needs of disabled children, young people and their families 2015-2018**  
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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED**

No additional comments made

**FOCUS AREA 1 –**

**PROTECTING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 2 –**

**REDUCING BUREAUCRACY**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q: Will there be a named person families can contact ?

A: Yes. All families will be provided with the named worker who they can contact at any time should they have any issues or concerns

Q: My child's needs fluctuate, they can be stable for a while and then change. If we don't have an allocated worker for a while, would we get the same worker back if we needed one again ?

A: We will try and give continuity of worker where we can.

Q: Can families say if they don't want a visit as often ?

A: Yes, except where we have statutory requirements to visit.

**FOCUS AREA 3 –**

**ENABLING MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q: Will families getting a Direct Payment get advice about how to obtain a service?

A: Yes. Families can have advice from the Direct Payment Support Service and from a social worker.

Q: What if a family's needs can't be met by a Direct Payment?

A: Families don't have to use a Direct Payment. We will be working with a provider forum to develop more services in some areas where services are scarce.

Q: We have had problems getting training for Direct Payment staff, will there be more support ? We have just had a 3 month wait for training?

A: We are aware of the gaps in training for DP staff and for other short break providers.

Q: If families can come up with a solution which would help us, could this be funded ? (On the basis of increased Personalisation)

A: Yes, if the solution is reasonable, and will meet your assessed needs.

There was a very positive discussion about Personalisation

**FOCUS AREA 4 –**

**REDUCING THE COST OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES OF SUPPORT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q: Could we have a more flexible approach ? Look at more creative ways to meet needs which could be more cost effective ?

A: We acknowledge the need for flexibility. We need to listen more to families and look at discussing with families how to meet needs differently.

Q: Advocacy Alliance are concerned about families who are not articulate and not able to speak up for themselves. Advocacy Alliance has lost it's funding for parents/carers. Who will speak for the "empty chairs" of parents who can't speak for themselves ?

A: There are plans to develop a "Scarborough Special Families" similar to the model in Ryedale. This is being looked at right now, and will hopefully start soon. This will provide support to parents and a "voice".

Q: Is it legal to offer less to new entrants to the service?

A: Comment noted. Through the consultation questionnaire we have asked respondents provide their views on this aspect of the proposals.

**FOCUS AREA 5 –**

**ENHANCING LOCAL PROVISION BY PROVIDING MORE FAMILY BASED SHORT BREAKS**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q: How many short break carers are there now in this area ?

A: Six

Q: How will you recruit more ?

A: We have found that targeted recruitment works best, for example people who already work in health, education or social care. Contract carers give up work and receive a salary for this work, which makes it more attractive. Contract carers take several children, usually about six, so they are able to deliver short breaks to several families. We are investing in our in-house fostering service which is well established and well regarded. There will be a targeted recruitment campaign to attract new foster carers.

Q: We already have Woodlands Hostel, but funding is reduced ? Why not expand the services? Why not use Wellburn Hall School to offer short breaks?

A: There has been considerable previous discussion regarding the use of Woodlands Hostel and the funding of the Hostel. The Hostel can't be funded via the social care budget. Regarding Wellburn Hall School this currently doesn't provide short break services but we have noted the suggestion

**FOCUS AREA 6 –**

**CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made



**FOCUS AREA 7 –**

**MAINTAINING SOME DISCRETIONARY PROVISION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q: Is East Barnby Closing ?

A: No. We are proposing to remove an element of the funding specific to disabled children.

Q: We would like to use East Barnby more, but can't afford to get there ?

A: Ryedale Special Families indicated that voluntary organisations can help to raise funds for non statutory things like transport to activities.

Q: For families who don't meet DCS criteria what will be available ?

A: Short Break Grants, Preventive Services, Children's Social Care. RSF also explained that they offer services to families who don't meet DCS criteria. The new "Scarborough Special Families" may be able to do the same for Scarborough. It was explained that NYCC would not expect voluntary organisations to meet statutory needs, but they can do a lot to support families.

Q: It takes a long time to mobilise communities

A; This is recognised. Communities and local groups will be supported to become self sustaining.

Q: What will happen to the Inclusion Officers role ?

A: Inclusion Officers will be included and consulted upon as part of a future staffing restructure of the Disabled Children's Service.

