



## Agenda

**Meeting** Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**To:** Councillors Caroline Goodrick (Chair), Alyson Baker, Philip Broadbank, Lindsay Burr MBE, Stephanie Duckett, Nathan Hull, David Jeffels, Janet Jefferson, Tom Jones, Cliff Lunn, John Mann, Andy Paraskos, Kirsty Poskitt, John Ritchie, Monika Slater, Andrew Timothy and Co-Optees Tom Cavell-Taylor, Stephen Jennings, Martin Macaulay, Yvonne Methley, Gary McVeigh-Kaye, David Sharp and David Watson.

**Date:** Wednesday, 25 March 2026

**Time:** 10.00 am

**Venue:** The Grand - County Hall

### Business

1. **Apologies for absence**

2. **Minutes of the Meetings held on 17 December 2025 and 11 February 2026** (Pages 3 - 20)

3. **Declarations of interest**

4. **Public questions/statements**

Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice to Alice Fox of Democratic and Scrutiny Services and supplied the text (contact details below) by midday on Friday 20 March, three working days before the day of the meeting. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item. Members of the public who have given notice will be invited to speak:-

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

If you are exercising your right to speak at this meeting, but do not wish to be recorded, please inform the Chair who will instruct anyone who may be taking a recording to cease while you speak.

5. **Chair's remarks**

Any correspondence, communication or other business brought forward by the direction of the Chair of the Committee.

6. **North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report 2024-2025** (Pages 21 - 40)  
Annual update from the Principal Advisor, School Improvement Team.
7. **Performance Monitoring Data** (Pages 41 - 78)  
Bi-annual summary update from the Corporate Strategy and Performance Lead.
8. **Young People's Member Champion Annual Report 2025-2026** (Pages 79 - 88)  
A report presented by the Young People's Member Champion.
9. **Any other items**  
Any other items which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances
10. **Date of next meeting**  
Wednesday 17 June 2026 at 10am.

**Members are reminded that in order to expedite business at the meeting and enable Officers to adapt their presentations to address areas causing difficulty, they are encouraged to contact Officers prior to the meeting with questions on technical issues in reports**

Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting as observers for all those items taken in open session. You may be interested in [subscribing to updates](#) about this or any other North Yorkshire Council committee.

Recording is allowed at Council, committee and sub-committee meetings which are open to the public. Please give due regard to the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at public meetings. We ask that any recording is clearly visible to anyone at the meeting and that it is non-disruptive.

Anyone wishing to record is asked to contact the Senior Scrutiny Officer (details below) prior to the start of the meeting.

#### **Contact Details**

For enquiries relating to this agenda and meeting please contact:

Name: Alice Fox, Senior Scrutiny Officer

E-mail: [alice.fox@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:alice.fox@northyorks.gov.uk)

E-mail: [democraticservices.central.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices.central.gov.uk)

Tel: 01756 706226

Website: [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

Barry Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive  
Legal and Democratic Services  
County Hall  
Northallerton

Tuesday, 17 March 2026

## North Yorkshire Council

### Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 17 December 2025 commencing at 10.00 am.

Councillor Barbara Brodigan in the Chair plus Councillors Caroline Goodrick, Alyson Baker, Stephanie Duckett, David Jeffels, Cliff Lunn, Andy Paraskos, Yvonne Peacock, Kirsty Poskitt, John Ritchie, Monika Slater, Andrew Timothy and David Sharp.

In attendance: Councillors Janet Sanderson and Annabel Wilkinson (via Teams) and Councillor Carl Les.

Officers present: Amanda Fielding (Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion), Alice Fox (Senior Scrutiny Officer), Jonny Hoyle (Group Leader, Leaving Care), Mel Hutchinson (Assistant Director Children and Families), Diane Parsons (Principal Scrutiny Officer), Heather Pearson (Chair of NYSCP and Independent Scrutineer), Chris Reynolds (Head of SEND Strategic Planning and Resources), Cath Ritchie (Transformation and Innovation Manager), Pete Thorpe (Interim Director of Children Services).

Other Attendees: Sarah Holbird, Bethany Laskey-Heard and Luke Mackintosh (Appeals Team).

Apologies: Councillor John Mann, Tom Cavell-Taylor, Stephen Jennings, Martin Macaulay and David Watson.

---

#### Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

---

#### 99 Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 100 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Mann, and Co-Optee Members Dr Tom Cavell-Taylor, Stephen Jennings, Gary McVeigh-Kaye and David Watson.

#### 101 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 2025

The Chair informed members that there that there has been a correction to the Progress on Issues Raised report regarding the Post Implementation Review (PIR). It was previously stated that all necessary PIR data will be collated by Spring 2026. This has now been corrected to say "Children and Young People's Service will have started to collate data for the PIR by Spring 2026. The planned PIR timeline includes attendance at a Members' Seminar in March 2026 to present an update".

#### Resolved

That, subject to the changes stated above, the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

#### 102 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 103 North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) Annual Report 2024-2025

### Considered

An update by Heather Pearson, Chair of NYSCP and Independent Scrutineer. Heather explained that the Partnership regularly reviews national reforms and although there are already strong arrangements in place, they will still look to improve how multi-agency teams work together.

Members of the Committee asked the following questions:

#### **How is the Partnership working to improve the emotional and mental health of children and young people, especially Yr 8 and Yr 10 girls?**

Heather explained that partners regularly meet, and they receive updates from the Health and Wellbeing Board.

#### **70% of children think “lots of people care about them”. How does this compare to children in other parts of the country?**

North Yorkshire benefits from regular feedback from children, primarily through the Growing Up in North Yorkshire Survey, which allows year-on-year comparisons. Although there are no national benchmarks for comparison, the 70% figure is not considered a concern. Heather can take on targeted work to address areas of concern. For example, she is currently exploring if there are ways to improve the process for handling child sexual abuse cases.

### Resolved

- 1) That, the annual report is noted.
- 2) That, an update is provided next year.

## 104 Public questions/statements

There were no public questions or statements.

## 105 Chair's remarks

The Chair attended the quarterly performance review meeting but was unable to attend the Executive on 18 November. Councillor Baker provided feedback on the children and young people's related questions she asked.

#### **Timeliness of Children and Families Assessments – whilst performance is above the national average and the statistical neighbour average, performance has deteriorated. Why and what is being done to address this?**

Whilst timeliness of assessments was above national and statistical neighbour averages, completion times had increased due to record numbers of contacts at the front door, and also from police and health services. Actual referral numbers were falling and practice incentive training was being implemented to improve timeliness.

#### **Child Protection Plans (CPP) – what is driving the increase in the number of Child Protection Plans and what is being done to address the underlying causes? A CPP relates to ‘children presenting to services at risk of significant harm’ and so the increase is concerning.**

Numbers of child protection plans were at a ten-year high, reflecting societal pressures and rising deprivation. A shift in the deprivation profile of North Yorkshire showed more were

living in the 30% most deprived communities and fewer in the least deprived, which was an indication of when families would come under strain. Thresholds were being reviewed and early help provided where needed.

**Timeliness of EHC plans – the high performance for the timeliness of new EHC plan is encouraging. How are schools managing with the resultant increase in children with a plan on the school roll and the additional time and resources that it requires to meet these assessed and documented needs?**

Schools were adapting to the increased use of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans by deploying specialist staff, investing in training, and working closely with the Council and external agencies. The Council would continue to advocate nationally for fair funding and it was noted that North Yorkshire remained one of the lowest funded authorities for high needs, ranking 146 out of 151. The importance of ensuring that funding followed identified need was highlighted, regardless of whether a child had an EHC plan or a formal diagnosis.

## **106 Progress on issues raised by the Committee**

### **Considered**

A report by Alice Fox, Senior Scrutiny Officer

A detailed discussion took place about the proposal to appoint a Neurodivergent Young People's Champion, which had been deferred from the last committee meeting. It was recognised that the Young People's Member Champion approaches her responsibilities with great diligence and is fully committed to championing all children and young people.

A vote was taken and the results were as follows:

- 6 votes against the proposal.
- 6 votes in favour of waiting until the final version of the Children's and Wellbeing Bill is published before deciding whether a Neurodivergent Young People's Champion is required.

The Chair used their casting vote and it was resolved that the Committee will wait until the final version of the Children's and Wellbeing Bill is published before deciding whether a Neurodivergent Young People's Champion is required.

### **Resolved**

That, the Committee will receive a summary of the final version of the Children's and Wellbeing Bill (due to be published in early 2026) before it decides whether a Neurodivergent Young People's Champion is required for North Yorkshire Council.

## **107 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Notice of Motion**

### **Considered**

A report by Alice Fox, Senior Scrutiny Officer.

This item was chaired by Councillor Goodrick, Vice-Chair of the Committee, due to the proposer of the Motion being Councillor Brodigan.

Councillor Brodigan welcomed the Government's White Paper on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) but expressed concern about the high levels of profits made by private SEND providers. As seconder of the Motion, Councillor Timothy talked about the financial hardships that some schools are experiencing because of the high costs of SEND

support. It was clarified that when the Motion refers to “private” SEND providers, it means equity backed private providers and not the voluntary sector.

Amanda Fielding, Assistant Director Inclusion, explained that there are some children requiring specialist support that can only be provided by the private sector, and this can be costly. National SEND reforms appear to be following a similar approach to North Yorkshire, with an increase in Targeted Mainstream Provision (TMPs) and special schools, and a strong focus on keeping children within their local communities rather than placing them across the county. However, we will have to wait until the White Paper is published. The Council has a choice on whether to use an independent provider and is looking to increase capacity of council-owned provision. There are currently 280 children (representing 4.5% of all children with an Education, Health and Care Plan, accounting for 22% of the total high needs block allocation) in independent special schools, with some being in North Yorkshire and some out of county. The quality of provision is closely monitored and for the most complex cases, a panel regularly meets with health and social care professionals to obtain a comprehensive overview of the placement.

Members discussed the issue of supply and demand, and it was commented that if private providers stopped making a profit, they would withdraw their services, leaving children without any support at all.

Following the debate, a vote was taken, and the results were as follows:

- 8 votes against the Motion.
- 3 votes for the Motion.
- 1 vote to Abstain.

### **Resolved**

That, the Motion is not supported.

## **108 Approach to, and use of, Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Children's Services**

### **Considered**

A report by Jonny Hoyle, Group Manager, Leaving Care and Cath Ritchie, Transformation and Innovation Manager.

Jonny provided an overview of the report, highlighting how officers utilise AI tools such as Magic Notes and Policy Buddy, alongside developing a tool called FinYd. He explained that the council’s approach to AI is to focus on functionality, rather than the products because these will change over time and that the tools currently being used are only rolled out after a significant amount of pre-testing to identify and remedy any issues.

It was stressed that the AI programmes have been developed to assist officers, and they are still expected to liaise with their managers for advice and support.

Some Members were concerned about General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and whether external bodies could access confidential information.

Cath explained that FinYd, Magic Notes and Policy Buddy are corporate tools, the questions, answers, and information from Policy Buddy are secure. The teams work closely with data governance colleagues so that, in the case of Magic Notes, once case notes have been written, they are securely stored in the case management system. Whilst the intention is to give other Local Authorities the ability to have their own version of FinYd, they would not be able to access North Yorkshire information when using it.

Cath also provided reassurance that AI development also includes thorough review and sign off from data governance, information security, and completion of an AI Ethics impact assessment.

During a pilot of Magic Notes with Social Workers, testers said that using the tool saved them up to a day per week of administration time, so they have more time to directly support children and their families, which is invaluable.

The Chair invited Jonny and Cath to provide an update at a future meeting, especially considering that AI programmes are constantly being updated and improved.

### **Resolved**

- 1) That, the report is noted.
- 2) That, an update is provided next year.

## **109 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion Update**

### **Considered**

A report by Chris Reynolds, Head of SEND Strategic Planning and Resources.

Chris gave an overview of the report, highlighting the steps taken to ensure the best possible outcomes for SEND young people as they transition into adulthood. The number of SEND children and young people is continuing to increase both locally and nationally. Chris informed the Committee that the Executive agreed at their meeting on 16 December that the age range at 3 Pupil Referral Units (PRU) in Northallerton, Skipton and Selby will be lowered to 5-16 years.

Members asked the following questions:

### **Do we know how many SEND children are in elective home education (EHE) or have been suspended or excluded from school?**

Regarding EHE, Children's Services can record SEND figures at the pre-decision stage, but it is up to the families to declare if their child has additional needs. Many children who request to be home educated have mental health and anxiety issues, and the Council work hard to support them to still attend school. Schools are encouraged to participate in the pre-decision meetings.

The reason a child is suspended or excluded may be due to an unidentified SEND issue, and parents can speak to Children's Services about this. Schools have a duty to inform the Council of any exclusions, and in some cases, the Council has challenged their decision, and an exclusion has been overturned, with reasonable adjustments put in place so the child can remain in a school environment.

Children's Services recognise that some schools have higher suspension and exclusion rates than others and is actively challenging them on this.

### **How can we make sure that those who are home educated are able to attend a school or college to sit their GCSE exams?**

The Council can signpost to schools and colleges but if a child is home educated, the parents are responsible for securing a place and paying exam fees. Schools and colleges are not legally obliged to provide a place.

### **How long does it take for an academy school to open (such as the new special school to be built on the former Woodgate Community Primary School)?**

There is a lengthy process that an academy trust must go through, which includes securing a funding agreement from the Secretary of State. Arranging land transfers or lease agreements take at least 12 months. The consultation with families regarding the former Woodfield Community Primary School is due to start in early 2026, but an opening date is yet to be confirmed.

**It is encouraging to hear that Supported Internships have doubled to 106 in the last year. Are there any further targets we are aiming for?**

The Council is working to bring more employers and providers on board to increase placements and internships.

**There will always be a demand for SEND provision in the Scarborough area. Will there be more Targeted Mainstream Provision (TMP)?**

Scarborough has been identified as an area of high SEND need and schools will be invited to apply.

**Resolved**

- 1) That, the report is noted.
- 2) That, an update is provided next year.

**110 Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report**

**Considered**

To note the Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report 2024-2025.

**Resolved**

That, the report was noted with no further questions or lines of enquiry.

**111 Work programme**

**Considered**

Workplan for 2025-2026.

**Resolved**

That, the workplan is noted.

**112 Any other items**

There were no other items of business.

**113 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 25 March 2026, County Hall, Northallerton, commencing at 10am.

AF

The meeting concluded at 12.45 pm.

# North Yorkshire Council

## Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 11 February 2026 commencing at 10.00 am.

Councillor Barbara Brodigan (in the Chair plus Councillors Caroline Goodrick, Alyson Baker, Stephanie Duckett, David Jeffels, Tom Jones, Cliff Lunn, John Mann, Andy Paraskos, Kirsty Poskitt, John Ritchie, Andrew Timothy, Tom Cavell-Taylor, Felicity Cunliffe-Lister, Caroline Dickinson, Stuart Parsons and Roberta Swiers.

In attendance: Councillors Janet Sanderson and Tom Seston (via Teams), Steve Mason, Kevin Foster, Arnold Warneken and Carl Les.

Officers present: Amanda Fielding (Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion), Daniel Harry (Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny), El Mayhew (Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Service), Diane Parsons (Principal Scrutiny Officer).

Apologies: Councillors Nathan Hull, Janet Jefferson, Yvonne Peacock, Monika Slater, Martin Macaulay, David Sharp and David Watson.

---

**Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book**

---

### 11 Apologies for absence

4

Apologies and substitutes were received as follows:

- Councillor Monika Slater – Substitute Councillor Felicity Cunliffe-Lister
- Councillor Yvonne Peacock – Substitute Councillor Caroline Dickinson
- Councillor Janet Jefferson – Substitute Councillor Stuart Parsons
- Councillor Nathan Hull – Substitute Councillor Roberta Swiers

Apologies were also recorded for co-opted members Martin Macaulay, David Sharp and David Watson.

It was noted that Councillor Janet Sanderson and Councillor Tom Seston were joining the meeting remotely.

### 11 Declarations of interest

5

The Chair declared an interest in Item 4 as a member of the Home to School Transport Appeals Committee, as did the following Members present:

- Councillor John Ritchie
- Councillor Tom Jones
- Councillor Caroline Goodrick
- Councillor Roberta Swiers
- Councillor Andy Paraskos
- Councillor David Jeffels
- Councillor Steph Duckett

The Chair clarified that being a member of the Appeals (Home to School Transport) Committee is not a pecuniary interest and as such those Members can take part in the debate and are asked to keep an open mind. Members of that committee cannot be involved in scrutiny of decisions that they themselves have made but it was noted that this was out of scope for this meeting as discussions would not explore the detail of individual appeal cases.

**11 Public questions/statements**  
**6**

Public questions had been pre-submitted and agreed through the Chair from five speakers.

**1) Peter Vetch (Buckden Parish Council Scrutiny Committee).**

“Statutory guidance states that local authorities should “act reasonably” and in a manner that is ‘fair and rational’. An appeals process that meets these standards is essential to maintaining public confidence. The statutory guidance does not prescribe an exhaustive list of matters that may be considered on appeal, aside from noting a small number of specific exclusions which do not directly relate to the policy itself.

By contrast, the North Yorkshire policy explicitly restricts appeals to four defined grounds at the beginning of section E. This approach means that any other exceptional or unforeseen circumstances may be dismissed solely on the basis that they fall outside the prescribed scope of the appeals process.

By their nature, exceptional circumstances are difficult to anticipate. Excluding them from consideration simply because they do not fall within an approved list undermines the principles of rationality, fairness, and reasonableness required by the statutory guidance.

My question is whether the council’s decision to explicitly limit the grounds for appeal in the policy:

- a) was to ensure that most exceptional circumstances could be discounted without debate; or
- b) reflected a deliberate intention to deprive remote rural areas of access to reasonable home to school transport options; or
- c) resulted from an inadvertent oversight that limiting the appeals process in this way would have the unintended consequence of excluding certain remote communities from such reasonable transport options?”

Daniel Harry responded as follows:

“The council has a longstanding process via which Home to School Transport appeals have been considered. This process remains compliant with the legislative requirements and the provisions of the Department for Education’s statutory guidance on home to school travel.

In accordance with this statutory guidance, the council’s appeals process considers factors associated with its decision making about an applicant’s eligibility, and the arrangements made, for home to school transport.

Whilst the council’s appeals process has defined criteria upon which an appeal could be based, it does not consider that this restricts any appeal that is submitted, including those for families in rural areas. The appeals process provides that consideration is undertaken at both Stage 1 and Stage 2 as to whether eligibility for assistance has been determined in accordance with the council’s policy.

It should be noted that the council’s Home to School Transport appeals process is specifically established to consider the decisions made in implementing the policy rather

than the merits of the policy itself.  
In answer to the specific questions:

1. The council does not accept that it has limited the grounds for appeals.
2. Therefore this does not prevent children from accessing home to school transport for which they are eligible.
3. Furthermore, as is set out in part 4.2 of today's report, the council's appeals process allows for families, in all areas of the county, to appeal against a decision relating to home to school travel eligibility, including where there are exceptional circumstances that would merit a departure from the policy."

A supplementary question was raised, reflecting Mr Vetch's concerns that assurances had been given to him by an Executive Member of the council regarding incorporation of responses to the home to school transport consultation in the final policy, which had subsequently not been effected. It was agreed that an officer response could be provided if Mr Vetch is able to give specifics of the matter outside of the meeting.

## 2) Terence Moran

"Members, we recognise the Council's financial pressures. But a budget deficit does not give permission to rely on methodology that is physically impossible. Parents were issued co-ordinates for their child's walking route. These are universal Ordnance Survey references; forensic data that allows anyone to verify exactly where a journey begins and ends. When we plotted them, the failure became clear. Across 31 schools, not a single co-ordinate for an 'end point' was located at a school gate. Every single one terminated inside the grounds. Even worse, every home route began inside the physical structure of the house.

The council's software cannot navigate front doors. To reach the road, it simply draws a line from that internal co-ordinate, straight through the solid masonry of the house. This isn't just a technical quirk; it is a public deception. The officers' report claims their online tools 'assist parents'. Yet, the council's own website explicitly even now tells parents that measurements start at the 'boundary of the home'.

You are publicly advertising a 'boundary' standard while privately applying a 'masonry' standard to deny transport. The Education Act 1996 and the *Rogers* judgement state a route must be one a child 'can walk.' The moment a route passes through a wall, it fails that legal test. Visualise a child in their living room, facing a brick wall, told their path to school runs directly through it. The software ignores the laws of physics. It commands the child to walk through it.

A route may exist on a computer screen, but if a child cannot physically walk it, it is a mathematical hallucination. If you would not ask your own daughter to walk through a wall, you cannot claim such a route is available to mine.

The council has known of these deficiencies, yet the only response so far has been a refusal to issue maps. This is indefensible. Measurements suitable for admissions do not translate to transport. One decides who goes through the school gate; the other decides who can safely reach it. To use an admissions tie-breaker as a statutory safeguard is to confuse a clerical ranking with a legal duty of care.

Members, were you explicitly told when setting this policy that it would contradict your own website, begin inside the masonry of private homes and fail to stop at a single school gate?"

Amanda Fielding responded as follows:

"Thank you for your questions about the methodology used by the council to determine home to school distances for the purpose of determining eligibility for assistance with home

to school travel, and for your questions about the information that is provided alongside the maps, when parents make an appeal.