Q: How are you making sure the short break grants are being spent on short breaks ? Do you ask for receipts?

A: We do a "random" receipts audit.

**FOCUS AREA 8 –**

**IMPROVING PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

General support for this aspect of the strategy.

**FOCUS AREA 9 –**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

## **FOCUS AREA 10**

### **IMPROVING COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTING**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- We should avoid the use of “jargon” and use plain language

Comment noted

Q: What is “Domiciliary Care” ?

A: Care for children in their own home by trained carers, registered with CQC.

There was a general discussion about the importance of parents knowing what is available within the local area and the need for better information.

## **FOCUS AREA 11**

### **IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- The new Scarborough Special Families group will provide much needed support to families. Acknowledged that NYPACT are also trying hard to increase engagement on the Coast. There is a meeting at “The Street” on 2 March at 6 pm. There is a local Facebook page. General discussion about engaging hard to reach families, and how to let families know about things which are happening in the local area.
- Individual advocacy is needed for vulnerable parents. Many parents cannot manage without this support.
- General discussion around how voluntary organisations and parent groups can help to support families. It was acknowledged that Ryedale Special Families do some of this work and hopefully the development on the Coast of Scarborough Special Families will also help to support more families.
- Ryedale Special Families gave some excellent examples of the ways voluntary organisations can raise money, which could be replicated in Scarborough.
- Mutual support would help families, and may reduce the cost of short break services.

Comments noted

Q: Who are the “Flying High” group ?

A: A group of disabled young people who help with consultation of children and young people. They are supported by Barnardo's.

**FOCUS AREA 12 –**

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 13 –**

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 14 –**

**REVIEWING COUNCIL SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made



**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED**

No additional comments made

**FOCUS AREA 1 –**

**PROTECTING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 2 –**

**REDUCING BUREAUCRACY**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Families really benefit from family days at East Barnby

Comment noted

**FOCUS AREA 3 –**

**ENABLING MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- It would be helpful to know what we could have (in terms of services).
- It can be hard to know what would be needed by a family.
- Families need change over time.

Comments noted

A discussion took place about personalisation and the need for the Authority to be more flexible about interpreting how assessed needs might be met and negotiated with families.

**FOCUS AREA 4 –**

**REDUCING THE COST OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES OF SUPPORT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- It is important to know what is available and who you can see when you need that help.
- Any system needs to be fair and transparent.

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 5 –**

**ENHANCING LOCAL PROVISION BY PROVIDING MORE FAMILY BASED SHORT BREAKS**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Q. How will you recruit more Foster Carers? It will take time to recruit them. Are they out there?  
A. We will have a targeted recruitment campaign and are investing in our in house Fostering Service which is well regarded and well established. This is a 3 year Strategy and we believe the targets are realistic. We will regularly review how the recruitment campaign is progressing
- Q. How much will you save by using family based care?  
A. It is considerably cheaper to place children in family based care. The average cost of a night in a Children's Resource Centre is £425 per night compared to £130 per night for a child to be placed with a Contract Carer or approximately £55 per night to be placed with a Foster Carer. We are aware that we need to grow the supply of foster carers if we are to reduce costs and encourage more choice for families.
- Q. Are prospective Foster Carers rigorously assessed?  
A. Yes. There is a rigorous assessment process and very careful matching

**FOCUS AREA 6 –**

**CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 7 –**

**MAINTAINING SOME DISCRETIONARY PROVISION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made



**FOCUS AREA 8 –**

**IMPROVING PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 9 –**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- There are some excellent local groups in the area. POSH is really supportive (parent of recently diagnosed child with Autism). Pendragon Community Trust have set up an all-age sensory centre in Northallerton.
- We need to encourage more local groups to be established and promote awareness of them.

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 10**

**IMPROVING COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTING**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 11**

**IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 12 –**

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 13 –**

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 14 –**

**REVIEWING COUNCIL SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED**

No additional comments made



**FOCUS AREA 1 –**

**PROTECTING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 2 –**

**REDUCING BUREAUCRACY**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- It feels reassuring to know that someone is available and that someone can come out if needed.

Comment noted

**FOCUS AREA 3 –**

**ENABLING MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- DPs can work for families who employ their own PA's
- Availability of services to buy can be an issue
- Can be gaps in service if a carer has time off.
- The authority needs to be more flexible and allow more choice and control to families.

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 4 –**

**REDUCING THE COST OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES OF SUPPORT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Families might want more not less.
- People will want what they can get for their child.

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 5 –**

**ENHANCING LOCAL PROVISION BY PROVIDING MORE FAMILY BASED SHORT BREAKS**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Targeted recruitment of foster carers will be needed
- There are challenges in managing children with more complex needs. It is harder to meet the needs of these children in a family based
- Foster Care won't be suitable for all children.

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 6 –**

**CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q. Have you considered the pressure on the CRCs that will remain open if one were to close?

A. Yes. We would need the availability of families in order to manage the demand on the remaining CRCs. We could consider opening on currently closed nights if more capacity was needed.

**FOCUS AREA 7 –**

**MAINTAINING SOME DISCRETIONARY PROVISION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Barnby and Bewerley Park Outdoor Education provide an excellent service to disabled children and are really valued by families
- There are families from outside the area using Barnby and Bewerley Park
- Barnby and Bewerley Park Could charge for the activities for children and families. If people were paying for the service there wouldn't be so many non-attendees.

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 8 –**

**IMPROVING PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made



**FOCUS AREA 9 –**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- There are a number of local groups which are well established (for example Ripon Acorns and Carers Resource in Harrogate) but some groups struggle to get established
- The Authority needs to support local groups to come together

Comments noted

Discussion took place around the Stronger Communities Team and the need for active engagement of the voluntary and community sector

**FOCUS AREA 10**

**IMPROVING COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTING**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 11**

**IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 12 –**

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 13 –**

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 14 –**

**REVIEWING COUNCIL SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED**

No additional comments made

**FOCUS AREA 1 –**

**PROTECTING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made



**FOCUS AREA 2 –**

**REDUCING BUREAUCRACY**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q. Can families say if they don't want a visit as often?

A: Yes, except where we have statutory requirements to visit

**FOCUS AREA 3 –**

**ENABLING MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Direct Payments can offer more choice and help families ‘give up’ other services.
- Some families experience a lot of difficulties in achieving choice and control over the services they access because there is little to buy in the Selby area.
- The Authority has done little to increase choice for families in the area. Why would we trust you with us and our issues in the future?
- DP can be really good but only if they have good carers (PAs)
- The value of Direct Payments (in terms of hourly and overnight rate) has not increased for 2 years, as a result the value of it has proportionately reduced.
- Carers move on and you have to begin again.
- The Authority could consider carrying out the payroll function. It would be cheaper.
- The Direct Payment Support Service is not child focussed. It comes from an adult perspective.
- Parents need to know how to recruit carers.
- LA could perhaps recruit PAs too.

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 4 –**

**REDUCING THE COST OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES OF SUPPORT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 5 –**

**ENHANCING LOCAL PROVISION BY PROVIDING MORE FAMILY BASED SHORT BREAKS**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- It may be very difficult to recruit foster carers in this area
- There is a risk of foster care breaking down. It is unfair to keep exposing children to placements that fail
- Experience and specialist skills are important when recruiting foster carers for disabled children

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 6 –**

**CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- The Authority needs to open a CRC in Selby not close Morton on Swale CRC. There is insufficient supply.
- It would be a great concern if Morton were to close
- The chance to mix with other children is vitally important.
- A foster carer won't be able to do any more than a parent themselves.
- There should be more resources for disabled children and their families, not less

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 7 –**

**MAINTAINING SOME DISCRETIONARY PROVISION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- East Barnby provides children a fabulous holiday. For some families this is the only holiday they can enjoy.
- If the VCS run East Barnby their funding won't be guaranteed

Comments noted

Q. When is the review of the Short Break Grant Statement going to be consulted upon.

A A date for consultation has not been determined as yet

**FOCUS AREA 8 –**

**IMPROVING PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 9 –**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Development of local partnerships in Selby could help improve the services that are available.
- There are some groups available to families in Selby (for example Bee Able)
- A branch of NYPACT is needed in Selby.
- People don't know what is available
- Need to encourage better integration of Education, Health and social Care provision especially in Selby where there are less resources.
- We need to encourage special schools to provide more social options for parents and children to meet together
- The Authority is at risk of over relying on the VCS because they have capacity issues too.
- The VCS are fighting for every bit of funding and need to fund raise.