It is correct that the Eastings and Northings shown on the images provided with the map information relate to a 'point' at the home address and a 'point' at each specific school site. All properties and establishments have unique reference points, and these are included within the images sent to parents. This is because the system uses them to find the relevant addresses.

I can confirm that the council's distance calculator measures from the point within each property, firstly to the path or road, and then to the nearest entrance of the nearest school. I recognise that there may be confusion as a result of the unique property co-ordinates being displayed alongside the maps in the information for individual parents. However, I would like to reassure you, Mr Moran, and other parents and all members of this committee that the co-ordinates used for the purpose of distance calculations do measure from the property address to the nearest entrance to the school, as defined on the council's mapping system and that all maps that have been shared with families have showed the correct distances to these entrances. This is reflected in section 4.1.10 of today's report.

To conclude, the council's Home to School Travel Policy provides that home to school travel distances are measured from 'the fixed point within the property to the nearest entrance point to the school [...] as defined by the Council's Geographical Information System' and this is the approach that is being undertaken."

By way of supplementary, Mr Moran highlighted examples where mapping appeared to visibly terminate inside buildings or on a cul-de-sac, thus countering the assertion that routes always terminate at the boundary gate. Officers were invited to review the system thoroughly.

### **3) Gary Young**

"Thank you Chair.

My name is Gary Young. I'm a parent from north Richmondshire and a professionally qualified geospatial surveyor. I understand GIS mapping systems and how they could be used to produce routes based on technical and legal criteria. Geographic Information Systems are only as accurate as the data put into them. If incorrect start or end points are used, or if the route includes unlawful paths, the distances produced will be wrong. Having examined the data used in my own case and those of my neighbours this is exactly what has been happening and is still happening.

We are going to hear a lot about co-ordinates and start and end points. But there is another issue which must be addressed, the "available walked routes" being produced, and the council's legal obligations around them. An "available walked route", as used in the policy wording, is clearly defined in law as legal to access and safe to walk, accompanied as necessary.

The council is responsible for maintaining the definitive map of the county. This is the legal record of public rights of way to which all other mapping refers. In our case, the route used to deny transport crossed two private farms and a private ford across the River Tees. There is no public right of way and never has been. After a four-month ordeal and two hearings, our appeal was upheld; one of only a handful last year.

The critical point is this: the same unlawful route remains in the mapping system and is still being used to determine which school is deemed nearest. This is not an isolated case. Cllr Goodrick knows firsthand that routes in her division involved crossing road barriers and four lanes of the A64. Elsewhere, there are routes already assessed as unsafe and MoD training grounds that have been wrongfully included.

The council's defence is that children are not expected to walk the routes, so they don't have to be viable or safe. But where does it say that in the policy or within the legal definition of an available route? It doesn't. Available walked routes must be just that, and available starts by checking they are public rights of way that appear on the Definitive Map.

These are not examples of one-off mistakes. This is a systemic failure to check and correct, revealing a serious breach of this council's legal responsibility. Email correspondence with the Executive Member and Corporate Director demonstrates the council's own confusion, dismissing their own chosen methodology, despite being alerted to this issue. They have failed to act.

The council's own policy is absolutely clear and explicitly states that all distances will be measured by the shortest available walked route.

I will end with a simple question:

Given the council has been made aware that the routes being produced by its mapping system are not compliant with the council's own school transport policy, why is that system still being used and why has no action been taken to correct it?

Thank you."

In response, Amanda Fielding outlined the following:

"Thank you for your questions about the mapping system and walked routes, as referenced in the council's home to school travel policy.

I hope my responses to Mr Moran's questions assure you that the council's policy is being correctly implemented through the use of the council's mapping system. For many years the council has used the same mapping system to calculate distances between homes and schools, this is for both admissions and for transport purposes. The maps are also used during our assessment of safe walked routes for children who live under the statutory walking distances of 2 miles (up to the age of 8) or 3 miles (for over 8s).

Legislation allows the council to decide how it manages its eligibility for home to school transport and the council does not use the Definitive Map as the route map for this. The council's system utilises data provided by Ordnance Survey. Ordnance Survey (OS) is Great Britain's national mapping agency and carries out the official surveying. Ordnance Survey provides accurate and up-to-date geographic data to the council, and this is uploaded annually into the system used to support decision making for annual school admissions rounds, and for related transport eligibility assessments. This ensures that, within any individual year, admissions decisions and eligibility for home to school travel are assessed on a consistent and fair basis.

The council maintains an ongoing relationship with Ordnance Survey and regularly seeks clarification in the event that anomalies arise in the data that has been provided to it.

As I have explained to Mr Vetch, the council's appeals process allows for families to appeal against a decision relating to home to school travel eligibility, including where there are exceptional circumstances that would merit a departure from the policy.

In answer to your specific question, the council is satisfied that it uses compliant mapping data in its assessment of pupils' eligibility for assistance with home to school travel."

By way of supplementary, Mr Young highlighted that an available walk-through is defined in law so the route must be accepted to be accessible. If the routes provided are not accessible then they are not available and as such clarity was sought on the routes that are being used. It was also queried around updates made to the GIS system when the new policy was introduced.

Amanda Fielding clarified that the council uses its mapping tool to calculate distances and that the distance determines eligibility. The council is collating information to provide a comprehensive response to all the queries around the mapping system and this will be highlighted within the forthcoming report on the Post-Implementation Review (PIR).

#### 4) Victoria Rothwell

“Thank you, Chair and members, my name is Victoria Rothwell.

I am a parent of three. I am also a qualified accountant with 26 years’ experience in strict budget control, audit discipline, and fiduciary responsibility. I understand financial pressure. But financial pressure never permits a public body to abandon its own rules. In my profession, we operate on the principle of *true and fair*. If the data underpinning a decision is wrong, the decision itself is invalid.

That is not opinion — it is governance.

The distance calculations used in my case, and across this county, are demonstrably incorrect. Council policy is explicit: measurements must be taken from the fixed point within the home to the nearest recognised school entrance. Instead, the council is selecting arbitrary co-ordinates that are not recognised entrances. That does not measure distance, it manufactures it. This is not a minor technical issue. It is a systemic failure with serious consequences.

First: financial waste.

By using incorrect data, the council is forcing hundreds of families into an entirely avoidable appeals process. That drives unnecessary administrative cost, officer time and legal expenditure. At a time of budget pressure, this is the opposite of fiscal stewardship.

Second: integrity and legality.

The Council is charging families money - over £1,600 per year in my case - based on calculations that have been shown to be false and have not been corrected. In the regulated private sector, continuing to charge customers once a known calculation error exists would trigger immediate action by the Financial Conduct Authority. It would be treated as consumer detriment. Public bodies are not exempt from ethical standards simply because they are not FCA-regulated.

My personal duty was to challenge the council through the appeal process for my twins being denied school transport incorrectly, and even though I evidenced that Tadcaster Grammar was in fact my nearest suitable school, the appeal was not successful.

My professional duty is to challenge false data, correct it, and prevent financial harm. Yet this council has chosen to continue using known incorrect measurement points, months after they were evidenced. That is not error correction - it is institutional refusal.

Worse still, the council is using a tool designed solely for school admissions tie-breaking to make statutory financial charging decisions. As an accountant, I can say this plainly: you cannot run a lawful charging regime on data that was never designed, validated, or governed for that purpose.

So my questions to this Scrutiny Committee are:

1. Given these calculation errors are known, evidenced and have been left uncorrected, why is this council still charging parents and refusing to investigate?
2. Is this council so determined to deliver savings from this policy change that they are willing to risk wrongly charging parents for a service they are legally

entitled to?”

Amanda Fielding responded as follows:

“Thank you for your questions about the council’s mapping system and the charges to parents for paid for permits.

As described earlier to Mr Moran, and as referenced in today’s report in section 4.1.10, I can confirm that home to school travel distances are calculated in accordance with the policy requirements and that the distances used for eligibility assessments are therefore correct.

As explained in my response to Mr Young, and as referenced in today’s report in section 4.1.1, the council has used the same compliant mapping tool for admissions and for transport over many years.

The DfE’s Statutory Guidance on Home to School Travel requires that local authorities can use different methodologies for the calculation of home to school travel distances where the distance is over the statutory walking distance, but that it should be made clear within the policy how the route will be measured.

The council’s policy states clearly how all home to school travel distances will be measured, that is - utilising the shortest walked route. The council does not accept, therefore, that it is utilising either a policy, or a tool, that was designed for admissions purposes to determine eligibility for assistance with home to school travel.

Your references to ‘statutory financial charging decisions’ do not apply in this case because the council uses the distance measurements in its assessment of eligibility. The responsibility for travel arrangements for children who are deemed not eligible under the council’s policy remains with the parent.

Some families choose to apply for paid for permits on council-contracted transport that have spare seats. This is a discretionary arrangement where a distance assessment is not part of the application. And, as the permits are discretionary, parents may choose to opt-in and accept the terms and conditions of the permit if they wish to access the transport.

In answer to your specific questions:

1. The council does not accept that there are errors in the distance calculations.
2. Therefore, the council does not agree that they are wrongly charging parents for home to school transport services.”

By way of supplementary statement, Ms Rothwell reiterated her concerns regarding system failures and that the council is adopting a high-risk strategy by not addressing this. It was felt that the council should bring in experts to help review the mapping system.

##### **5) Jo Foster (School Transport Action Group)**

“Thank you, Chair.

In October 2025, the council was alerted to the fact that across 31 schools, which is 100% of the ones we tested, the end-point co-ordinates that you’ve given parents on maps did not terminate at a school entrance; and that is completely contradictory to what you say you do in your policy.

I think we’ve heard confirmed today that you’ve accepted that every single map that’s been issued has been wrong. So that’s been agreed today.

On 5th February 2026, so more than 100 days later, the Executive Member for Education,

Skills and Learning, Councillor Annabel Wilkinson, in a letter to a parent, attempted to explain away the discrepancy by claiming that the co-ordinates shown on route maps that the council issued to parents were not actually the ones used to calculate distance. It begs the question: so why were they on the maps?

It's also worth pointing out that in all 40 cases that we've looked at, the distances that are on those route maps match exactly to two decimal places the distances that have been quoted in appeals and also that are on the list of nearest schools.

So the map's wrong, but the distance is right. It just seems a bit strange. You keep telling us that the accuracy is within I think it's a thousandth of a mile. I think it's really important to say here that actually a lot of people have been excluded from free school transport, based on metres, not on miles. So these small differences make a huge difference: £818 to a family, or needing to get in the car and take their child to school themselves. If the map end points and the measurement end points are different, surely the calculations on the maps would be different? I don't quite understand how you can have one without the other.

And I think bigger than this - this whole debate really raises very serious concerns about transparency, about policy compliance and about the reliability of the evidence provided to parents and to appeals panels, and actually to scrutiny panels.

It also raises serious questions: why on earth did it take so long for these explanations to emerge? And why the maps stopped a few days after those errors were pointed out? It's just starting to feel a bit like there's something going on here and I really do feel that it's time for some straight answers.

My questions are:

1. If the endpoints shown on the route maps issued to parents are not the ones used to calculate distances, how is it possible that the distances are actually the same?
2. What exact coordinates are being used, and how are parents supposed to know that?
3. Where is the evidence for that, and what can you do to prove that the measurement that you're actually saying is correct is, in fact, correct?"

Amanda Fielding responded to the question as follows:

"Thank you for your questions about the council's mapping system and the information sent to families.

As stated earlier, I recognise that there has been some confusion as a result of the unique property co-ordinates being displayed alongside the maps in the information sent to families.

In answer to your specific questions:

1. As confirmed in my response to Mr Moran, it is correct that the Eastings and Northings shown on the images provided with the map information relate to a 'point' at the home address and a 'point' at each specific school site. All properties and establishments have unique reference points - and these are included within the images sent to parents.
2. As clarified earlier, I can confirm that the council's distance calculator measures from the point within each property, firstly to the path or road, and then to the nearest entrance of the nearest school.
3. As explained in earlier responses, the co-ordinates used as 'end points' are the individual home addresses, and the nearest school entrances as held within the council's mapping system and these are used to calculate and record the distances used for eligibility.
4. As described earlier, the council is able to confirm that home to school travel

distances are calculated in accordance with the policy, utilising the correct co-ordinates for the nearest entrances to the nearest schools as recorded within the council's system, and that the distances reported are therefore correct."

By way of supplementary statement, Ms Foster reiterated her concerns that many parents had not seen evidence that the distances calculated had been correct and urged the scrutiny committee to help parents to get to the bottom of the concerns set out.

In response, Amanda referred to the PIR, that this will include some analysis on the lessons learned, a section on the mapping and will report on improvements to be made to the implementation of the policy.

### **Resolved**

- a) That the committee notes the questions and statements received, along with the officer responses given; and
- b) That further details of specific concerns raised by Mr Vetch in the meeting will be provided to the Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny for response.

## **11 Implementation of the Home to School Travel Policy**

7

Considered

The report of the Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Service, regarding implementation of the Home to School Travel Policy.

Daniel Harry provided an overview of the report, referring to the planned update to the committee on the PIR in September 2026 and inviting Members to consider their role and potential outcomes of any further scrutiny undertaken now. Members were also reminded that changes to a council policy cannot be put forward again to Council within 12 months of agreement.

Members then considered the report and a number of points were made including the following.

- Concerns were noted that parents had been provided with route maps which did not reflect actual school entrances. Examples were also provided of parents being provided with maps which weren't considered to be a safe walking route and that this raised safeguarding concerns.
- Members observed that officers had recently contacted schools for entrance data, raising questions about historical data quality and whether children had been allocated to different schools because of inaccurate mapping.
- Officers were questioned as to why the council had not verified entrance data across all schools before the policy went live and why errors identified in autumn 2025 had not prompted an immediate update or interim corrections.
- Some Members of the Appeals (Home to School Transport) Committee noted that they had been trained to expect boundary-to-entrance measurements. It was concerning then that during the course of debate, map images were being presented that sometimes depicted internal building co-ordinates or end points which were not the school entrance.
- Members raised broader governance questions, including:
  - whether officers had sufficient expertise in GIS or had sought appropriate external assurance on the system used.
  - Why different co-ordinate sets (printed versus those used for calculation) were not clearly explained to parents.
  - Whether this ambiguity contributed to a loss of public trust in council process.

- Several Members emphasised that parents need sight of the exact end points used in calculations, not only map images generated for appeals.
- A Member stressed that the policy, combined with mapping disputes, risked undermining rural school sustainability, with sudden shifts in pupil numbers and thereby linking to a decline in rural communities.
- It was highlighted that legal advice is not present at Stage 2 appeals as is done at Planning and Licensing Committee meetings.
- Some comments were conveyed that the PIR reporting timeline is too slow given the number of families affected and concerns regarding inaccuracies in distance calculations. A Member also raised that a social impact assessment would enable the council to understand any detriment resulting from the policy.
- A Member suggested that maps with the correct co-ordinates be made available to all parents lodging a Stage 1 or Stage 2 appeal.
- Conversely, some Members conveyed that officers have been responsive to specific concerns raised about route safety and that ultimately it is the role of the Ombudsman to determine if the council's processes have proven to be ineffective or if there had been some maladministration.
- Some Members also felt that it was important to enable the PIR process to be fully developed so that the committee can review the full range of data and information available. Similarly, raising concerns that changes made now to systems would not ensure a fair and consistent approach to all families over the course of this academic year.

By way of response, officers raised a number of points of clarification and confirmation, including the following.

- Officers reiterated confidence in the accuracy of the underlying calculations but acknowledged the potential for confusion caused by how data appears on the printed maps provided for appeals.
- It was explained that the council's mapping system is built up of mapping layers, the basis of which is Ordnance Survey data, and that the council rules out unsafe walked distances.
- Distance measurements are taken from the home property to the nearest road or path then along the network in the mapping layer to the entrance of school.
- Officers confirmed that a full countywide refresh of school entrance data is underway and would be applied at the next annual mapping update in September.
- It was highlighted that the council will not look to make individual changes mid-year to the mapping system as while they may benefit some parents, others would be disadvantaged so changes need to be considered fully across all sites as part of the annual system update.
- It was acknowledged that communication would benefit from improvement in some areas, including refining the FAQs on the council website and providing an annual reminder to schools regarding the importance of accurate school entrance information. It was advised that the PIR will assist with highlighting any changes needed. The PIR will also include a section on mapping.
- Members were advised that it would not be possible to bring forward the PIR as the service is relying on the availability of school census data, which schools submit in May, but the service is committed to providing updates through the PIR process, including a Members' Seminar in March.
- It was clarified that the council is not legally exposed as a result of not having lawyers present at transport appeals hearings. The role of the Appeals (Home to School Transport) Committee is to determine whether the policy has been correctly implemented and whether there are any exceptional individual circumstances that merit a departure from the policy. The committee is also not a venue for debating

legal matters. It was further clarified that the data provided to Members on the Appeals (Home to School Transport) Committee on distances is correct.

- It was highlighted that the number of Stage 1 and 2 appeals and Ombudsman cases proportionate to school applications is very small. The information provided for Appeals Committee is correct.
- There is no requirement for the council to provide maps. The current council system does not automate this element of process which is done for families going to appeal. The council must make sure that families can find out where their nearest schools are as part of the application process.

Following debate, a number of proposals were put forward by the committee and voted via a show of hands as follows:

**a) Proposal to set up a task and finish group from the committee** to review the concerns raised about distance measurements and accuracy, prior to completion of the PIR, with the aim of bringing proposals to full Council in May 2026.  
(Proposed Cllr John Mann, seconded Cllr Kirsty Poskitt).

Daniel Harry highlighted that the committee had agreed in September 2025 that it would not instigate a task and finish group once the PIR process had started in order to avoid diverting away officer resource and thereby not lengthening the time taken to complete the PIR. As such, the Chair determined that this proposal would not be taken to a vote and was **set aside by the committee**.

**b) Proposal for a social impact assessment to be undertaken on the impact of the policy on residents, particularly in rural communities.**  
(Proposed Cllr Barbara Brodigan, seconded Cllr Andrew Timothy).

Votes:-  
8 against and 6 for. **Proposal failed.**

**c) Proposal to engage an outside expert to review the council's system for calculating distance.**  
(Proposed Cllr Stuart Parsons, seconded Cllr Kirsty Poskitt)

Votes:-  
9 against and 7 for. **Proposal failed.**

**d) Proposal for co-ordinates to be made available to families who want to see the route and the start and end points**  
(Proposed Cllr Cunliffe-Lister, seconded Cllr Timothy)

Votes:-  
9 against and 8 for. **Proposal failed.**

The Chair then invited the committee to consider the proposal Option 1 as outlined at 5.2 of the report, namely:

**e) Proposal to engage in the PIR process and take no further action on the issues raised at this time.**  
(Proposed Cllr Goodrick, seconded Cllr Lunn)

Votes:-  
10 for and 7 against. **Proposal carried.**

## **Resolved**

That the committee engages in the PIR process and takes no further action on the issues

raised at this time.

**11 Date of next meeting**  
**8**

Wednesday 25 March 2026 at 10am at County Hall, Northallerton.

The meeting concluded at 12.23 pm.  
DP.

## North Yorkshire Council

### Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 March 2026

### North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report 2024-2025

#### Report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Democratic Services

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present the North Yorkshire SACRE Annual Report to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Members of North Yorkshire SACRE are representatives from faith communities and the Church of England, teachers of Religious Education (RE), and elected Council Members. The group meets quarterly and receives updates from Local Authority Officers and the Professional RE Advisor on topics such as the RE curriculum, KS4 and KS5 performance data, and Ofsted inspection findings.

#### **3.0 SACRE Annual Report 2024-2025**

- 3.1 This year's annual report is provided in Appendix A. A major focus has been the rollout of the new Locally Agreed Syllabus for North Yorkshire 2024–2029, including how schools are supported in reviewing their RE curriculum and implementing any required changes. A total of 40 academies have adopted the new syllabus, an increase compared with the previous Locally Agreed Syllabus.

The report provides key findings from the Teacher Questionnaire, where 42 primary and 13 secondary schools responded.

SACRE members also receive regular updates on recent Ofsted inspections. Of the 111 inspection reports published during 2024–25, 68 included comments on pupils' understanding of RE, with 58 of those offering positive feedback.

#### **4.0 Alternative options considered**

- 4.1 No alternative options were considered.

#### **5.0 Financial, legal and climate change implications**

- 5.1 There are no significant implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 The annual report focuses on religious education for children and young people in both primary and secondary settings. SACRE's membership includes representatives from a range of religious and faith traditions.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

- i) note the report;
- ii) receive an annual update next year.

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – SACRE Annual Report 2024-2025

Barry Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
28 January 2026

Report Author – Alice Fox, Senior Scrutiny Officer.

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.



NORTH  
YORKSHIRE  
COUNCIL

# SACRE Annual Report

2024 - 2025

# Contents

Introduction from the Chair.....	3
Introduction .....	4
Overview of SACRE meetings and attendance .....	4
Implementation of the New Locally Agreed Syllabus for North Yorkshire 2024-2029.....	5
Standards and monitoring of RE.....	5
Teacher Questionnaire Findings .....	5
Statutory responsibilities.....	8
The Local Agreed Syllabus .....	8
Growing Up in North Yorkshire (GUNY) biennial school survey 2024: .....	9
Teacher training, materials and advice for schools.....	12
GCSE (full course) and A-level results.....	13
Collective Worship .....	14
Standards and monitoring of Collective Worship .....	14
Links with other bodies.....	16
Local involvement.....	16
Local arrangements .....	17
Finance .....	17
Officers and support .....	17
Membership .....	18
Appendix 1: Table of GCSE – short courses, AS-Level Religious Studies results .....	20
Appendix 2: Development Plan 2022-2024 .....	22
Appendix 3: Circulation of report .....	28

Page 24

# Introduction from the Chair

Welcome to the Annual Report for North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, covering the school year 2024-2025.