Comments noted



**FOCUS AREA 10**

**IMPROVING COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTING**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- There is a lack of provision in the Selby area
- A number of children have to access services that are outside of the local area and in some cases it may be necessary to look at what other local authorities can provide by way of services

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 11**

**IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- NYPACT do not represent Selby families – none of the Committee come from this area.

Comments noted

A discussion took place about NYPACT and the proposal to establish locality based groups.

**FOCUS AREA 12 –**

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 13 –**

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 14 –**

**REVIEWING COUNCIL SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- There are too few staff already and they are severely stretched in the Selby area.
- We need the support of Social Workers.
- The Social Worker is the lynchpin for services and they are often stretched.
- Don't need a qualified Social Worker all the time. A person with local intelligence doesn't have to be a qualified Social Worker.
- It is hard for some families to call for the help of a Social Worker. Families can be reluctant to ask for a visit.

Comments noted

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED:**

- The draft strategy could generally be seen as positive.
- Local voluntary and community groups are keen to engage and draw on good practice from elsewhere

## **FOCUS AREA 1**

### **PROTECTING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVICES**

Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel

Q: Do you have different “grades” of eligibility ?

A: No. The threshold to the service is:

“The disabled child or young person has needs arising from a learning disability and / or a physical disability which have a substantial and long term adverse effect on carrying out normal day to day activities “

Once a child is in the service, the family gets a package designed to meet their individual needs.

Q: Is NYCC aware of the Warwickshire case?. NYCC should have a disabled children’s register.

A: Yes the Authority are aware of the Warwickshire Case. Comment noted in relation to disabled children’s register.

**FOCUS AREA 2 –**

**REDUCING BUREAUCRACY**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- It is important that caseloads aren't overly increased for qualified social workers.
- It is important to protect qualified staff
- The quality of staff working with disabled children is important

Comments noted. The importance of good quality staff was discussed as was managing social worker caseloads

Q: Will there be fewer qualified social workers?

A: We will try to protect qualified social workers as part of any future staffing review

Q: The quality of the people NYCC employs is very important and will be the key to success. Will you employ more unqualified staff?

A: We understand the importance of families receiving a good quality service and maintaining a sufficiency of qualified social workers. All staffing in the Disabled Children's Service will be subject to a future staffing review and we will bear these comments in mind as part of this process

Q: Will the 130 people without a case worker have a named social worker

A: All families will have a named point of contact who they can contact at any time should they have any issues or concerns.



**FOCUS AREA 3 –**

**ENABLING MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q: How will families get support with Direct Payments? Eg paperwork ?

A: NYCC's Direct Payment Support Service can provide support. There are also managed direct payments available for families who need more support eg support with payroll and recruitment. There are agencies who can support families in this way and we can provide information as to who they are.

Q: How will you make sure families don't spend all the payment on a holiday and then have no support ?

A: Families sign a "Direct Payment Agreement" which is a legal document which specifies what it is for. They have to send in returns to the council so it can be monitored.

**FOCUS AREA 4 –**

**REDUCING THE COST OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES OF SUPPORT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q: The Children and Families Act talks of joining up funding across health, Education and social care. Will this improve the level of funding from health for young people ?

A: Comment in relation to health funding noted. The Council has good links with the Partnership Commissioning Unit.

**FOCUS AREA 5 –**

**ENHANCING LOCAL PROVISION BY PROVIDING MORE FAMILY BASED SHORT BREAKS**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q: There are problems nationally recruiting foster carers. How will you recruit ? How many are you seeking to find ?

A: We already have a number of foster carers but we aim to recruit about 28 more.

Q: There can be a block if there is only one carer (contract care) there would be more flexibility if there were two approved carers, as some children need two. Is this being looked at?

A: Comment noted. .We will consider this

Q: Will you be looking at “Staying Put” for these children?

A: Comment noted. There have been some barriers to disabled young people remaining in foster placement after 18 years, and some foster carers have been required to re-register as adult carers. It is hoped that disabled young people in foster care will be able to remain with their carers until the end of their education – post 18 years. This is being looked at.

**FOCUS AREA 6 –**

**CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 7 –**

**MAINTAINING SOME DISCRETIONARY PROVISION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- If you make eligibility too tight it could cost you more. Sometimes a bit of help can prevent more problems later and prevent the need for statutory services.
- If families don't have the grant the Authority will get more statutory cases. How do we quantify that?
- In Ryedale the grant had a positive impact, but £500 won't be enough for children who need 1:1 support.

Comments noted

Q: Have you thought about what the proposed reduction from £150k to £100k will mean for recipients of the grant moving forward?

A: If the overall budget were to reduce to £100k, then we will need to carefully consider this. If we continue to provide for the same number of families (approximately 377) then the grant and the amount per family would need to be reduced. If we retain the grant at £500 (as currently) then less families will be able to receive it. We have no fixed view on this as yet.

**FOCUS AREA 8 –**

**IMPROVING PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 9 –**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Ryedale Special Families indicated that voluntary organisations can assist by raising funds for non statutory work so the council can focus on statutory services.

Comment noted

A discussion took place around the funding the Authority has provided for a 'Scarborough Special Families' to be set up and this will be supported by Coast and Vale with support from Ryedale Special Families. It was indicated that there are some very good examples of voluntary sector organisations actively supporting their local communities and that the Authority aim to put community groups in touch with each other so good practice can be shared.

**FOCUS AREA 10**

**IMPROVING COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTING**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

There was a good discussion about establishing a provider forum and also working more closely with providers who deliver Adult Services.



## **FOCUS AREA 11**

### **IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- It is very important to engage with young people, but not put them off. The authority needs to learn from what happened with the “Innovations Fund
- The engagement of families and voluntary organisations is very important. Concern raised about vulnerable families who don't tend to come to events. Indicated that articulate families tend to get their voices heard whereas more vulnerable families don't. Indicated that lots of families benefit from being in touch with other families. Discussed that NYPAC have 900 members and are very keen to reach more families via locality groups. Also indicated that there are other organisations who can support families to have their voices heard.

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 12 –**

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 13 –**

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments raised

**FOCUS AREA 14 –**

**REVIEWING COUNCIL SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

## **GENERAL COMMENTS**

Q: What is the timetable for this process?

A: Members will consider the outcome of the consultation in May. It is a 3 year strategy but some aspects will be implemented sooner.

Ryedale Special provided an overview of what they considered were the good aspects of the draft strategy and the aspects that were of concern to them :

### Good aspects:

1. Transitions
2. Reduced bureaucracy
3. Investment in fostering
4. Overall impressed by proposals for how savings can be made
5. Potential to develop "Scarborough Special Families" to provide support, raise funds and add value to statutory services.
6. Engagement of parent/carers in the process

### Concerns:

1. The proposal that new families get less.
2. Short break grants should continue, but £500 is not enough for those children who need 1:1 support.
3. Direct payments – There are concerns about the HR problems parents sometimes have when employing staff, when they don't have the protection of an organisation to support them. Safeguarding concerns etc.

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 1 –**

**PROTECTING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 2 –**

**REDUCING BUREAUCRACY**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- We already only see our social worker twice a year
- My experience is you only see them more often when a crisis happens
- I would expect a home visit, not just meet the social worker at a review, you can't talk about confidential family matters in a meeting
- It would be good to have the name of someone I can contact

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 3 –**

**ENABLING MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- One attendee indicated that they had had a bad experience with a Direct Payment and had got behind with their paperwork leading to a repayment having to be made
- One attendee indicated that they can get a managed account if parents/carers don't want to do paperwork
- One attendee indicated that they use Direct payments and were a huge advocate. They indicated that parents and carers can get support with their DP if they found it hard to manage.
- It is important to dispel the myths. People think they have to be self employed to be a DP support worker. They are properly employed. Parents can combine forces and share the employment of a worker to make up their hours to a living wage.

Comments noted

A discussion took place regarding the support that can be offered to parents carers in the management of direct payments either through the Authority's Direct Payment Support Service or through agencies like NYSIL.