North Yorkshire SACRE has had another productive year, and I have been proud to continue in my role as Chair, supported by Sarah Beveridge as the Vice Chair. Since the last report, Jo Colledge and David Haddock have both left the committee. I would like to thank them for their valuable contributions to SACRE. At the same time, I have been very pleased to welcome Mary Lou Byrne and Mayan Leadley-Yoward to our team and am looking forward to working with them.

Our members are the beating heart of North Yorkshire SACRE, always ensuring that the right issues are discussed, the right views are sought, and the right actions are taken. Like much of working life, our meetings continue to be hybrid affairs, with some members joining virtually and others physically.

I would like to thank all members of North Yorkshire SACRE who have given their time and attention to SACRE over the past year – faith representatives, teachers, and councillors. Olivia Seymour, our Professional Religious Education Adviser, has informed and supported our work throughout the year, together with Julie Pattison and Heather Russell on behalf of the Local Authority. I would also like to thank Edward Maxwell for clerking for SACRE in the past year.

A highlight of the year was the introduction of school presentations to SACRE. This began with an engaging input from Mary-Lou Byrne, RE lead from Nidderdale High School in Pateley Bridge. Members learned about the pedagogical approaches used by Mary-Lou to inspire the pupils that she teaches, including the opportunity for members to see the quality of work that her pupils produced.

Supporting and upskilling the teachers of Religious Education remains a clear focus, with professional practice groups continuing to be offered termly. This allows teachers to take part in informative sessions covering religion and worldviews, Ofsted and national updates, led by our professional Religious Education Adviser.

As Chair, I was fortunate to attend the NASACRE Annual Conference again this year, alongside the LA Officer to SACRE. This event provided an opportunity for reflection on the work of the North Yorkshire’s SACRE within the national context.

The work of SACRE is never done. With the continuing support of members, teachers, religion and worldview experts and the local authority, I continue to have high expectations for what we will achieve in the year ahead.

**Cllr Alyson Baker**  
SACRE Chair

# Introduction

## Overview of SACRE meetings and attendance.

North Yorkshire SACRE met four times in the academic year 2024-2025. The attendance, by Committee, is set out below:

**Table 1: Attendance**

Group	10 Sept 2024	10 Dec 2024	1 April 2025	17 June 2025	Possible maximum attendance
<b>Group A</b> Faith Groups	6	5	5	5	9 (12 including vacancies)
<b>Group B</b> Church of England	2	1	1	2	2 (4 including vacancies)
<b>Group C</b> Teaching Associations	3	1	2	3	3 (5 including vacancies)
<b>Group D</b> Local Authority	4	2	5	2	5 (no vacancies)
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b> (26 including vacancies)
Professional RE Advier	1	1	1	1	1
LA Officers	2	2	2	2	2

Each meeting receives updates from Local Authority Officers and the Professional Religious Education Adviser. Through these, the Committee has been appraised of various local and national updates which have included:

- Training
- RE and Collective Worship findings from recent Ofsted inspection reports
- National and regional KS4 and KS5 data
- School workforce data
- Regional RE Hub Lead work in Yorkshire and Humber
- The Curriculum and Assessment Review consultation and RE community perspectives
- Theos Think Tank report – Why RE Matters

## Implementation of the New Locally Agreed Syllabus for North Yorkshire 2024-2029

Following the launch of the syllabus in June 2024, the 2024-2025 academic year has focussed on supporting schools in reviewing their RE curriculum and implementing changes.

The Agreed Syllabus is supplemented by a range of guidance documents and supporting materials. These include:

- Curriculum progression document including sample long term plans
- Beginner’s guides to the religions and beliefs recommended for learning
- Religion and worldview resource booklets (being developed over time)
- Sample knowledge organisers
- Visits and visitors’ guidance.

Support has been offered to schools through the professional practice groups and individual school advice where requested.

### Standards and monitoring of RE

The agreed syllabus and RE in schools have been monitored through teacher voice at termly professional practice groups, teacher representation of Group C, the annual school questionnaire and the findings from recently published Ofsted inspections.

### Teacher Questionnaire Findings

The questionnaire was developed by the Professional RE adviser in consultation with SACRE and the local authority. This was approved by SACRE in April 2025.

This is the fifth time a questionnaire has been used as a mechanism to monitor RE in North Yorkshire schools. It is useful to support SACRE’s responsibilities in monitoring RE and collective worship in our schools,

The key findings from this evaluation are outlined below:

Question 1: What type of school/setting do you work in?	
Primary	42 (76%)
Secondary	13 (24%)
Juniors	0 (0%)
Infants	0 (0%)
Special	0 (0%)
PRU	0 (0%)
Alternative Provision	0 (0%)

**Question 2: What type of school/setting do you work in? Continued.**

Community	18 (33%)
Voluntary Controlled	14 (26%)
Academy without religious character	14 (26%)
Voluntary Aided	5 (9%)
Academy with religious character	4 (7%)
Foundation	0 (0%)
Free	0 (0%)

**Question 3: How effective is the updated Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in meeting and supporting your curriculum needs?**

Effective	40 (73%)
Very effective	11 (20%)
Moderately effective	3 (6%)
Not at all effective	1 (2%)
Slightly effective	0 (0%)

**Question 4: Regarding the guidance contained within the updated Locally Agreed Syllabus, how effectively does it enable you to plan and deliver a coherent programme of learning?**

Effective	36 (66%)
Very effective	9 (16%)
Moderately effective	7 (13%)
Not at all effective	2 (4%)
Slightly effective	1 (2%)

Additional comments relating to the syllabus have included:

- We like the syllabus. It is well organised and we find the units of planning useful.*
- Comprehensive coverage.*
- The progression across year groups and faiths is very helpful.*
- The links with the different kinds of knowledge are much clearer and easier to differentiate for when planning a more effective curriculum.*
- The racism unit and Green unit are brilliant for upper Key Stage 2.*
- Topics are interesting and informative. Schemes of Work (SOW) are very helpful.*

Page 20

**Findings from recently published Ofsted Reports**

As part of our standing agenda items at SACRE meetings, the LA Officer also produces a summary of the key findings relating to the RE curriculum from recently published Ofsted inspections and shares these with SACRE members as part of the LA report to SACRE.

There have been 111 Ofsted inspection reports published within this period. Of these, comments relating to pupils understanding of RE through acknowledgement of pupils’ understanding of faiths, beliefs or British values have been made within 68 of the published reports.


Positive comments have been made in 58 of the 68 reports (85%). Examples include:


**‘Through educational visits to different places of worship, pupils develop a keen appreciation for other faiths and religions.’**

Green Hammerton Church of England Primary School (25 and 26 February – Section 5)

**‘Pupils have a remarkable understanding of acceptance and tolerance. Regular visits from leaders of different faiths help pupils understand the impact that discrimination can have. As a result, pupils are resolute in their determination to ensure that this does not happen in school.’**

Fairburn Community Primary School (3 and 4 December 2024 – Section 5)





**‘The school plans meaningful opportunities to enhance children’s cultural awareness. For example, children visit the local mosque. They learn about the religious routines and traditions such as changing their shoes and washing their hands. They learn about the festival of Eid. Through these activities, children gain an early appreciation of the diversity of modern Britain.’**

Brougham Street Nursery School (12 and 13 November 2024 – Section 5)

**‘They [pupils] learn about the world around them. For example, the whole school visit to a gurdwara has helped pupils understand more about Sikh beliefs and traditions.’**

Goathland Primary School (inspected 10 July 2024 – Section 8)

**‘They [pupils] understand that everyone is unique and that our individual characteristics are protected by law. They have an excellent knowledge of different faiths and cultures.’**

West Heslerton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School (inspected 18 and 19 June 2024 – Section 5)



# Statutory responsibilities

## The Local Agreed Syllabus

The number of schools at the end of the academic year 2024-2025 within North Yorkshire is as follows;

**Table 2: North Yorkshire school types and phases**

	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special	Pupil Referral Service	Total
Academy	0	137	29	5	1	172
University Technical Colleges	0	0	1	0	0	1
Community	3	75	11	5	4	98
Foundation	0	1	0	0	0	1
Voluntary Controlled	0	63	0	0	0	63
Voluntary Aided	0	19	1	0	0	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>355</b>

Page 27

**Table 3: North Yorkshire Academy Predecessor School Status**

	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special	Pupil Referral Service	Total
Community	0	72	26	5	1	104
Foundation	0	0	1	0	0	1
Voluntary Controlled	0	42	0	0	0	42
Voluntary Aided	0	23	3	0	0	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>173</b>

A total of 40 academies have confirmed that they have adopted the new North Yorkshire Locally Agreed Syllabus 2024-29. This is an increase in the number of academies that adopted the last Locally Agreed Syllabus.

Separate regulations covering maintained special schools require them to ensure that, as far as practical, a pupil receives opportunities to explore RE. Most special schools use the North Yorkshire Locally Agreed Syllabus, at least partially, and adapt it to meet the needs of the pupils. Some special schools use the 'Equals' curriculum package, which is designed specifically for RE in special schools.

## Growing Up in North Yorkshire biennial school survey 2024:

The North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Service (CYPS), Public Health and North Yorkshire Police commission a survey of children and young people covering aspects of learning, safeguarding and well-being. As reported in the previous annual report, the summer term 2024 survey provides key information about learning, safety and wellbeing of children and young people across Years 2, 6, 8, 10 and 12, in mainstream schools and in special schools and PRUs. The information shared in autumn 2024 shows the children's responses in relation to their religion/faith from Key Stage 2 and beyond:

### Year 6 pupils' responses

a) Do you have a religion, faith or belief that is important to you?

	Boy	Girl
<b>No</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Yes</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>I don't want to say</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>

b) What is your religion, faith or belief?

	Boy	Girl
<b>[Not applicable]</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>Non-religious e.g. atheist, humanist</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Buddhist</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Christian e.g. Catholic, Church of England</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Hindu</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Jewish</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Muslim</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Sikh</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Don't want to say</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0%</b>

c) How useful have you found school lessons about religious education?

Can't remember any	Not at all useful	Some use	Quite useful	Very useful
<b>6%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>28%</b>

### Year 8/10 pupils' responses

a) Do you have a religion, faith or belief that is important to you?

	Year 8		Year 10	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
No	59%	59%	60%	62%
Not sure	15%	18%	13%	17%
Yes	25%	21%	26%	20%
I don't want to say	1%	1%	1%	1%

b) What is your religion, faith or belief?

	Year 8		Year 10	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
[Not applicable]	59%	59%	60%	62%
Non-religious e.g. atheist, humanist	4%	3%	3%	2%
Buddhist	0%	0%	1%	0%
Christian e.g. Catholic, Church of England	26%	25%	27%	25%
Hindu	0%	0%	0%	0%
Jewish	0%	0%	0%	0%
Muslim	2%	1%	3%	1%
Sikh	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other	0%	0%	0%	1%
Don't know	6%	8%	4%	6%
Don't want to say	1%	2%	2%	2%

c) How useful have you found school lessons about religious education?

Can't remember any	Not at all useful	Some use	Quite useful	Very useful
10%	19%	29%	25%	17%

### Year 12 pupils' responses

a) Do you have a religion, faith or belief that is important to you?

	Boy	Girl
No	59%	58%
Not sure	12%	17%
Yes	29%	23%
I don't want to say	0%	1%

b) What is your religion, faith or belief?

	Boy	Girl
[Not applicable]	59%	58%
Non-religious e.g. atheist, humanist	1%	3%
Buddhist	1%	1%
Christian e.g. Catholic, Church of England	29%	25%
Hindu	1%	0%
Jewish	1%	0%
Muslim	2%	4%
Sikh	0%	0%
Other	0%	0%
Don't know	4%	6%
Don't want to say	1%	2%

c) How useful have you found school lessons about religious education?

Can't remember any	Not at all useful	Some use	Quite useful	Very useful
14%	13%	29%	26%	17%

The next GUNY survey will be undertaken in the 2025-2026 academic year and therefore be reported on in the next annual report.

## Teacher training, materials and advice for schools

The Professional RE Adviser delivered several professional practice sessions via video conference during the academic year. A total of 69 primary schools engaged with these groups, consisting of 43 LA maintained schools and 8 academy schools. This is an increase of 18 schools from the previous academic year.

This training has included a focus on developing an effective curriculum using the North Yorkshire Council Agreed Syllabus, planning for visits and visitors in the Religious Education curriculum, EYFS and assessment in Religious Education.

A total of 9 RE subject leaders attended the RE leadership course in the spring term from 6 LA maintained schools and 3 academies.

The Professional RE Adviser has worked with Local Authority Officers to support the advice given to schools on the Agreed Syllabus and the role of RE and Collective Worship in schools.

A programme of visits and visitors, particularly in more rural parts of the county, continues to be a challenge. SACRE has therefore continued to signpost schools to local resources and opportunities through the professional practice groups, newsletter and the new RE Hubs website (launched May 2023). An updated 'Visits and Visitors' Guidance document has been produced as part of the Agreed Syllabus support materials.

The termly newsletter continues to be published, accessible to all schools, supplying resources, local and national updates, and information about the work of SACRE.

Resources to support Religious Education are made accessible for schools in a variety of ways.

SACRE has received no formal complaints regarding RE provision or quality this year.

The Professional RE Adviser has supported North Yorkshire schools through communications of advice and support when required.

## KS4 results

### 2024 Outcomes:

#### AQA - Specification A

Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	AVG Pts
National (State Funded)	627930	105850	6.9	10.2	12.0	17.0	14.2	10.4	13.4	8.3	4.8	2.2	0.6	60.3	70.7	97.2	5.0
LA (State Funded)	6593	1451	7.2	12.1	12.5	18.7	14.1	10.1	12.3	6.9	3.9	2.0	0.2	64.5	74.6	97.8	5.3
School 1	89	31	-	12.9	22.6	35.5	16.1	9.7	3.2	-	-	-	-	87.1	96.8	100.0	6.0
School 2	149	9	-	33.3	11.1	33.3	11.1	-	-	11.1	-	-	-	88.9	88.9	100.0	6.2
School 3	288	272	4.4	9.9	9.6	18.8	18.8	14.3	14.0	7.4	2.2	0.7	-	61.4	75.7	99.3	5.1
School 4	79	45	-	8.9	6.7	15.6	11.1	22.2	13.3	11.1	8.9	2.2	-	42.2	64.4	97.8	4.3
School 5	185	17	5.9	11.8	-	11.8	17.6	5.9	23.5	5.9	11.8	5.9	-	47.1	52.9	94.1	4.2
School 6	214	14	-	7.1	7.1	21.4	7.1	28.6	14.3	7.1	-	7.1	-	42.9	71.4	92.9	4.4
School 7	129	44	29.5	27.3	20.5	9.1	9.1	4.5	-	-	-	-	-	95.5	100.0	100.0	7.5
School 8	114	21	-	-	-	4.8	4.8	4.8	28.6	23.8	19.0	14.3	-	9.5	14.3	85.7	2.2
School 9	227	61	4.9	13.1	8.2	23.0	3.3	4.9	26.2	13.1	1.6	1.6	-	52.5	57.4	98.4	4.9
School 10	143	30	10.0	20.0	13.3	13.3	13.3	10.0	13.3	3.3	3.3	-	-	70.0	80.0	100.0	5.8
School 11	112	110	23.6	23.6	22.7	16.4	5.5	5.5	2.7	-	-	-	-	91.8	97.3	100.0	7.2
School 12	253	242	9.5	13.2	15.3	19.8	15.7	6.6	10.7	6.6	1.2	0.8	0.4	73.6	80.2	98.8	5.7
School 13	115	115	8.7	16.5	13.9	15.7	18.3	13.9	8.7	1.7	1.7	0.9	-	73.0	87.0	99.1	5.8
School 14	195	1	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	100.0	100.0	4.0
School 15	263	253	2.0	7.1	11.1	17.8	13.4	11.1	16.2	10.3	8.3	2.4	0.4	51.4	62.5	97.2	4.5
School 16	195	185	4.3	7.0	10.8	22.7	15.1	7.6	11.9	7.6	6.5	5.9	0.5	60.0	67.6	93.5	4.7

Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
National (State Funded)	627930	11830	8.2	12.0	11.9	16.9	14.3	10.8	11.3	7.4	4.4	2.1	0.7	63.3	74.1	97.2	5.2
<b>LA (State Funded)</b>	<b>6593</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.5</b>	-	<b>59.1</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>5.0</b>
School 17	82	71	1.4	1.4	5.6	8.5	14.1	14.1	22.5	15.5	8.5	8.5	-	31.0	45.1	91.5	3.5
School 18	118	114	6.1	4.4	10.5	14.0	19.3	14.0	10.5	11.4	6.1	3.5	-	54.4	68.4	96.5	4.6
School 19	223	218	8.3	14.2	13.8	21.6	12.8	8.7	12.4	4.6	1.8	1.8	-	70.6	79.4	98.2	5.6

**OCR**

Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
National (State Funded)	627930	5020	9.8	12.0	13.8	15.6	12.9	10.8	11.4	7.4	4.4	1.5	0.4	64.2	75.0	98.2	5.4
<b>LA (State Funded)</b>	<b>6593</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>4.8</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>85.7</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6.2</b>
School 20	120	21	9.5	19.0	9.5	23.8	23.8	9.5	4.8	-	-	-	-	85.7	95.2	100.0	6.2

**WJEC**

Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
National (State Funded)	627930	47940	6.6	9.6	11.4	15.9	14.6	11.5	13.3	8.9	5.7	1.8	0.7	58.1	69.6	97.6	4.9
<b>LA (State Funded)</b>	<b>6593</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.1</b>	-	-	<b>57.1</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.9</b>
School 21	120	10	-	30.0	-	10.0	40.0	10.0	10.0	-	-	-	-	80.0	90.0	100.0	5.7
School 22	189	46	6.5	8.7	6.5	15.2	15.2	10.9	19.6	8.7	8.7	-	-	52.2	63.0	100.0	4.7

**Edexcel**

Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	9-5	9-4	9-1	Avg Pts
National (State Funded)	627930	23480	8.3	10.6	11.7	16.4	13.3	10.7	13.2	8.3	5.1	1.7	0.6	60.3	71.1	97.7	5.1
<b>LA (State Funded)</b>	<b>6593</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>96.8</b>	<b>3.9</b>
School 23	86	7	-	28.6	-	14.3	42.9	-	-	14.3	-	-	-	85.7	85.7	100.0	5.6
School 24	211	23	-	13.0	13.0	34.8	13.0	13.0	4.3	8.7	-	-	-	73.9	87.0	100.0	5.5
School 25	138	14	-	7.1	-	28.6	-	7.1	21.4	7.1	21.4	-	7.1	35.7	42.9	92.9	3.6
School 26	262	38	-	7.9	7.9	10.5	21.1	15.8	15.8	18.4	2.6	-	-	47.4	63.2	100.0	4.4
School 27	153	23	8.7	4.3	4.3	8.7	13.0	17.4	21.7	8.7	8.7	4.3	-	39.1	56.5	95.7	4.2
School 28	125	121	-	1.7	2.5	4.1	9.1	8.3	26.4	27.3	16.5	3.3	0.8	17.4	25.6	95.9	2.8
School 29	73	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
School 30	69	13	15.4	38.5	15.4	15.4	7.7	-	7.7	-	-	-	-	92.3	92.3	100.0	7.1
School 31	105	37	5.4	2.7	13.5	16.2	13.5	8.1	18.9	5.4	13.5	-	2.7	51.4	59.5	97.3	4.4

# KS5 results

## 2024 Outcomes:

School/College	NOE	*	A	B	C	D	E	U	X (unable to grade)	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E	Avg Pts
National (all entries)	14530	6.2	19.8	28.4	23.2	13.9	5.8	1.9	0.7	26.0	54.5	97.4	35.3
School 1	18	5.6	38.9	33.3	22.2	-	-	-	-	44.4	77.8	100.0	42.8
School 2	11	27.3	27.3	18.2	18.2	9.1	-	-	-	54.5	72.7	100.0	44.5
School 3	8	-	-	50.0	12.5	37.5	-	-	-	-	50.0	100.0	31.3
School 4	20	5.0	30.0	15.0	20.0	25.0	5.0	-	-	35.0	50.0	100.0	35.5
School 5	5	-	-	60.0	40.0	-	-	-	-	-	60.0	100.0	36.0
School 6	7	-	-	28.6	28.6	28.6	-	14.3	-	-	28.6	85.7	25.7
School 7	3	-	33.3	33.3	-	-	33.3	-	-	33.3	66.7	100.0	33.3
School 8	10	-	20.0	40.0	30.0	10.0	-	-	-	20.0	60.0	100.0	37.0
School 9	5	20.0	20.0	60.0	-	-	-	-	-	40.0	100.0	100.0	46.0
School 10	21	4.8	14.3	28.6	42.9	4.8	4.8	-	-	19.0	47.6	100.0	35.7
School 11	12	8.3	25.0	8.3	50.0	-	8.3	-	-	33.3	41.7	100.0	36.7
School 12	35	11.4	20.0	31.4	20.0	14.3	-	2.9	-	31.4	62.9	97.1	38.3
School 13	9	11.1	11.1	55.6	-	11.1	11.1	-	-	22.2	77.8	100.0	37.8
School 14	4	-	-	75.0	-	-	25.0	-	-	-	75.0	100.0	32.5
School 15	16	6.3	31.3	31.3	25.0	-	-	-	6.3	37.5	68.8	93.8	39.4

## 2025 Outcomes:

2025 Data will be released in October 2025 see Appendix 1.

# Collective Worship

## Standards and monitoring of Collective Worship

SACRE encourages all schools to comply with their legal duty to provide a daily act of Collective Worship for their pupils. This may take place at any time of day and in class, year group, or whole school settings. North Yorkshire SACRE believes that acts of collective worship or spiritual reflection should be meaningful and relevant to all those present. For this to be the case, SACRE has identified six principles which schools should apply about daily collective worship. Collective worship should:

1. Promote a sense of community
2. Be educational
3. Promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development
4. Be a special time
5. Enable participants to be actively involved
6. Be of high quality.