One parent gave an example of using her Direct Payment to pay "companions" for her son with Autism, and asked him to comment. The young person said he liked having a "companion" male carer of younger age rather than someone older and more obviously a "carer"



**FOCUS AREA 4 –**

**REDUCING THE COST OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES OF SUPPORT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Wider use of Direct payments could reduce costs, since these do not include the profit which agencies take. Families can use agencies like NYSIL to help them run the DP.
- Often money is departmentalised in the Council. If you joined it up more, money could be saved. For example transport is funded both from schools and social care, with duplication and too much money spent. The purchasing of transport should be joined up more.
- Taxis coming from Middlesbrough infuriates me, money is being wasted
- You should not have 1 rule for one family and another rule for another
- I struggle when things change as there is a cost involved in changing the system.
- Stop wasting money on talking
- It is a legal obligation in the Care Act that carers have to be able to work
- At the time you find out your child has a disability you need support
- Ask families to come up with creative ideas for saving money, families will help to come up with ideas
- It is not fair to give less resources to new families

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 5 –**

**ENHANCING LOCAL PROVISION BY PROVIDING MORE FAMILY BASED SHORT BREAKS**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- We have spoken to a family who have experienced both family based and residential overnight care, and they prefer family based. The child has the same carers all the time and consistency is better.
- Parents of disabled young people who are growing up now may be willing to work as foster carers. We have the skills and experience

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 6 –**

**CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q: Do May Lodge use agency staff ? I had heard there were agency staff working there ?

A: They do try not to, but it can be necessary during periods when staff levels are low.

**FOCUS AREA 7 –**

**MAINTAINING SOME DISCRETIONARY PROVISION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- £500 seems a small amount, but it is massive for the families who receive it and does a lot to help us
- This grant is all we have. Taking a third off the only support we have is unfair
- If I don't get my support this way I will make a referral to DCS, as my family will not be able to manage. Come and live in my house for 24 hours
- £500 is not enough for families whose children need 1:1 support. These families will have to go to DCS and cause you more work.
- The grant creates a social life for children who don't get a social life, and gives parents and siblings a break.
- Short Break Grants to parent's bank accounts are a pain, and have made more work for families and voluntary organisations. Can we go back to payment being made direct to the provider ?

Q: Will we get to see the outcome of the consultation?

A: Yes

Q: What will the proposed reduction from £150k to £100k mean for recipients of the grant moving forward?

A: If the overall budget were to reduce to £100k, then we will need to carefully consider this. If we continue to provide for the same number of families (approximately 377) then the grant and amount per family would need to be reduced. If we retain the grant at £500 (as currently) then less families will be able to receive it. We have no fixed view on this as yet.

**FOCUS AREA 8 –**

**IMPROVING PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q: Is the introduction of a new model for Integrated Transitions because of the change to EHCP from Statement ?

A: This aspect of the proposal is about improving transition into adulthood.

Q: Can young people stay with the same health professionals after 18 years?

A: It is varied depending on the area of health.

Q: When the new Integrated Transitions Service is established will young people continue to access the same social worker until they transition into adult services?

A: Yes. This is the aim. Some young people take longer to transition than others and need more specialist support. Not everyone with an EHCP will require support post 18 but some young people who need additional support will continue to access a social worker in children's services.

Comment : This is good, we had to change our social worker when my (son) was 18

**FOCUS AREA 9 –**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Families with disabled children are on lower incomes, they can't go to work.
- Families experience a lot of stress
- The 7 week school holidays have caused additional stress. There will not be an extra week of school holiday provision, leaving families struggling
- RSF and other voluntary organisations can help by bidding for more funds to supplement what the LA can provide
- Families could get together and share/swap equipment

Comments noted

Q: Is something like RSF available elsewhere?

A: RSF is the "Gold Standard" – a workable model which could be developed elsewhere. NYCC is working with "Coast and Vale" to develop a "Scarborough Special Families" on the coast. Ryedale Special Families are assisting with this. We are keen to share good practice.

Q: Charities are struggling at the moment, and many are losing funding. Everyone is bidding against the same pots of money.

A: NYCC want to encourage and assist local voluntary and community groups to join up, share good practice and look at the benefits of putting collective bids together.