Further information on this is available via documentation made available to North Yorkshire schools.

SACRE formed a working party in the academic year 2024-2025 to review current guidance for Collective Worship. The working party used the NASACRE self-evaluation tool to evaluate SACRE's current position and identified a need to gather further information from schools to guide any revision of advice and documentation.

Additional questions were included in the annual questionnaire to schools. Results from this survey are as follows:

1. Does your setting deliver a daily act of worship?

Yes	No
41 (75%)	14 (26%)

Schools utilise a variety of approaches and methods for delivering their daily act of Collective Worship. These include:

- Dedicated daily timetabling for a combination of whole school, individual key stages, in class or in form-time, both in person and occasionally online
- Linking themes of relevant content to the school's ethos and values, PSHE, life lessons, Character Education, music or SMSC curriculum
- Weekly planning schedules for assemblies, including the use of Collective Worship pupil ambassadors
- Utilising Collective Worship inputs into classroom learning activities or reflection time
- Dedicated opportunities to celebrate religious festivals

Page 22 Making expectations explicit through school policy

Are the acts of Collective Worship discrete from other activities during the school day?

Yes	No
40 (82%)	9 (18%)

3. Have you read SACRE's advice on collective worship in NYC schools?

Yes	No
37 (71%)	15 (29%)

4. Are you aware of the legal framework and national guidance on right of withdrawal?

Yes	No
53 (98%)	1 (2%)

Schools may apply to SACRE for a determination to provide Collective Worship of a non-Christian or other form.

There were no complaints registered with the local authority or SACRE in 2024-2025 in respect of collective worship. Updating guidance on Collective Worship and providing training for schools has been identified as a development point for SACRE.

## Links with other bodies

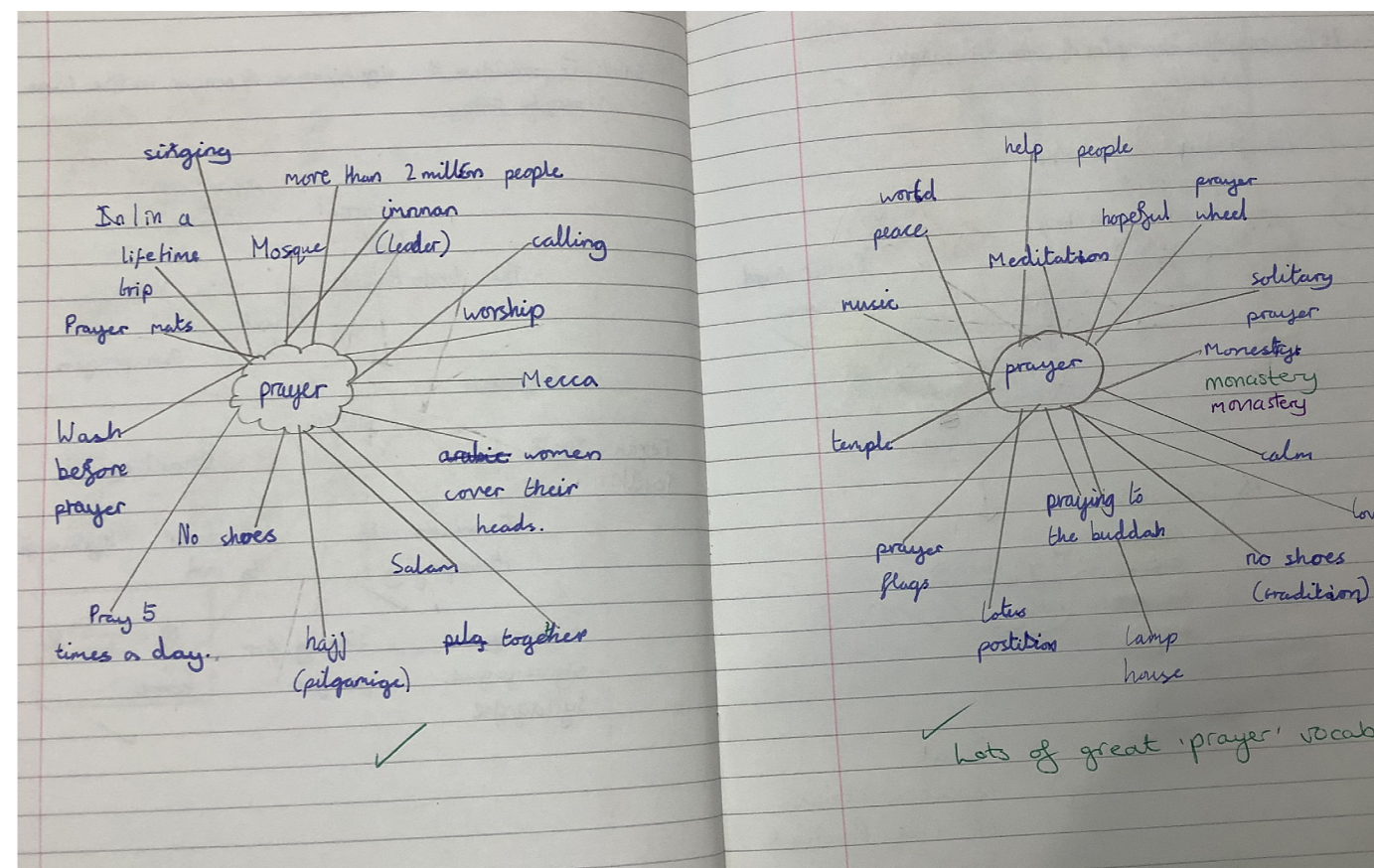
North Yorkshire SACRE is a member of the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE). Throughout the year, SACRE members were informed of developments in RE from NASACRE, The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and The Religious Education Council of England and Wales. This was reported to SACRE through the Professional RE Adviser's reports. The Chair, LA Officer and Professional RE adviser have attended all regional NASACRE in conversation meetings in the academic year 2024-25

The Chair and Local Authority Officer attended the Summer 2025 NASACRE Conference and reported back to members.

## Local involvement

North Yorkshire SACRE recommended advice to the Local Authority about Ramadan in schools.

A termly newsletter was published and digitally circulated to schools.



Example of work from a North Yorkshire school

# Local arrangements

## Finance

During the school year 2024-2025 the Local Authority has financially supported SACRE through the allocation of officers and other resources.

Staffing costs have been covered for officers from Democratic Services to fulfil the administrative preparation and clerking of SACRE meetings. Additional officer and technology resources have also been given to ensure that SACRE meetings could be held via video conference for hybrid meetings to take place.

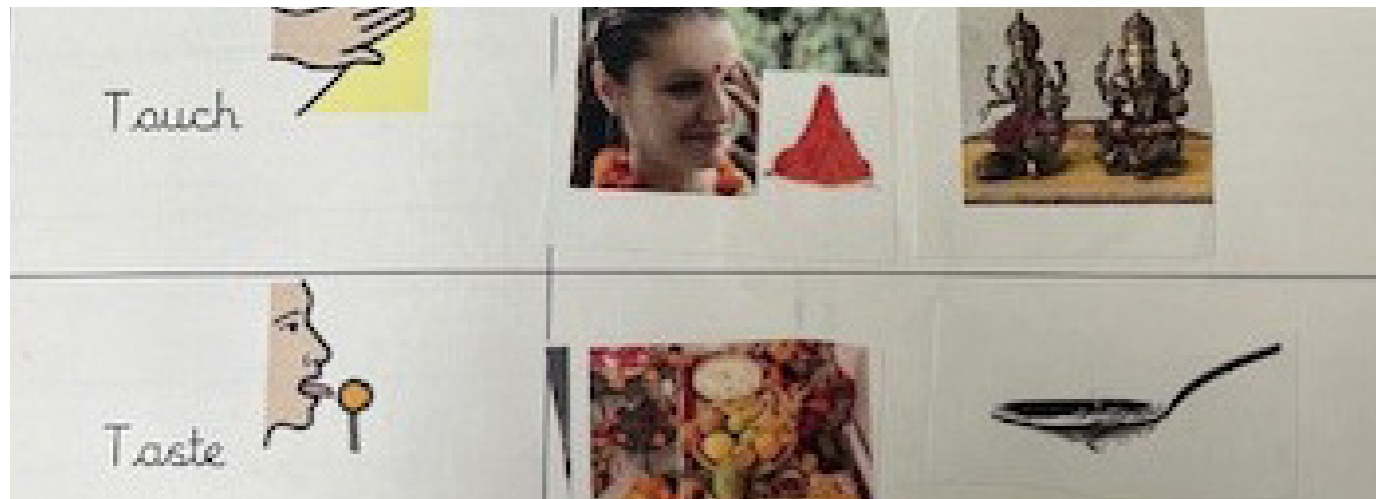
Staffing costs have also been covered to ensure that two officers from the School Improvement Service have been able to attend SACRE, SACRE Core Groups, other meetings and developmental work.

The costs of the Professional RE Adviser, an external consultant, are met through Local Authority funds.

## Officers and support

An officer in the Local Authority's Democratic Services acts as Clerk to SACRE; advising on governance matters and acting as a link between the Local Authority and SACRE. The officer facilitates the SACRE Core Group, which includes the Chair, Vice-Chair, the Professional Religious Education Adviser and officers from the Local Authority. The Core Group discusses the content of the agenda and any related matters for SACRE prior to each meeting.

In addition, the Democratic Services Team Manager provides professional support and advice to SACRE, principally on matters of governance and matters relating to the work of the Council and its Committees when required.



Example of work from a North Yorkshire school

## Membership

Membership of each of the four Groups, which form the North Yorkshire SACRE in the academic year 2024-2025, is outlined below. Former members and current vacancies are shown in italics.

### Group A – Faith Group Representatives (12)

- Professor John Adams, Humanist
- Hayden Cohen, Judaism
- Sarah Beveridge, Society of Friends
- Chris Devanny, Catholic
- Tom Clayton, Methodist
- *(David Haddock, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) – left April 2025*
- Mayan Leadly-Yoward, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Dr. Abhijeet Kulkarni, Hindu
- Nasr Moussa Emam, Muslim
- Mohinder Singh Chana, Sikh
- *Vacancy, Baptist*
- *Vacancy, Buddhist*
- *Vacancy, Salvationist*

### Group B – Church of England Representatives (4 - two each nominated by the Anglican Diocese of Leeds and the Diocese of York)

- Reverend Claire Soderman, Diocese of York
- Lee Talbot, Diocese of Leeds
- *Vacancy, Diocese of Leeds*
- *Vacancy, Diocese of York*

### Group C - Teachers of Religious Education (5)

- Tara Askew
- *(Jo Colledge) – left June 2025*
- Mary Lou Byrne
- Sarah Hodgson
- *Vacancy*
- *Vacancy*

### Group D – Local Authority (5) - elected Members of the Council

- Councillor Alyson Baker
- Councillor Simon Myers
- Councillor Janet Jefferson
- Councillor Robert Heseltine
- Councillor Annabel Wilkinson

### Co-opted Member: Academic Expertise in Religious Education

- *Vacancy*

### SACRE Clerk

- Edward Maxwell

SACRE is carrying several vacancies. There are 19 places filled out of 26. Officers continue to liaise with partners to fill these vacancies.

SACRE signed up to the 2024-25 virtual training package offered by NASACRE, which has proved particularly useful for new members joining SACRE this year. We will continue to advise members of training opportunities as they arise.

Page 34



Example of work from a North Yorkshire school

# Appendix 1: Table of GCSE – short and full, A/S & A level Religious Studies results

2024 Data in Full

GCSE results

Subject: Religious Studies (4610) / Exam: GCSE (9-1) Full Courses

# KS4 results

## AQA - Short Course

Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	Avg Pts
National (State Funded)	627930	14390	3.5	7.0	8.8	11.9	12.5	11.7	14.5	11.9	9.2	6.3	2.7	0.0
<b>LA (State Funded)</b>	<b>6593</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>
School 1	158	144	3.5	8.3	7.6	17.4	14.6	9.7	10.4	13.9	11.1	3.5	-	0.0
School 2	79	13	-	-	-	-	-	23.1	23.1	30.8	23.1	-	-	0.0
School 3	131	126	10.3	11.9	11.1	16.7	16.7	11.9	7.9	4.8	7.1	0.8	0.8	0.0
School 4	231	71	-	5.6	12.7	16.9	19.7	9.9	21.1	9.9	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0

## WJEC - Short course

Centre	NOR	NOE	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X	Avg Pts
National (State Funded)	627930	3990	4.9	7.8	9.3	12.8	12.3	11.7	15.3	11.3	8.1	5.1	1.4	0.0
<b>LA (State Funded)</b>	<b>6593</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0</b>
School 1	69	48	2.1	4.2	4.2	6.3	18.8	16.7	31.3	8.3	8.3	-	-	0.0
School 2	79	13	-	-	-	-	-	23.1	23.1	30.8	23.1	-	-	0.0
School 3	131	126	10.3	11.9	11.1	16.7	16.7	11.9	7.9	4.8	7.1	0.8	0.8	0.0
School 4	231	71	-	5.6	12.7	16.9	19.7	9.9	21.1	9.9	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0

# KS5 results

## AS Level

School/College	NOE	A	B	C	D	E	U	A-B	A-E	Avg Pts
National (all entries)	2150	21.3	22.0	20.2	16.0	10.1	8.9	43.3	89.6	14.9
School 1	2	50.0	-	-	-	50.0	-	50.0	100.0	15.0



# Appendix 2: Development Plan 2022-2024

The North Yorkshire SACRE Development Plan is shaped around the five key functions of SACRES contained in the NASACRE Self-Evaluation Toolkit, namely:

1. To improve the management of SACRE and build the partnership between SACRE and other Key Stakeholders
2. Promoting improvement in the standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE
3. Evaluating the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus
4. Promoting improvement in the provision and quality of collective worship
5. Contributing to cohesion across the community and the promotion of social and racial harmony

The 2022-24 Plan included some of the actions in the 2020-22 Development Plan which were not possible to complete due to Covid restrictions. North Yorkshire SACRE has begun a programme of self-evaluation activity, using the NASACRE self-evaluation toolkit, which underpins identified priorities.



**Objective One:** To increase Member engagement.

**Intended Impact:** SACRE has active Members engaged with and contributing to the work of SACRE

**Links to NASACRE Self-evaluation toolkit:**

**Priority One** - To improve the management of SACRE and build the partnership between SACRE and other Key Stakeholders

**Priority Five** - Contributing to cohesion across the community and the promotion of social and racial harmony

Ref	Action	Cost	Lead	Timescale	Progress
1.1	• SACRE to enhance Faith Group representation by working with Faith Groups to enhance Group A Membership			On-going	Mayan Leadley-Yoward appointed to Group A
1.2	• SACRE to enhance Teacher Representation			On-going	Mary Lou Byrne appointed to Group C
1.3	• Implement a programme of Member presentations at each SACRE meeting with a focus on Member work / community involvement and how it links into SACRE		Clerk (i.e., Set up a rota)	On-going from September 2022	Member 'spotlight' presentations now planned for the start of each meeting.
1.4	• Implement a programme of schools hosting occasional SACRE meetings	Travel expenses School Time	Clerk	By March 2023	This approach has been explored with the following outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hybrid meetings allow Teacher Representations to be school based when attending.</li> <li>• Conferencing facilities required for hybrid meetings as well as public entitlement to attend meetings reduce the viability for this to be pursued further.</li> </ul>

Ref	Action	Cost	Lead	Timescale	Progress
1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and agree a separate budget for SACRE to enable its work</li> </ul>		Principal Adviser (Support)	By December 2022	The Local Authority continues to fund support SACRE's work through its allocation of Officers to support the work of SACRE.
1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To engage Schools in designing a logo for SACRE</li> </ul>		Principal Adviser (Support)	September to November 2022	Delayed due to capacity.



**Objective Two:** To monitor the effective teaching of RE throughout the Local Authority and explore ways to model best practice in RE

**Intended Impact:** SACRE Members have an informed understanding of the quality of RE provision and standards in RE across North Yorkshire schools

**Links to NASACRE Self-evaluation toolkit:**

**Priority Two - Promoting improvement in the standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE**

Ref	Action	Cost	Lead	Timescale	Progress
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrange a programme of visits to a range of Schools in North Yorkshire to see RE in action.</li> <li>Develop a SACRE Visits Policy and Visits Form</li> </ul>	Travel expenses School time	LA Officer Principal Adviser (Support)	On-going from April 2023	<p>An approach to monitor the effectiveness of RE teaching throughout the Local Authority through an evaluation of the information and guidance provided through school's websites was agreed by the committee during April 2024 committee meeting rather than visits to schools to observe RE lessons. This work has been piloted in 2024-25.</p> <p>SACRE continue to monitor the effectiveness of RE through the findings within Ofsted inspections.</p>
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement a system for receiving pupil feedback on RE</li> </ul>		LA Officer Principal Adviser (Support)	On-going from April 2023	<p>This could initially be built into visits.</p> <p>Visit from SACRE Members to School could include pupil voice – DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check?</p>

**Objective Three:** To review the locally Agreed Syllabus  
**Intended Impact:** SACRE Members implement a locally agreed syllabus for 2024-29 taking account of national developments and consultation with schools

Links to NASACRE Self-evaluation toolkit:

**Priority Three** - To evaluate the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus

**NOTE:** This is primarily a priority for the second year of this Development Plan

Ref	Action	Cost	Lead	Timescale	Progress
3.1	• SACRE to consult with the Local Authority; SACRE Members; and Schools on the effectiveness of the current Agreed Syllabus		LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	From Autumn 2022	Teacher consultation through networks completed and feedback obtained. Action completed.
3.2	• SACRE to set up Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) in line with legal requirements		LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	Spring 2023	ASC implemented. Action completed
3.3	• SACRE to review options in light of consultation		LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	Spring / Summer 2023	ASC implemented. Action completed
3.4	• SACRE to produce and recommend to the Local Authority an Agreed Syllabus for RE which is educationally sound and meets legal requirements		LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	By Spring 2024	ASC implemented. Action completed
3.5	• Local Authority to adopt and launch Agreed Syllabus		LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	Spring / Summer 2024	Action completed.
3.6	• SACRE to work in partnership with the Local Authority to put in place ongoing training and support to ensure full implementation of the Agreed Syllabus in NYC (North Yorkshire Council) schools		LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	On-going from launch	Underway – a schedule of training and support for schools is in place

Page 30

**Objective Four:** To review and update SACRE guidance to schools on collective worship  
**Intended Impact:** Schools have updated and clear collective worship guidance that take account of national developments

Links to NASACRE Self-evaluation toolkit:

**Priority Four** - To promote improvement in the provision and quality of Collective Worship

**NOTE:** This is primarily a priority for the second year of this Development Plan

Ref	Action	Cost	Lead	Timescale	Progress
4.1	• SACRE engage with and respond to the NASACRE national report on Collective Worship		LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	2023/2024	Pending
4.2	• A SACRE working party review and update guidance for Schools		LA Officer Professional RE Adviser SACRE working party	2023/2024	Partly complete – to be carried over into the new development plan
4.3	• SACRE develop a programme of training and support for schools on collective worship		LA Officer Professional RE Adviser	2024	• Partly complete – to be carried over into the new development plan

# Appendix 3: Circulation of report

- NASACRE [admin@nasacre.org.uk](mailto:admin@nasacre.org.uk)
- Department for Education [ministers@education.gov.uk](mailto:ministers@education.gov.uk)
- North Yorkshire Council, Children and Young People's Leadership Team
- North Yorkshire schools
- SACRE members representative bodies



## Contact us

Online: [northyorks.gov.uk/contact-us](https://northyorks.gov.uk/contact-us)

By telephone: **0300 131 2 131**

North Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

You can request this information in another language or format at [northyorks.gov.uk/accessibility](https://northyorks.gov.uk/accessibility)

This page is intentionally left blank

## North Yorkshire Council

### Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee

25 March 2026

#### Performance Report for Quarter 3 2025/26

#### Report of the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services

##### **1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 For the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review a summary of the relevant thematic performance data that forms part of the quarterly reports to the Executive.
- 1.2 For the Committee to consider whether there are any lines of enquiry arising from the information provided to follow up on, for example issues to request further information on or to be put forward for the future work programme.

##### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 North Yorkshire Council is ambitious to provide the best possible services to residents, communities and businesses. Understanding how we are performing is a critical step in identifying how we can continue to improve and achieve the best outcomes. As noted in the North Yorkshire Council Performance Management Framework 2025-26: “As an organisation going through a huge amount of change, monitoring performance, understanding it and learning from that insight is crucial to keep us on track.”
- 2.2 A key part of the corporate performance management arrangements is the ‘Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring Report’, considered by the Executive to show progress against the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) identified against the Council Plan. The report is organised under the five Council Plan themes: Place and Environment, Economy, Health and Wellbeing, People and Organisation, to aid in the monitoring of the overall Council Plan.
- 2.3 As part of the consideration of this report at the quarterly Performance Monitoring Executive meetings, members of the Scrutiny Board, made up of the Chairs of each of the six Overview and Scrutiny committees, are invited to ask questions to hold Executive members to account, based on the data, trends and narrative presented in the report of any performance challenges or opportunities.
- 2.4 A way of ensuring that this Overview and Scrutiny Committee plays its role in analysing the performance of the relevant directorate within the Council, a summary of the performance information is presented as an appendix to this report for consideration at this meeting. It is intended that performance information is presented to the committee on a bi-annual basis.
- 2.5 The appendix provides all committee members an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments, as well as to identify and interrogate trends in the data presented and identify key lines of enquiry. This scrutiny process of performance could lead to further actions from the committee, such as requests for follow-up reports at a future meeting, informal briefings on particular areas of interest and/or requests for further information to be collated from the

directorate to develop the knowledge and understanding of the committee. It can also help to plan future work programmes.

### **3.0 Performance report**

3.1 The Executive Performance Report for Q3 2025-26 is presented at Appendix A and B. It sets out a summary of the KPIs and narrative that details the directorate performance and forms part of the overall quarterly reports considered by the Executive.

3.2 At the latest Performance Monitoring meeting of the Executive on 17 February, the Chair of Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Young People's Member Champion sought responses from the Executive Member for Children and Families and the Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills around the following points:

- Number of children looked after.
- Stability of short-term placements.
- Obesity rates in 4/5 year olds.
- Timeliness of Education Health Care (EHC) Plans.
- Permanent exclusions.
- Elective home education

3.3 In response, the Executive Members and the Director of Children and Families advised that:

- Number of children looked after - referrals had fallen by 12% compared with the same period in the previous year owing to strengthened practice in the Multi-Agency Screening Team (MAST). Many children entering care in Q3 were part of sibling groups and plans were in place to ensure help was offered at the lowest appropriate level. Child protection plans are beginning to come down and North Yorkshire has a rate of 52 children per 10,000 population, against a national average of 74.
- Stability of short-term placements - although short-term placement stability had improved to 13% in Q3, any repeat moves are concerning. Moves could occur while assessments were being completed to identify the most suitable long-term family. Foster care capacity had at times reached 99–100%, limiting flexibility, and confirmed that foster carer recruitment continued to be a priority.
- Obesity rates in 4/5 year olds - public health funding was increasingly directed towards prevention programmes. While it was difficult to attribute specific causes for rising obesity rates or to quantify the precise impact of national measures such as sugar reduction initiatives, focusing on targeted programmes with clear end points is the most reliable way of assessing success.
- Timeliness of EHC Plans - performance had risen from 8% of plans issued on time in January 2025 to over 80% in January 2026. This improvement had been achieved through a more structured approach to casework, increased availability and input from educational psychologists, timelier information, and robust monitoring at each stage of the EHC process to identify and resolve delays early.
- Permanent exclusions - preventative support is available through commissioned places in Pupil Referral Units (PRU) and schools can also access alternative provision. Excluded children must receive education by the sixth day and consultation has taken place on extending PRU age ranges to respond to rising exclusions among younger pupils. SEND hubs continue to provide school-led support, with a developing focus on strengthening inclusion in mainstream schools and ensuring responses were tailored to each child's individual circumstances.
- Elective home education – the Council works actively with schools and families to avoid unnecessary withdrawal. A suite of early help services, delivered in

partnership with health colleagues supports children and families and helps maintain school placements wherever possible.

3.4 The committee will note that the data for Q3 2025-26 highlights a continuing pattern in the following areas:

- Steady rise in the number of looked after children.
- More children continue to be admitted to care than discharged from care.
- Increase in children being home educated.
- Increase in number of primary school permanent exclusions.

There has been a welcome trend towards:

- Reduction in referrals to Children's Social Care (CSC).
- Increase in the number of young people being discharged from care.
- Decrease in looked-after children who experienced three or more placements.
- Timeliness of Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs).
- Decrease in Child Protection Plans (CPP).
- Increase in GCSE 9-5 pass in English and Maths (Basics) at KS4

#### **4.0 Financial and climate change implications**

4.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 All local authorities have a duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which their functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 As a wider strategic document, the Council Plan 2025-2029 provides an opportunity to improve our understanding of outcomes in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion across protected characteristic and socio-economic groups, and target action to eliminate discrimination, advance equality (reduce inequalities) and foster good relations in line with our Public Sector Equality Duties.

#### **7.0 Performance implications**

7.1 This report sets out the thematic performance data that forms part of the quarterly reports to the Executive. By presenting directorate-specific KPIs and narrative information for the Overview and Scrutiny committee to review, this will help to improve corporate grip, control and delivery in our drive to improve as an organisation.

#### **8.0 Reasons for recommendations**

8.1 To give committee members an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the directorate performance set out in Appendix A and B and identify key lines of enquiry that could form part of future reports and feed into the work programme.

## **9.0 Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- i) Note the performance information detailed in Appendix A and B.
- ii) Feed back on the performance data and narrative contained within Appendix A and B, with a view to considering any future lines of enquiry for the committee to explore.

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – Q3 2025-26 Executive Performance Report

Appendix B – Q3 2025-26 Executive Performance Report Appendix

Barry Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
17 March 2026

Report Author – Alice Fox, Senior Scrutiny Officer

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

# Executive Performance Report

## Quarter 3 2025-26

Report produced by Strategy and Performance

# Contents

Contents.....	2
Executive summary .....	3
Safe, Healthy and Living Well.....	5
Maximise the potential.....	15

# Executive summary

## Introduction

Welcome to the **quarter three** performance report for the period 1 October to 30 December 2025.

The main report includes an executive summary highlighting a combination of areas doing well and areas to be addressed. The report has been organised by our five revised Council Plan ambitions for 2025/29: **Thriving Places and Empowered Communities, Sustainable and Connected Places, Safe, Healthy and Living Well, Maximise the Potential and One Council**, this is to aid in the monitoring of the Council plan over time.

The report also includes the following appendices:

- Appendix A: Appendix of KPI's taken from the Council Plan

## Safe, Healthy and Living Well

### Going Well

#### Referrals to Children's Social Care (CSC)

This quarter, 1,235 referrals into CSC between October and December 2025, marking the third consecutive quarterly decline. One contributing factor is the improved screening processes implemented by the Multi-Agency Screening Team (MAST). Across the first three quarters of 2025/26, referrals have fallen by 12% (n=499) compared with the same period in 2024/25. This downward trend is expected to continue into Q4.

#### Children and Young People Who Experience High Placement Instability

This quarter, the proportion of looked-after children who experienced three or more placements within the last 12 months decreased to 13.2% at the end of December, down from 14.7% at the end of September.

#### Children and Young People Discharged from Care

During this quarter, 41 children and young people were discharged from care. This is five more than Q2 and 16 more than in Q3 2024/25. This year to date, 134 children and young people have been discharged from care, an increase of 28% (n=29) in comparison to Q3 2024/25.

### To be Addressed

#### Overall Number of Children in Care

The overall number of children in care increased for the tenth consecutive quarter, reaching 601 at the end of December 2025. This represents an increase of nine children since the end of October and marks the first time the number has exceeded 600 in North Yorkshire. This figure is also 7% higher (n=41) than the position at the end of December 2024. It is important to highlight that despite this increase, North Yorkshire continues to have a relatively low rate of children in care compared with both the national picture and our statistical neighbour group. At the end of December, the rate stood at 52 per 10,000 population, compared with 74 per 10,000 nationally and a statistical neighbour average of 71 per 10,000.

#### Number of Children Admitted to Care

There were 61 children and young people admitted to care this quarter, which is one of the key contributors to the overall increase in the number of children in care. For the year to date there have been 184 admissions to care, which is similar to numbers over the previous two years.

#### Timeliness of Early Help Initial Visits

As part of North Yorkshire's good practice standards, we set a target for 70% of Early Help initial visits to be completed within five working days. Performance in Q3 2025/26 improved to 66.7%, up from 62.4% in Q2, although it remains just below the target level. The continued focus on timely engagement reflects our commitment to maintaining high standards of practice and ensuring children and families are seen promptly.

## Maximise the potential

### Going Well

#### **Timeliness of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans issued**

High performance for the timeliness of new EHC plans issued by North Yorkshire Council has continued into this quarter. 72.8% of the 280 new EHC plans issued in Q3 2025/26 have been issued on time, up from the 7.7% recorded in Q3 last year.

### To be Addressed

#### **Permanent Exclusions**

There has been an indication that children being excluded for a temporary period has been reducing. Schools choosing to permanently exclude children has been continuing at a similarly high level to previous years and continues to require addressing.

There have been 44 permanent exclusions (appeals pending) from mainstream North Yorkshire schools in the Autumn term of the 2025/26 academic year, slightly higher than the 37 in 2024/25.



## Safe, Healthy and Living Well

Ensure the people of North Yorkshire are safe, healthy and living well

### Children and Families

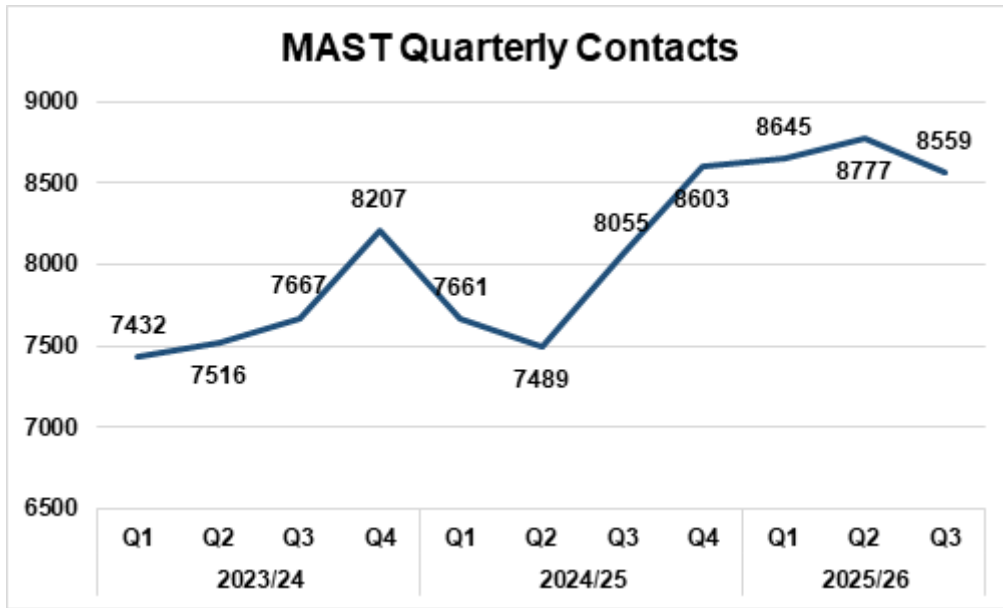
#### Safeguarding & Child Protection

##### Summary

The Multi Agency Screening Team (MAST) has improved their screening process. This is a leading cause in the reduction of referrals into Children's Social Care (12% fewer (n=499) compared with the previous year to date). This reduction is despite the number of contacts (8,559) being 6% (n=504) higher than the previous year. This process improvement has seen team members given more time to undertake a robust analysis, including speaking with families, before a final decision on a contact is made.

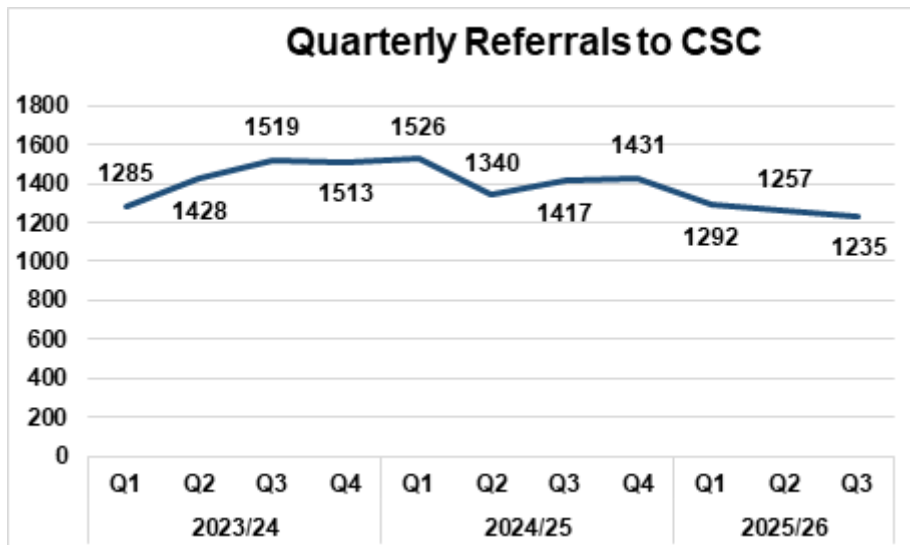
Timeliness of assessment improved this quarter to 93.6%, the highest level recorded since Q3 last year. Performance remains significantly above both the national average (84.4%) and the statistical neighbour average (86.2%).

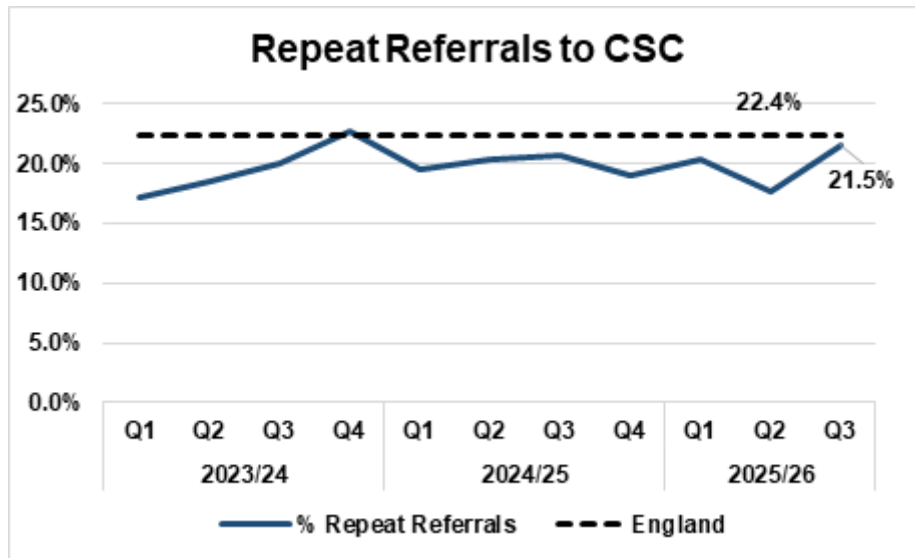
**Contacts at the Front Door**



This quarter has seen another period of very high number of safeguarding concerns received by the front door, with 8,559 recorded. Whilst the number of contacts received this quarter is 2.5% lower (n=218) than the 8,777 contacts received in Q2, it is 6% higher (n=504) than in Q3 last year. An increase in the number of contacts from health services (+19%, +318 contacts) accounts for much of the increase we have seen in contacts this quarter compared with Q3 2024/25.

**Referrals to CSC**



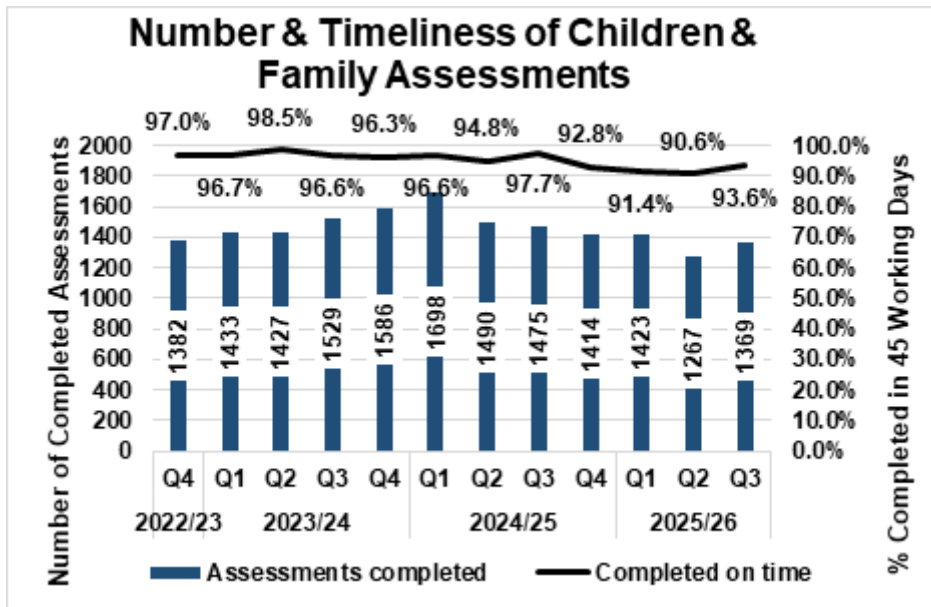


Despite the number of safeguarding concerns received about children at the front door remaining high this quarter, referrals to CSC have remained relatively flat at 1,235. Although almost identical to Q2 (1,257 referrals), it is a 13% reduction (n=182) compared with Q3 last year and for the year to date we have received 12% fewer referrals (n=499) than in 2024/25. Forecast data suggests that Q4 will see a further fall in referrals, with around 1,100 referrals forecast. Improved screening in MAST, where social workers are spending more time to robustly analyse contacts and contact families is thought to be driving the reduction in referrals to CSC.

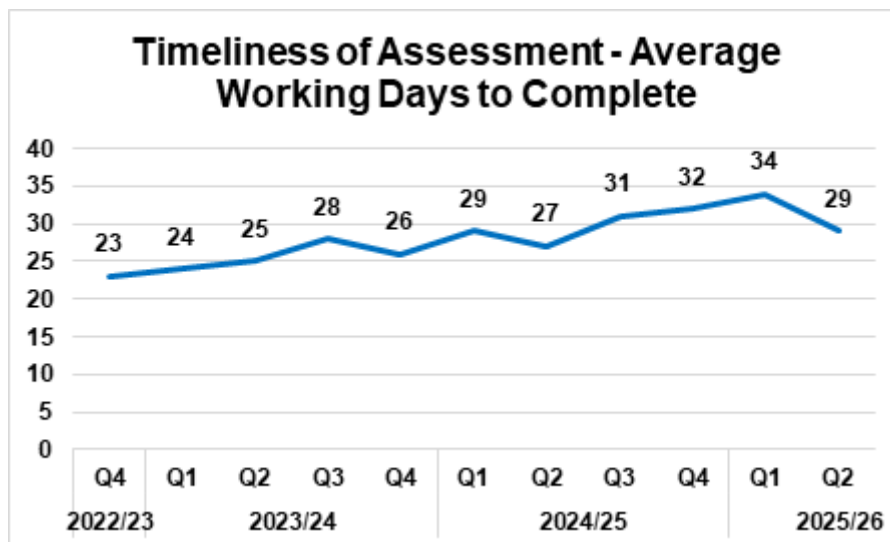
However, despite fewer referrals to CSC in Q3 2025/26 compared with Q3 2024/25, we continue to see a high number of children referred where there is initial evidence of risk of significant harm, demonstrated by the 649 strategy meetings held this month and 460 S47 child protection investigations undertaken this quarter. However, for the year to date, strategy meetings have decreased by 3% (n=69) and S47 enquiries have decreased by 5% (n=73) compared with the first 9 months of last year.

The rate of re-referral increased (worsened) by almost 4% to 21.5% this quarter but remains statistically significantly lower than the national rate of 22.4%. For the year to date the rate was 19.8% at the end of Q3, compared to 21.1% in the same period in 2024/25.

### Timeliness of Assessment

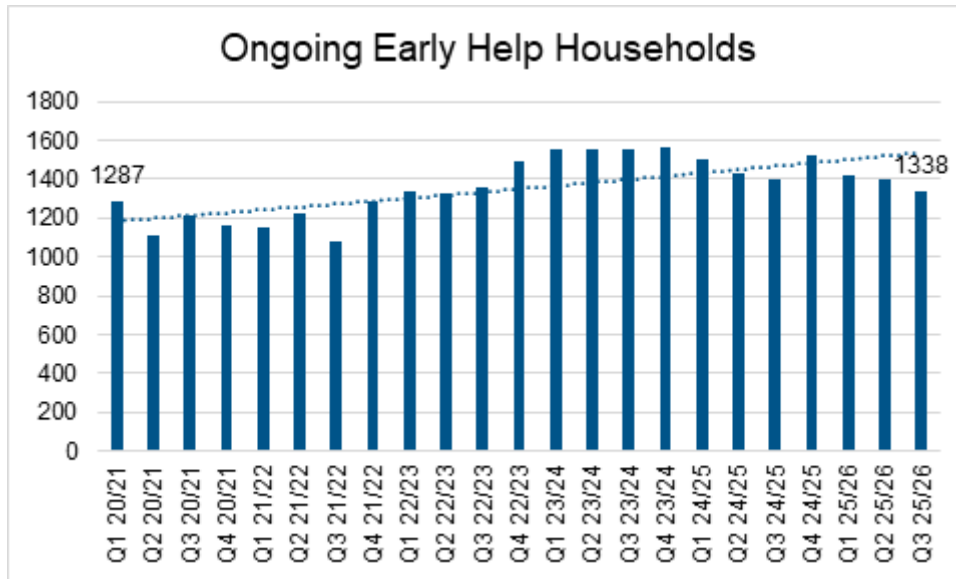


Historically, timeliness of assessment has been a key strength in North Yorkshire, and the local authority consistently ranked among the top five performing local authorities nationally in recent years. Performance has deteriorated in recent months from 97.7% in Q3 2024/25 to 90.6% in Q2 this year. However, performance is showing signs of improvement, with 93.6% of assessments completed in 45 working days this quarter. It's worth noting that timeliness of assessment remains significantly better than the most recent national data (84.4% completed in 45 working days) or statistical neighbour average (86.2%).