**FOCUS AREA 10**

**IMPROVING COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTING**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 11**

**IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made



**FOCUS AREA 12 –**

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments or questions raised

**FOCUS AREA 13 –**

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Some parents don't know about the Local Offer.
- District Council's could publicise the Local Offer and put information about the Local Offer on their website and in their Council newsletters.
- It would be useful for the Authority to send 'flyers' to parents rather than letters. Flyers stand out more.

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 14 –**

**REVIEWING COUNCIL SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

Q: Will there be reduced staffing from April?

A: No. There will be a staff consultation which will begin in the summer and will complete in Autumn.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED:**

- Not all families understand if they are open to Disabled Children's Services.

Comment noted.

**FOCUS AREA 1 –**

**PROTECTING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 2 –**

**REDUCING BUREAUCRACY**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 3 –**

**ENABLING MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 4 –**

**REDUCING THE COST OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES OF SUPPORT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made



**FOCUS AREA 5 –**

**ENHANCING LOCAL PROVISION BY PROVIDING MORE FAMILY BASED SHORT BREAKS**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 6 –**

**CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 7 –**

**MAINTAINING SOME DISCRETIONARY PROVISION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Concern raised regarding access to other services when disabled children do not meet the threshold for Disabled Children's Services.
- Concern raised that cases open to integrated services were currently being 'closed'

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 8 –**

**IMPROVING PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- There was support for this aspect of the proposal

**FOCUS AREA 9 –**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- There was support for this area of the proposal although it was indicated that it can be difficult to engage the VCS in some areas

**FOCUS AREA 10**

**IMPROVING COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTING**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 11**

**IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 12 –**

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made



**FOCUS AREA 13 –**

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Recognised that this was important and parents need to have access to information about what was available in the local area

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 14 –**

**REVIEWING COUNCIL SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED**

No additional comments made

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**FOCUS AREA 1 –**

**PROTECTING ELIGIBILITY TO SERVICES**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

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**FOCUS AREA 2 –**

**REDUCING BUREAUCRACY**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

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**FOCUS AREA 3 –**

**ENABLING MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

**FOCUS AREA 4 –**

**REDUCING THE COST OF SOME INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES OF SUPPORT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- I want my child to have the same as now but there is a principle that everyone should be subject to the same Indicative Service response. New families getting a lesser offer than us won't be fair to them.
- Not raising the bar for eligibility is good but not if the fight for resources is going to get even harder. Families really do need the services to cope. It isn't fair to reduce the help available. Still amounts to a cut, which isn't fair.
- Services help families function.

Comments noted

**FOCUS AREA 5 –**

**ENHANCING LOCAL PROVISION BY PROVIDING MORE FAMILY BASED SHORT BREAKS**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

- Carers just aren't there or aren't accessible.
- We don't want to move our children to another setting.
- Foster Carers get poorly and take holidays.
- Some children are up all night.

Comments noted

A general discussion took place regarding how many children can thrive in a family based setting and how the authority will seek to recruit new foster carers .



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**FOCUS AREA 6 –**

**CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRES**

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- There will be an Impact on children and families if the Ghyll were to close
- There will be additional costs of travelling and escorting children to another Resource Centre
- Harrogate is too far to travel.
- It is unfair to send children out of their local area.

Comments noted

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**FOCUS AREA 7 –**  
**MAINTAINING SOME DISCRETIONARY PROVISION**

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Positive feedback on FUSE Theatre.

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**FOCUS AREA 8 –**

**IMPROVING PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD**

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Q. Why is the Authority investing in transition yet cutting the disabled children's budget . Why can't the additional funding for transitions be used to offset the cuts to the disabled children's budget?

A. The new model for integrated transitions will be funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant. This is a separate block of funding to that which supports the Disabled Children's Service. It is not possible for schools funding to pay for the Disabled Children's Service.

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**FOCUS AREA 9 –**

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

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**FOCUS AREA 10**

**IMPROVING COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTING**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

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**FOCUS AREA 11**

**IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

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**FOCUS AREA 12 –**

**IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

**Please note any comments or questions raised in relation to this focus area including any answers provided by the panel**

No specific comments made

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**FOCUS AREA 13 –**

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

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No specific comments made



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**FOCUS AREA 14 –  
REVIEWING COUNCIL SERVICES**

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No specific comments made

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED**

No additional comments made