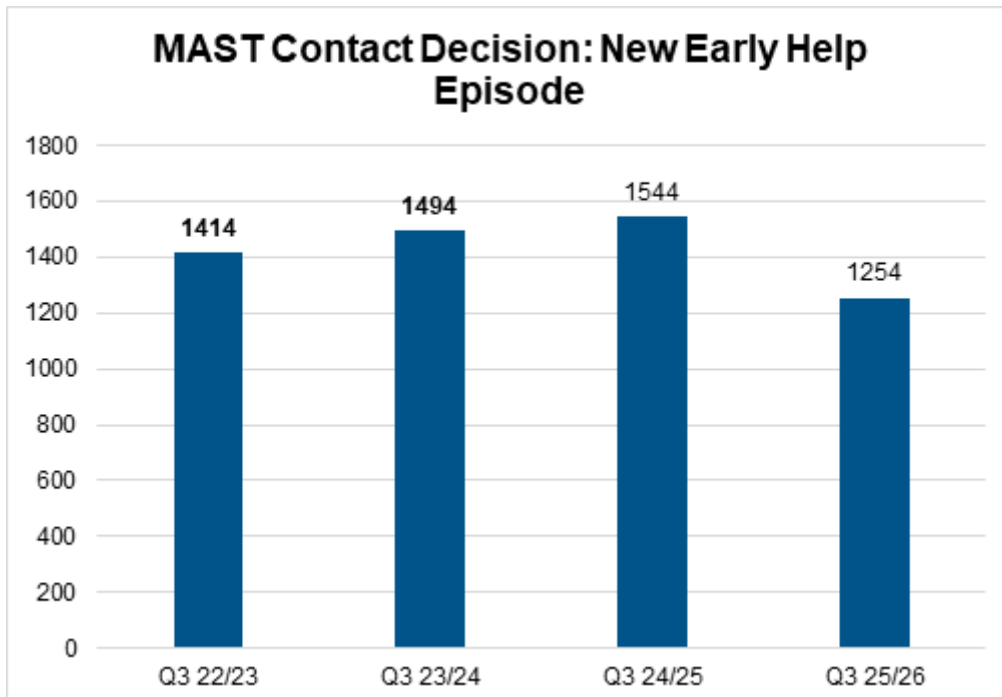
Following an increase in the median time taken to complete an assessment to 34 working days in Q1, it's positive to be able to report that this has decreased this quarter to 29 working days. This means families are receiving the help and support they need quicker, and this should mean the needs of fewer families escalate further.

## Early Help

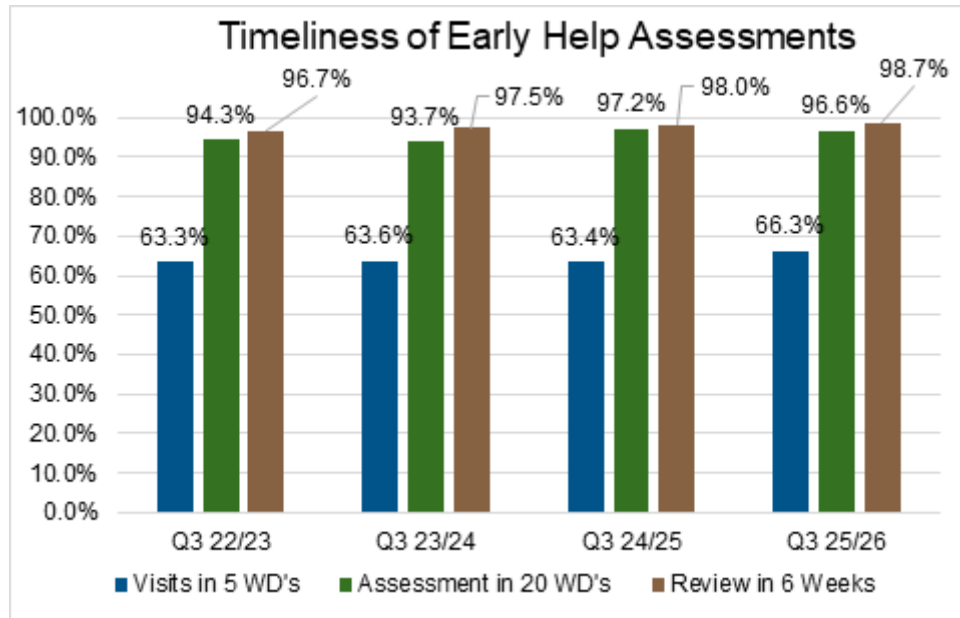


The number of ongoing households receiving support from the Early Help Service decreased by 4.2% this quarter, falling from 1,397 in Q2 to 1,338 in Q3 2025/26; this is also a 4.2% reduction compared with Q3 2024/25.

These households include 2,538 children and young people, a 4.7% decrease from 2,664 last quarter. The number of safeguarding concerns received through the 'front door' has also reduced, resulting in 1,254 new Early Help Episodes in Q3 2025/26, down 18.8% year-on-year from 1,544 in Q3 2024/25. Over the same period, 2a/2b decisions increased by 38.5% (from 423 to 586). Compared with the previous quarter, new Early Help Episodes decreased by 6.7% (from 1,344), while 2a/2b decisions rose from 362 to 586 (+224), reflecting robust decision-making within MAST.

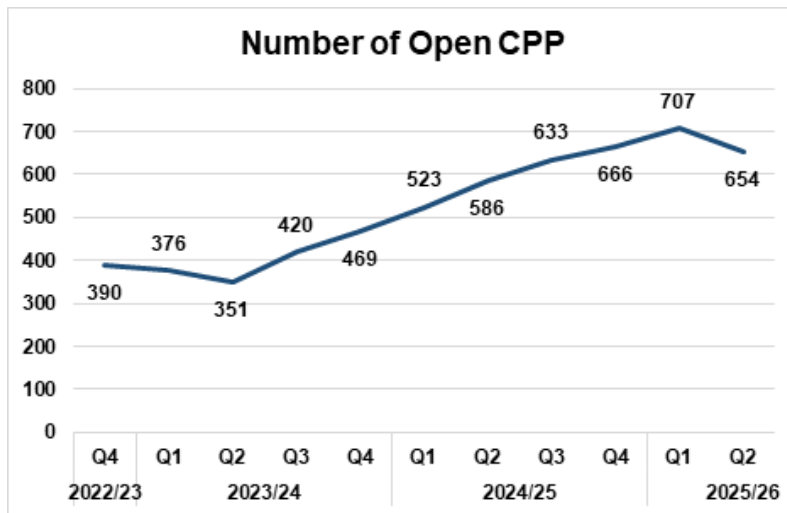


2A / 2B are those contacts that are assessed as not meeting the threshold for a referral into the Early Help Service. The needs can be delivered by an individual from an agency who has an existing relationship with the child or, alternatively, an Early Help Champion can complete an Early Help Assessment and, where necessary, coordinate a Team around the Family Meeting to ensure an appropriate multi-agency response to escalating needs.



North Yorkshire continues to work to its local good-practice standard of completing initial visits within five working days, which is not a statutory requirement. In Q3 2025/26, 66.3% of visits met this standard, up from 63.4% in Q3 2024/25, although remaining slightly below the 70% target. The timeliness of Early Help Initial Assessments within the self-imposed 20 working days decreased slightly to 96.6%, but performance remains above the 95% target and close to levels seen in previous years. The proportion of Assessment Reviews completed increased to 98.7%, up from 98% in Q3 2024/25, and continues to exceed the target of 95%.

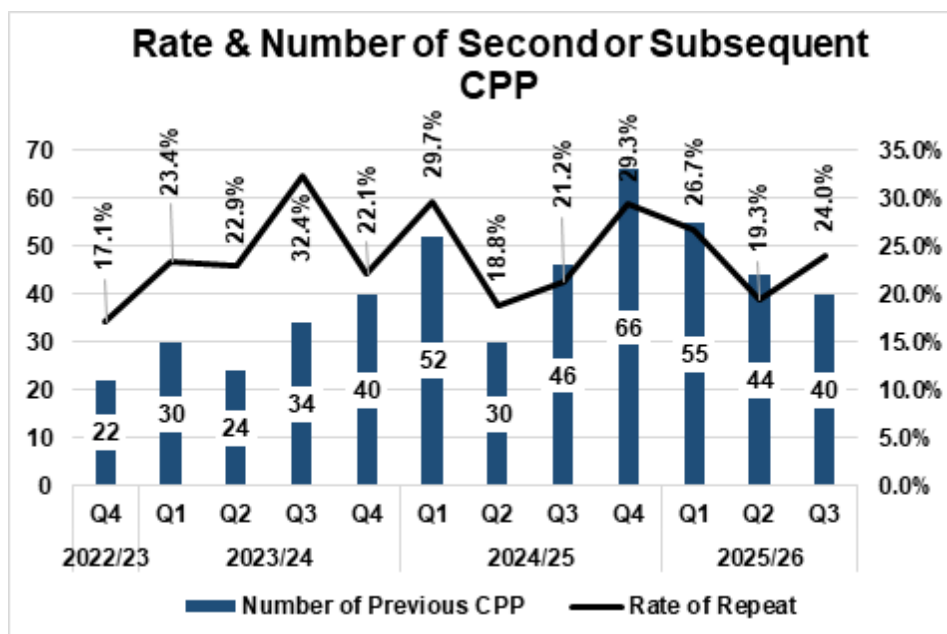
### Child Protection Plans (CPP)



This quarter saw the number of open CPPs decrease for the first quarter in over two years to 654, a decrease of 7.5% (n=53). However, this is still 12% higher (n=68) than at the end of December 2024.

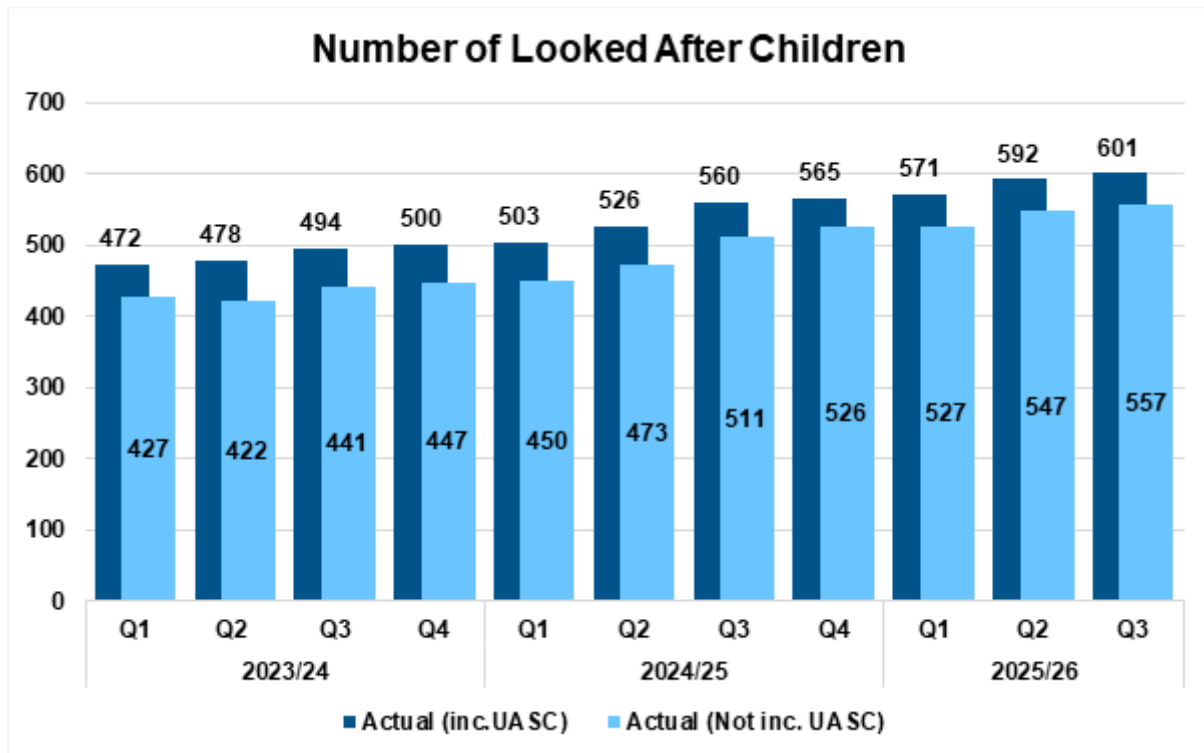
The number of ceased CPP in Q3 2025/26 (167) has fallen by 40% (n=60) in comparison with Q3 2024/25 (212) whilst the number of new CPP issued has also fallen by 32% (n=53) from 220 in Q3 2024/25 to 167 in Q3 2025/26. Of note, the number of new CPPs issued in Q3 this year was also 27% lower than in Q2 (n=62). This abruptly reverses the rising trend in the number of new CPP seen over the last 18 months.

40 of the new CPP issued this quarter were second or subsequent plans, equivalent to a rate of 24.0%. It's worth noting that more than 2 years had elapsed since the previous plan in 24 of the 40 new CPP this quarter. We continue to see some quarterly volatility around this indicator, so it's worth noting that the rate for the current year to date (23.1%) is almost identical to the rate across the same period in 2024/25 (23.0%).



## Looked After Children

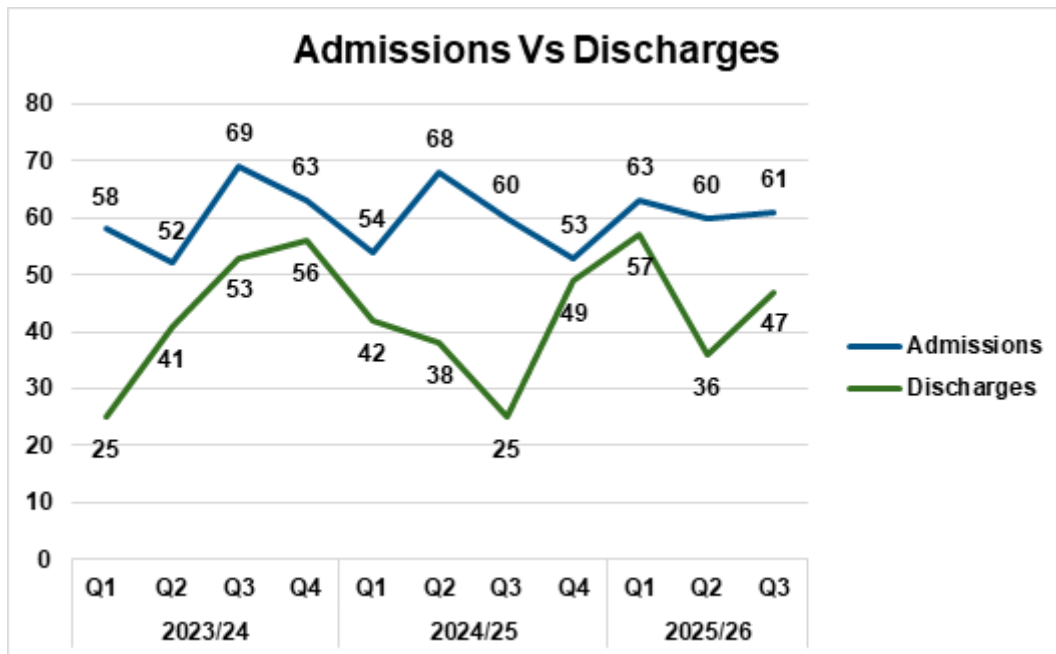
We've seen the number of looked after children rise steadily since 2019, reflecting the “once in a generation” challenges families have faced. More families are now presenting with complex and entrenched issues. This is placing pressure on all aspects of the child protection system, especially the availability and cost of specialist placements for children with highly complex needs.



At the end of December, there were 601 children in the care of the local authority, an increase of nine since the end of October and 41 compared with December 2024. Over the past three years, the number of children in care has risen by 33% (n=150), which broadly aligns with the increased number of children and families being referred via our front door for help and support during the same period.

Performance this quarter has also been affected by the festive period, contributing to additional children entering care but then also children being discharged due to delays such as, court work and case progression often slow due to staff absences. Additionally in terms of additional admissions the festive period can also place added pressure on families, including financial strain, disrupted routines and reduced access to support, increasing the risk of conflict at home. At the end of the quarter there were 44 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in the care of the Local Authority. This is 1 less than at the end of Q2 and 5 less than at the end of Q3 last year.

### Admissions and Discharges of Children In Care



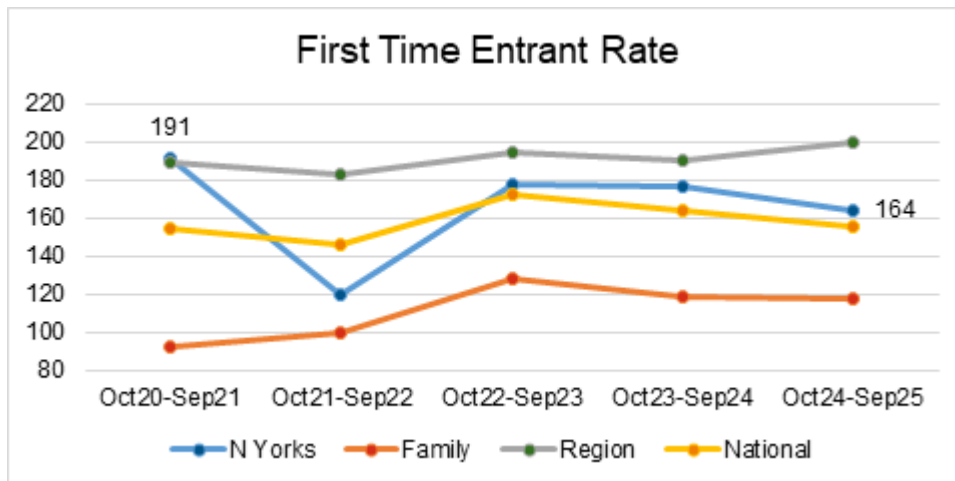
More children continue to be admitted to care than discharged from care. This is driving the rise in the overall number of looked after children. However, the gap has narrowed this quarter to 20 (from 24 in Q2). When considering year-to-date, admissions remain high at 184 (two fewer than last year) due to the number of children meeting the threshold of significant harm. Whereas there have been 134 discharges (29 more) which points to improvements in safe discharge practice.

### Placement Stability

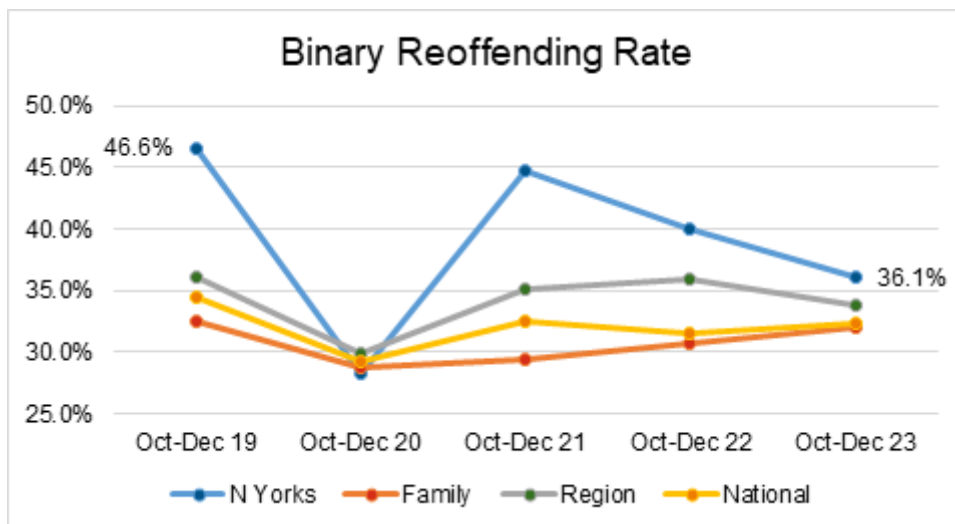
Short-term placement stability has improved this quarter, with 13.2% of children in care (80 children) experiencing three or more placements within 12 months, compared with 14.7% (86 children) at the end of Q2.

Some placement changes are planned and appropriate as part of a child’s permanence pathway. Despite the improvement, performance remains above the national average (12%) and the statistical neighbour average (10%).

**Youth Justice Service**



The latest data for the 12 months ending June 2025 shows a decrease in the rate of First Time Entrants (FTEs) into the criminal justice system in North Yorkshire, falling from 176 to 164, relating to 93 young people. This places North Yorkshire in the 3rd quartile nationally. The current rate remains lower than the regional rate (200) but higher than the national rate (155) and the family group average (117). Recent data is sourced directly from the YJS case management system rather than the Police National Computer (PNC), and therefore includes some non-recordable offences—18% (n=17) of the cohort relate to motoring offences not captured on the PNC. For comparison, the Ministry of Justice’s PNC-based 2024 annual data showed 78 FTEs (rate 140), while Youth Justice Board data (from case management system records) recorded 99 FTEs (rate 178) after correcting input errors.



The latest binary reoffending rate for the October–December 2023 cohort is 36.1%, a decrease from 40.0% in the same period the previous year. Although improved, the rate remains higher than the Family Group average (32.0%), the regional rate (33.9%), and the national rate (32.3%). The frequency rate (average number of reoffences per reoffender) increased to 4.46, but still sits below all three comparators. This cohort consisted of 36 young people, of whom 13 reoffended, committing 58 proven reoffences.



## Maximise the Potential

Maximise the potential of North Yorkshire's people and communities.

### Inclusion

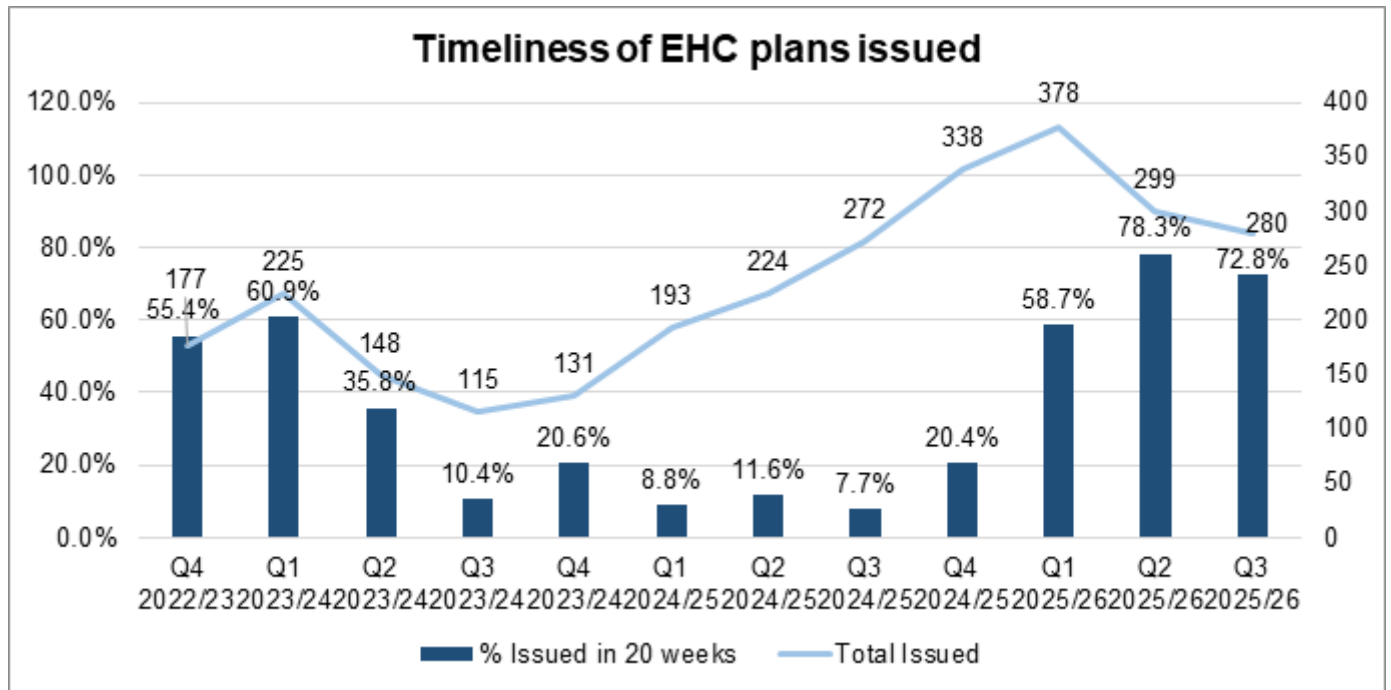
#### Education, Health & Care (EHC) Plan Timeliness

Performance in the timeliness of new EHC plans issued by North Yorkshire Council remains strong this quarter. 72.8% of the 280 new EHC plans issued in Q3 2025/26 were completed within 20 weeks, comparable to 78.3% in Q2 and substantially higher than the 7.7% achieved at the same point last year. North Yorkshire has moved from performing below the national average (46%) in 2024 to performing above the national average in 2025.

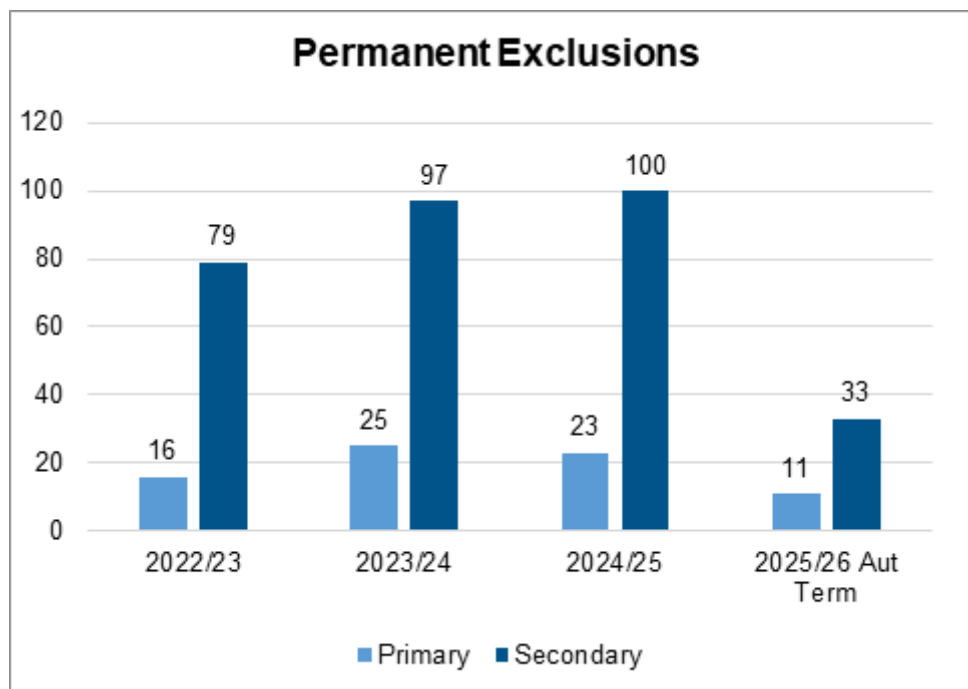
This improvement has been achieved during a period of historically high numbers of children being found to be in need of an EHC plan, with 957 new EHC plans issued so far this financial year—around 40% more than last year and the highest number issued in any year to date.

It should be noted that our performance in respect of timeliness of EHC plans has significantly improved from performing below the national average of 46% in the 2024 calendar year to above the national average in 2025.

This improvement in performance and increase in proportion of EHC produced on time has been achieved alongside historically high numbers of new EHC plans being issued, with 1245 new EHC plans produced this year. This is approximately 40% higher than the number produced last year and more than in any previous year.

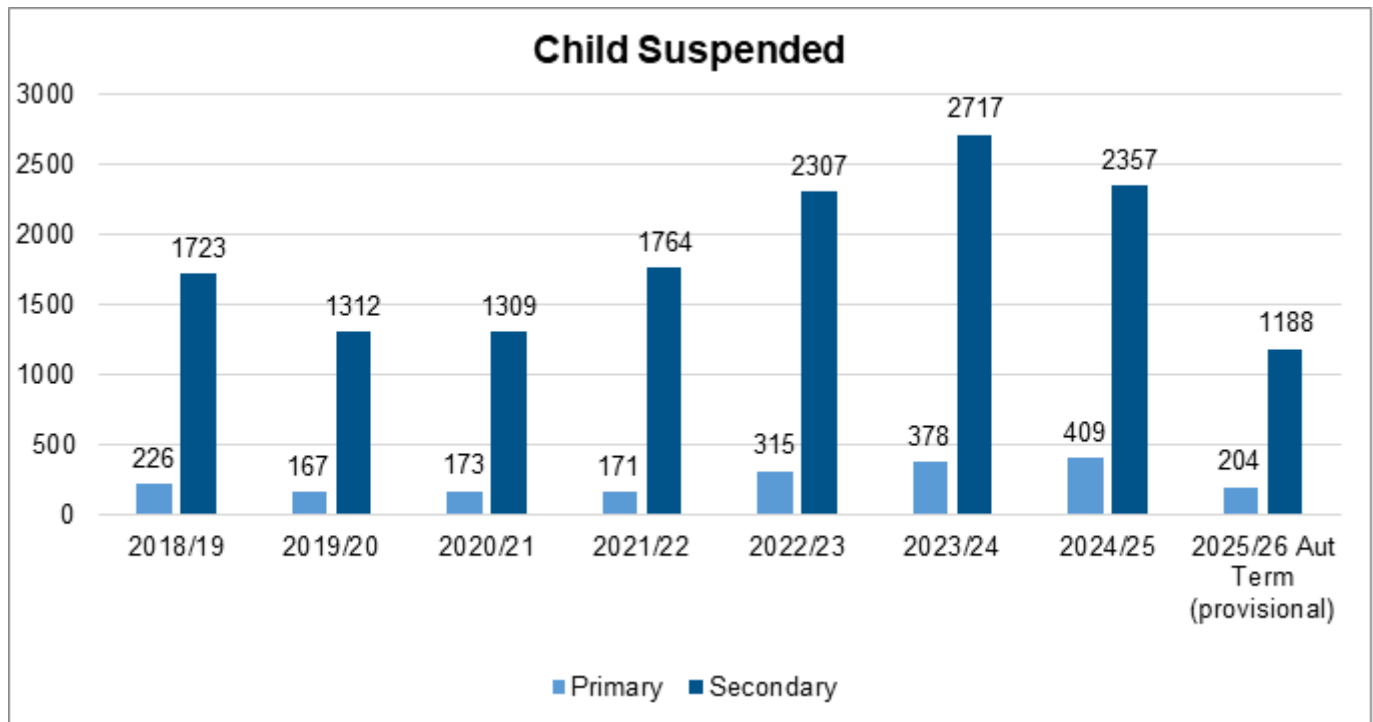


### Exclusions from School



Permanent exclusions from North Yorkshire schools remain at a similarly high level to recent years. There were 44 permanent exclusions in the Autumn term of the 2025/26 academic year, compared with 37 in the same period of 2024/25. Of these, 33 were from secondary schools (similar to last year) and 11 were from primary schools (appeals pending), an increase from seven last year. National data for 2023/24 indicates that North Yorkshire’s secondary permanent exclusion rate (0.25%) was in line with the national average, while the primary rate (0.06%) was above national levels.

It is important to note that schools choosing to exclude is a trend observed nationally and the most recent available national data National comparisons in 2023/24 showed that North Yorkshire rates for secondary schools (0.25%) of the school population excluded were similar to national but primary schools (0.06%) were above.

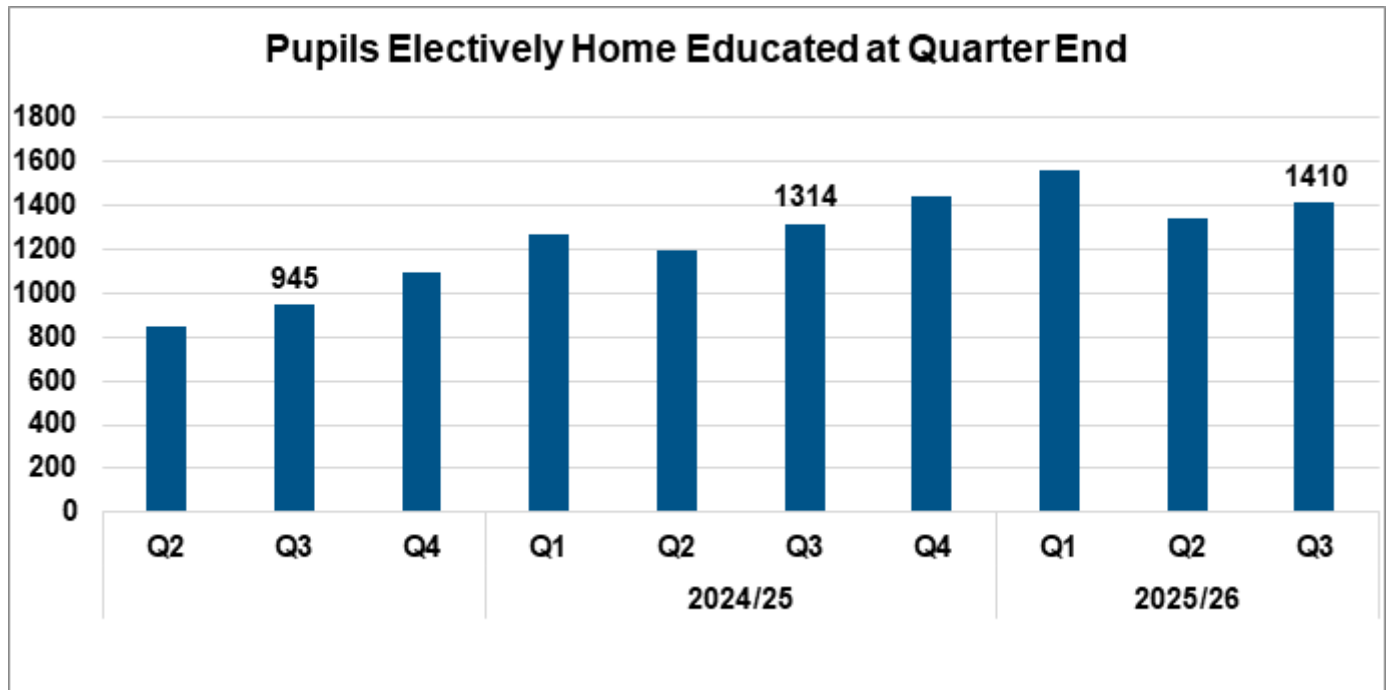


Persistent disruptive behaviour continues to be the most common reason for suspension, accounting for 57% of all suspensions. The next most frequent reason, verbal abuse or threatening behaviour towards an adult, accounts for 16%. These patterns are consistent with both regional and national trends.

Support to schools to reduce exclusions (both permanent and temporary) continues through the SEND Locality Hub teams, who provide direct specialist input, training, and advice for children at risk of exclusion. In addition, the newly launched Inclusive Mainstream Toolkit provides practical guidance for educational professionals to plan support effectively for children with additional needs.

### Elective Home Education

There were 1,410 children recorded as Electively Home Educated in North Yorkshire at the end of December, a 7% increase (+96) compared with the previous quarter. While this represents a seasonal high, there are indications that overall EHE numbers are beginning to plateau.



During the 2024/25 academic year, the number of children in EHE rose from 1,089 at the start of the autumn term to a record 1,559 by the end of the summer term. Although it remains unlikely that the total will fall by the end of the current academic year—given ongoing patterns in parental choice—there has been a clear slowing in the rate of increase over the past year.

Parents are offered a pre-decision meeting to ensure they understand their legal responsibilities when choosing to home educate. Schools also have access to training and guidance to support children who are not engaging in school-based education.

National statistics indicate that an increasing number of parents are choosing to home educate due to mental health concerns, a trend mirrored locally. The recently published national 10-Year Health Plan (Fit for the Future) includes plans to expand mental health support teams in schools and colleges, alongside the introduction of Young Futures Hubs to identify needs early and provide targeted support for children and young people.



# Executive Performance Report Appendix


**Quarter 3 2025-26**


Report produced by Strategy and Performance

## Introduction

The appendix has been organised by the five Council Plan themes: Thriving Places and Empowered Communities, Sustainable and Connected Places, Safe, Healthy and Living Well, Maximise the Potential and One Council. There are 171 KPI's in total, with 107 reported on a quarterly basis and 64 reported on an annual basis.


**RAG** – An indication of the level of performance an indicator is currently achieving in relation to a set target or national benchmarking level for that indicator. While the RAG rating is linked to the two “Improvement since last” markers, it is a standalone measure, measured by performance to either the target or benchmarking.


 **Green** - Current performance is on or exceeding target, whether in relation to target or national benchmarking

 **Red** - Current performance is significantly below expected standards, whether in relation to target or national benchmarking.



**Baseline** - Indicates performance is currently being tracked to inform the benchmarking / target setting process.

 **Amber** - Current performance is below expected standards, whether in relation to target or national benchmarking

 **Contextual** - These measures present a rounded view of information relevant to the service area although performance may not be within the control of the Council.



**In Development** - The KPI has been agreed, but data collection is needed to inform performance levels.

**“DoT”** – Current **Direction of Travel** when compared to the last annual or quarterly figures. This is a measure of how the indicator is moving over two periods – Annual and Quarterly. Key:



**Direction of travel is positive** compared to the year-end or last quarter figures



**Direction of Travel is negative** compared to the year-end or last quarter figures



**Performance is static to last** year's outturn or last quarter's figures

**N/A**

**Data either at a yearly or quarterly level not available**

**Strategic Level Performance:**

Code	KPI: Quarterly Indicators	Ambition	Q3 24/25	Q4 24/25	Q1 25/26	Q2 25/26	Q3 25/26
CYPS36	Number of children in care	Safe, Healthy and Living Well	511	526	527	547	601
CYPS34	The total number of children subject to a child protection plan (rate per 10,000)	Safe, Healthy and Living Well	51.4 (586)	55.6 (633)	58.0 (666)	62.1 (707)	56.5 (654)
CYPS13	The % of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 weeks	Maximise the Potential	7.7%	20.4%	58.7%	78.2%	72.8%

\*RAG rated against previous target.

**Target setting**

It is advised, to aid in formulating RAG ratings that the majority of KPI other than those badged as Contextual, Baseline or In Development should have a set target, or one linked to the anticipated direction of travel (DoT) of the KPI. Type of target could include:

Page 65

- **Statutory** – As defined by government.
- **Quartile / Benchmarking** - More suited for annual KPI. Performance to be in upper quartile, mid quartile or above average. This is when compared to a standardised group of like authorities or functions.
- **Directorate** - As defined by the directorate, with regards to; the DoT of the KPI, current performance levels, benchmarking and future aspirations.

- **Improving** - The aim is to improve performance of the KPI in relationship to current position This is solely based on the KPIs DoT.
- **Declining** - In certain circumstances the directorate may wish to see performance drop to lower levels than current – i.e. negative movement.













## Safe, Healthy and Living Well

- Ensure the people of North Yorkshire are safe, healthy and living well.

SAFE, HEALTHY AND LIVING WELL – CORPORATE LEVEL KPI								
KPI Code	Primary Indicator	Latest Data	Previous Data	Benchmarking / Target	RAG	DoT		Notes
						Quarter	Year	
<b>Quarterly</b>								
CYPS31	Number of households open to Early Help	Q3 1338	25/26 Q2 1397 Q1 1420 24/25 Q4 1,503 Q3 1,401 Q2 1,441	There are no national figures for Early Help.				Households open have decreased for the last four quarters. The level in Q3 24/25 is also below the level of Q3 2023/24, when there were 1,549 households open – a reduction of 13.6%. There has been a notable increase of 2a/2b decisions (advice given to other agencies) and work is ongoing to identify if this is the reason for the reduction in EH cases.
PS32	Timeliness of initial assessments (Early Help)	Q3 96.6%	25/26 Q2 90.6% Q1 96.4% 24/25 Q4 94.9% Q3 97.2% Q2 95.6%	There are no national targets for Early Help. The service set the target at 95%.				Performance in Q3 is at 96.6%, above the target level of 95%. This is an improvement from the 90.6% last month and only 9 assessments were not completed within the 20-day target. In December, by area, only three of the 11 teams did not achieve the 95% target, and 5 managed to achieve 100% completion in time.
CYPS33	Timeliness of assessment reviews (Early Help)	Q3 98.7%	25/26 Q2 97.4% Q1 97.3% 24/25 Q4 98.1% Q3 98.1% Q2 98.0%	There are no national targets for Early Help. The service set the target at 95%.				The percentage of Reviews completed within target has increased to 98.7%, up from 97.4% last quarter. This is the strongest performance seen. In December, only 3 reviews were not authorised within the 6-week timescales. Of the 11 teams, all achieved over 95%, and 8 achieved 100%
CYPS34	The total number of children subject to a child protection plan (rate per 10,000)	Q3 – 56.5 (654)	25/26 Q2 - 62.1 (707) Q1 - 58.0 (666) 24/25 Q4 55.6 (633) Q3 51.4 (586) Q2 46.0 (523)	National rate (Q4 2024/25) – 45.3 SN Average (Q4 2024/25) – 34.5				Rate has fallen for the first time in 8 quarters, although remains significantly higher than the national or SN group average rates and higher than at the same point in 2024/25
















Page 66

North Yorkshire Council Executive Performance Report Appendix Quarter 3 2025-26

CYPS35	Rate of second or subsequent child protection plans	Q3 – 24.0%	25/26 Q2 – 19.3% Q1- 26.7% 24/25 Q4 30.5% Q3 21.2% Q2 18.8%	National rate (Q4 2024/25) – 24.2% SN Average (Q4 2024/25) – 21.6%				Rate has risen by almost 6% this quarter, although the rate of repeat CPP stood at 23.1% for the year to date, almost identical to the year-to-date rate of 23.0% at the same point in 2024/25. It should be noted that as a quarterly measure this KPI is very volatile
CYPS36	The total number of children in care	Q3 - 601	25/26 Q1 – 527 Q2 - 547  24/25 Q4 526 Q3 511 Q2 473	National Rates and Statistical Neighbour Rates are worked out at the number per 10k so not aligned to our quarterly reporting.				The number of Children in Care in care has increased significantly at the end of Q3 2025/26 to 601 children +54 children compared to Q2 2025/26. Additionally, as a year-on-year comparison increased by 90 children compared to the same point last year Q3 2024/25.  Regarding UASC children there has been a decrease this Quarter down to 44 compared to compared to 48 at the end of Q2 2025/26.  The total number of children in care including UASC is currently at 592 compared to 571 children and young people at the end of Q2 2025/26.
CYPS37	The number of admissions to children in care	Q3 - 61	25/26 Q1 – 63 Q2 – 60 24/25 Q4 53 Q3 64 Q2 68	National Rates and Statistical Neighbour Rates are worked out at the number per 10k so not aligned to our quarterly reporting.				The number of admissions into care have increased by 1 compared to Q2 2025/26. This is still encouraging as increases of overall number in care have reached an all-time high, it is also lower than the same point last year (64) Q3 2024/25.
CYPS38	The number of discharges from children in care	Q3 – 49	25/26 Q1 – 57 Q2 - 36  24/25 Q4 49 Q3 27 Q2 41	National Rates and Statistical Neighbour Rates are worked out at the number per 10k so not aligned to our quarterly reporting.				The number of discharges into care have increased at the end of Q3 2025/26 to 49 compared to 36 at the end of Q2 2025/26 An increase of 13 children which is encouraging and will help to stabilise the number of children currently in care.  When comparing year on year statistics this equates to an increase of 22 children compared to Q3 2024/25.















Page 57

North Yorkshire Council Executive Performance Report Appendix Quarter 3 2025-26

CYPS39	The Percentage of referrals to children's Social Care that are repeat referrals	Q3 – 21.5%	25/26 Q2 – 17.7 Q1- 20.3% 24/25 Q4 19.1% Q3 20.7% Q2 20.3%	National rate (Q4 2024/25) – 20.5% SN Average (Q4 2024/25) – 17.6%				Rate of repeat referral has increased by almost 4% this quarter. However, for the year to date the rate was 19.8%, down from 21.1% in the same period in 2024/25. Year to date performance remains statistically significantly better than the national average
CYPS40	The percentage of children with an up-to-date SDQ	Q3 – 67%	25/26 Q1 - 73% Q2 - 65%  24/25 Q4 72.9% Q3 68.2% Q2 73.3%	<b>National rate (Q4 2024/25 903 DFE Return) 78%</b> <b>SN Average (Q4 2023/24 903 DFE Return) 74.4%</b>				The percentage of children with an up-to-date SDQ score has decreased down to 67% which is higher than Q2 2025/26 with 65%, but just 1.2% lower than 2024/25.
CYPS41	The average SDQ score for children in care	Q3 – 17.0	25/26 Q1 - 16.7 Q2 - 16.2 24/25 Q4 16.1 Q3 16.7 Q2 17.2	National rate (Q4 2024/25 903 DFE Return 14.9 SN Average (Q4 2024/25 903 DFE Return 14.8)				The average SDQ score has increased at the end of Q3 2025/26 up to 17.0 compared to Q2 2025/26 16.2 also marginally higher than the same point last year Q3 2024/25 16.7.
CYPS42	The number of Care Leavers receiving support from the leaving care team	Q3 544	25/26 Q2 545 Q1 534 24/25 Q4 522 Q3 525 Q2 528					The number of care leavers is on an upward trend, but reduced by one compared to Q2 (545). However, this is a notable increase to Q3 2023/24, when there were 525. The numbers are impacted from the number of Unaccompanied Asylum seekers, ageing out and ceasing to be looked after and becoming a care leaver.
CYPS43	% of Care Leavers (aged 19, 20 or 21) that the local authority is 'in-touch' with	Q3 98.4%	25/26 Q2 97.9% Q1 98.9% 24/25 Q4 99.5% Q3 99.4% Q2 99.5%	National rate (Q4 2023/24 903 DFE Return) 92% SN Average (Q4 2023/24 903 DFE Return) 96.1%				Only three care leavers were not in touch in Q3 2025.26. This equated to 98.4%, an increase from 97.9% last quarter. This is still a strong performance from the service when comparing to the national benchmark and statistical neighbours.












Page 68



North Yorkshire Council Executive Performance Report Appendix Quarter 3 2025-26

CYPS44	% of Care Leavers (aged 19, 20 or 21) in suitable accommodation	Q3 96.2%	25/26 Q2 95.8% Q1 96.3% 24/25 Q4 92.7% Q3 94.7% Q2 98.3%	National rate (Q4 2023/24 903 DFE Return) 88% SN Average (Q4 2023/24 903 DFE Return) 92.7%				Suitable accommodation has seen an increased from 95.8% in Q2 up to 96.2% in Q3. This is a strong performance from the service when comparing to the national benchmark and statistical neighbours. However, accommodation does remain a challenge for the service.
CYPS45	% of respondents who were either satisfied or very satisfied with the involvement from the Children & Families Service	Q2 98% (awaiting Q3 figure)	25/26 Q1 100% 24/25 Q4 93% Q3 94% Q2 89%					The percentage of families satisfied or very satisfied at the end of Q2 2025/26 has decreased marginally to 98%, compared to 100% at the end of Q1 2025/26. As a year-on-year comparison this equates to a +9% increase (89% Q2 2024/25).
CYPS46	Number of Contacts Received by MAST	Q3 - 8559	25/26 Q2 - 8777 Q1 - 8645 24/25 Q4 8603 Q3 8055 Q2 7489	No target applicable and not benchmarked				There is no nationally agreed definition of a contact, preventing benchmarking. This quarter saw a small reduction in the number of contacts, but demand remains significantly higher than in 2024/25
CYPS47	Number of Referrals to CSC	Q3 - 1235 (107per 10k)	25/26 Q2 - 1257 (110 per 10k) Q1 - 1292 (113 per 10k) 24/25 Q4 1431 Q3 1417 Q2 1340	National rate (Q4 2024/25) - 141 per 10k SN Average (Q4 2024/25) - 105 per 10k				Third successive quarter to see a reduction in the rate of referral to CSC
CYPS48	Percentage of C&F assessments completed in 45 working days	Q3 - 93.6%	25/26 Q2 - 90.6% Q1 - 91.4% 24/25 Q4 92.8% Q3 97.7% Q2 94.8%	National rate (Q4 2024/25) - 83.8% SN Average (Q4 2024/25) - 75.4%				Performance improved by 3% this quarter but remains below the average across 2023/24 and 2024/25 (96%). However, performance remains much better than national of SN averages

Page 69




North Yorkshire Council Executive Performance Report Appendix Quarter 3 2025-26

CYPS49	The percentage of children with an up-to-date health assessment	Q3 – 88%	25/26 Q1 – 91% Q2 – 88% 24/25 Q4 89.2% Q3 83.5% Q2 85.4%	<b>National Rate (2024/25 903 DFE Return)</b> 90% <b>SN (2024/25 903 DFE Return)</b> 91%				Children services continue to strive to improve the health outcomes for the children in North Yorkshire's care, this has made a significant difference to the % of children and young people with an up-to-date health assessment. At the end of Q3 2025/26 the % has remained stable at 88%, which is also higher than the same point last year +5.5%. Sitting just below the national and statistical neighbours' averages from the DFE 903 return 2024/25.
CYPS50	The percentage of children with an up-to-date dental check	Q3 – 77%	25/26 Q1 – 79% Q2 – 77% 24/25 Q4 73.6% Q3 75.2% Q2 70.2%	<b>National Rate (2023/24 903 DFE Return)</b> 79% <b>SN (2023/24 903 DFE Return)</b> 77.2%				Dental is another area that children services have strived to improve ensuring children in North Yorkshire's care get access to a dentist and get a dental check within 12 months, making a significant difference to the % of children and young people with an up-to-date dental check. At the end of Q3 2025/26 has remained stable at 77% compared to Q2 2025/26 and +1.8% above the same point last year. NY sitting just below national rate and in line with statistical neighbours' average.
CYPS51	The percentage of children with up-to-date immunisations	Q3 – 76%	25/26 Q1- 76.9% Q2- 71%  24/25 Q4 73.4% Q3 71.8% Q2 71.9%	<b>National (2023/24 903 DFE Return)</b> 84% <b>SN (2023/24 903 DFE Return)</b> 85.4%				Immunisations are constantly reviewed by children services to improve ensuring children in North Yorkshire's care working very closely with health partners, which over 2024/25 into 2025/26 have improved significantly. At the end of Q3 2025/26 there has been a significant increase +5%. Also compared to the same point last year +4.2% (Q3 2024/25). There is a little more work to do as currently as below national average of 84% and Statistical neighbour 85.4%.
CYPS52	Binary Reoffending Rate	Oct-Dec23 36.1%	Jul-Sep23 33.3% Apr-Jun23 36.2% Jan-Mar23 28.6% Oct-Dec22 40.0%	<b>National Oct-Dec 23 32.3%</b>		N/A		The latest official Binary re-offending rate (3-month cohort) for North Yorkshire increased from the figure seen in the previous cohort, to 36.1%. The latest rate is higher than the Family Group average (32.0%), the Regional rate (33.9%) and the National rate (32.3%).
<b>Annual</b>								











CYPS30	First Time Entrant Rate per 100,000	Oct24-Sep25 164	Jul24-Jun25: 155 Apr24-Mar25: 190 Jan-Dec 24: 181 Oct23-Sep24: 176	National: 155 Regional: 200 Family Group: 117		N/A		The latest rate ( <b>164</b> ) is higher than the Family Group average ( <b>117</b> ) and National rate ( <b>155</b> ) but lower than the Regional rate ( <b>200</b> ).
--------	-------------------------------------	-----------------	---	---	---	-----	---	---









### Maximise the Potential

- Maximise the potential of North Yorkshire’s people and communities.







MAXIMISE THE POTENTIAL – CORPORATE LEVEL KPI								
KPI Code	Primary Indicator	Latest Data	Previous Data	Benchmarking / Target	RAG	DoT		Notes
						Quarter	Year	
<b>Quarterly</b>								
CYPS9	The % of young people who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) in academic year 12 and year 13	Q3 1.7%	25/26 Q1 1.5% Q2 1.0% 24/25 Q4 1.6% Q3 1.6% Q2 1.1% Q1 1.6%	National NEET 3.5% (Feb 2025) Y&H NEET 3.8% (Feb 2025) National Situation Not Known 1.6% (Feb 2025)				At the end of Q2 2025/26 the % of NEET are currently lower than the previous Quarter (Q2 2025/26) and at the same point last year also (Q2 2024/25). Also, significantly below the national rates.  However, this period can be uncertain as the teams are in the process of contacting the previous Year 11 young people to confirm if








				Y&H Situation Not Known 1.4% (Feb 2025) NYC Situation Not Known 1.6% (Feb 2025)				they are engaging in Employment, Education or Training.
CYPS10	The % of care leavers aged 19, 20 and 21 that are in education, employment, or training	Q3 63.5%	25/26 Q2 65.4% Q1 59.0% 24/25 Q4 61.3% Q3 59.8% Q2 59.3% Q1 61.0%	National rate (Q4 2023/24 903 DFE Return) 54% SN Average (Q4 2023/24 903 DFE Return) 56.7%				At the end of Q3 2025/26 the % of care leavers 19, 20 and 21 that are in education, employment or training reduced slightly from 65.4% to 63.5%. However, this is strong performance from the service as above national and statistical neighbour benchmarks also.
CYPS12	Number of children who are EHE	Q3 1410	25/26 Q1 1559 Q2 1337 24/25 Q4 1441 Q3 1314 Q2 1142	% of school population EHE (Autumn 2023/24 EHE Census, DfE) National 1.4% North Yorkshire 1.5%				EHE population continuing to increase although some signs of a slower increase in recent Quarters. National benchmarks are as of % of school populations and the most recent comparison is from the Autumn 2024/25 EHE census, showing that North Yorkshire rates are marginally higher than national.
CYPS13	The % of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 weeks	Q3 72.8%	25/26 Q1 58.7% Q2 78.2% 24/25 Q4 20.4% Q3 7.7% Q2 11.6%	<u>National</u>  <b>2024 calendar:</b> 46%				Timeliness of New EHC plans is continuing to improve and is maintaining at a high level. 72.8% issued in 20 weeks in Q3.  Performance is now much higher than this time last year.  The current rate puts North Yorkshire at higher performance than National rates seen last year.
<b>Annual</b>								
CYPS1	The % of children achieving a good level of development at Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	24/25 70.6%	22/23 70.3% 23/24 71.2%	England 24/25 68.3% England 23/24 67.7% England 22/23 67.2%		N/A		The percentage of children achieving a "Good Level of Development reduced this year to 70.6%. This is still above the national benchmark of 68.3%.



CYPS2	School Readiness: the % of children with free school meal status achieving a good level of development at the end of reception	24/25 45.7%	22/23 51.4% 23/24 47.6%	England 24/25 51.3% England 23/24 51.6% England 22/23 51.6%		N/A		Continues to be below the national standard
CYPS3	The % of pupils achieving the expected level or above in reading, writing and maths combined Key Stage 2	24/25 59.6%	22/23 55.6% 23/24 58.2%	England 2024/25 62.2% 2023/24 61.3%		N/A		Provisional data. Finalised data will be released later in the term.
CYPS4	Average Attainment 8 score at Key Stage 4	24/25 46.5	22/23 46.8 23/24 46.8	2024/25 national 46.1		N/A		North Yorkshire remains above the national comparator (0.4 difference). However, the score was slightly lower than the previous year.
CYPS5	Progress 8 score at Key Stage 4	N/A	22/23 0.04	2022/23 national -0.03	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not available
CYPS6	Overall attendance rate	24/25 Primary 95.3% Secondary 91.6%	Primary 2023/24 94.8% 2022/23 94.7% Secondary 2023/24 90.5% 2022/23 90.9%	National Primary 2023/24 94.5% Secondary 2023/24 91.1%		N/A		Awaiting annual releases
CYPS7	Severe Absence rate	24/25 Primary 0.6% Secondary 3.4%	Primary 23/24 0.6% 22/23 0.6% Secondary 23/24 4.5% 22/23 3.8%	National Primary 2023/24 0.9% 2022/23 0.7% 2021/22 0.6%		N/A		Awaiting annual releases

				Secondary 2023/24 3.8% 2022/23 3.4% 2021/22 2.7%				
CYPS8	% of young people with a qualification by age 19 (Level 2 / Level 3)	N/A	22/23 L2 86.5% L3 61.3%	2022/23 National Level 2: 85.5% Level 3: 61.3% 2021/22 National Level 2: 82.9% Level 3: 62.9%	N/A	N/A	N/A	
CYPS11	The % of pupils who attend a good or outstanding school (primary/ secondary) (to be updated when changes to Ofsted grading system announced).	24/25 86.0%		National 2024/25 90.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	There is no longer an "overall" grade for school Ofsted inspections
CYPS14	Rate of children with an Education Health Care Plan as % of school population	2024/25 (Academic) Primary: 2.9% Secondary: 3.1%	24/25 Primary 2.5% Secondary 2.6%	<u>National</u> Jan 2024 Primary 3.0% of school population Secondary 2.7% of school population				
CYPS15	The number of children receiving SEN Support as a % of school population	2024/25 (Academic) Primary: 14.0% Secondary: 13.1%	24/25 Primary 13.7% Secondary 12.1%	<u>National</u> Jan 2024 Primary 14.1% of school population Secondary 12.9% of school population				
CYPS16	GCSE 9-5 pass in English and Maths (Basics) at KS4	24/25 46.8%	22/23 45.7% 23/24 47.7%	National 23/24 46.3% 24/25 45.2%		N/A		In 24/25 North Yorkshire's results were 1.6% higher than national. In the previous year the gap between North Yorkshire and National was 1.3%

CYPS17	Persistent absence as % of school population (primary/secondary)	24/25 to end of Q4 Primary 11.5% Secondary 22.4%	2023/24 Primary 12.4% Secondary 27.3%	National: 2023/24 Primary: 14.6% Secondary: 25.6%		N/A		As is the case nationally, attendance in schools is yet to recover to levels seen before the pandemic.  There have been recent improvements in primary school attendance. Whilst improvements have also been seen in secondary and special schools, these continue to be above national rates recorded in 2023/24.  Awaiting annual releases for recent national comparisons.
CYPS18	% of school population suspended at least once in academic year to date'	Children Suspended at least once: Academic year to 2024/25: 2808 (estimate: 3.6%)	Academic year 2023/24: 3095	<b>National</b> <u>2023/24</u> Children Suspended: 4.04% Suspensions: 11.31% <b>North Yorkshire</b> <u>2023/24</u> Children Suspended: 4.00% Suspensions: 13.18%		N/A		Awaiting annual releases
CYPS19	% of school population permanently excluded in academic year to date	Academic year 2024/25 to end of Q4: 123	Academic year 2023/24: 122	<b>National</b> <u>2023/24</u> 0.11%		N/A		There is as yet no sign in a reduction in the high level of permanent exclusions from primary schools which increased in recent years.

				<b>North Yorkshire</b> 2023/24 0.09%				Rates of secondary schools choosing to permanently exclude is very similar to recent years but higher than levels seen in the years before the pandemic.
CYPS20	Adult Learning - 19+ Adult Skills funded learners - Overall Achievement Rates	23/24 77.1% (End of Academic Year)	22/23 80.6% (End of Academic Year)	<b>All figures from end of academic year</b> <b>2021/22</b> Q2 77.3% <b>2020/21</b> 76.9% (End of academic year) National <b>85.8%</b>		N/A		At the end of 23/24, there has been a decrease in the % of overall achievers 19+ compared to 2022/23. The overall achievement is also below the national average. Currently at Q1 2025/26 this has improved significantly the end of the academic year is 31/07/2025, so the improved outcomes will be reported at Q2 2025/26.  The service has also been inspected recently in 2024/25 and have gained a good with some outstanding areas from OFSTED.
CYPS21	Adult Learning - 19+ Adult Skills funded learners - Overall Retention Rates	23/24 86.1% (End of Academic Year)	22/23 91.2% (End of Academic Year)	<b>2021/22</b> 91.6% (End of Academic Year) <b>2020/21</b> 88.8% <b>National</b> 90.6%		N/A		At the end of 23/24, there has been a decrease in the % of overall retention 19+ compared to 2022/23. The overall achievement is also below the national average. Currently at Q1 2025/26 this has improved significantly the end of the academic year is 31/07/2025, so the improved outcomes will be reported at Q2 2025/26.  The service has also been inspected recently in 2024/25 and have gained a good with some outstanding areas from OFSTED.
CYPS22	Adult Learning - Apprenticeship Overall Achievement Rate	23/24 80.0% (End of Academic Year)	22/23 52.2% (End of Academic Year)	<b>North Yorkshire</b> <b>2021/22</b> 47.8% <b>2020/21</b>		N/A		At the end of academic year 2023/24 there has been a significant improvement for Adult Learning Apprenticeships overall achievement with a +27.8% improvement year on year.

				78.6% (End of academic year) <b>National</b> 65.0%				The service has also been inspected recently in 2024/25 and have gained a good with some outstanding areas from OFSTED. Apprenticeships was one of the areas of the adult learning service that was awarded Outstanding.
CYPS23	Adult Learning - Apprenticeship Overall Retention Rate	23/24 80.0% (End of Academic Year)	2022/23 52.2% (End of Academic Year)	<b>2021/22</b> 52.2% (End of academic year) <b>2020/21</b> 78.6% (End of academic year)  <b>National</b> 65.0%		<b>N/A</b>		At the end of academic year 2023/24 there has been a significant improvement for Adult Learning Apprenticeships retention with a +27.8% improvement year on year.  The service has also been inspected recently in 2024/25 and have gained a good with some outstanding areas from OFSTED. Apprenticeships was one of the areas of the adult learning service that was awarded Outstanding.
CYPS24	Number of Education, Health and Care Plans discontinued as needs met within a plan, for children of school age	2024 (calendar) 300	2023 (calendar) 228	<b>2025</b> 6.8% of all January EHC plans <b>2024</b> 5.5% of all January current EHC plans		<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	
CYPS25	% of children with a North Yorkshire EHC Plan currently in a Special Independent or Special non-maintained school placement	2025 (Jan) 5.2%	2024 (Jan) 5.1%			<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	
CYPS26	Number of appeals to SEND tribunal	2024/25 (academic) 246	2023/24 (academic) 258			<b>N/A</b>		
CYPS27	Total pupils on SEND transport	1632 (Dec 2024)	1540 (Dec 2023)			<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	

CYPS28	Total pupils on solo SEND transport	249 (Dec 2024)	250 (Dec 2023)			N/A	N/A	
CYPS29	Proportion of Local Authority funded EHC plans placed in mainstream	2025 (Jan) 45%	2024 (Jan) 44%			N/A	N/A	

## North Yorkshire Council

### Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 March 2026

#### Young People's Member Champion Annual Report 2025/26

#### Report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Democratic Services

##### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide an annual update to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the activities carried out by Councillor Alyson Baker, Young People's Member Champion.

##### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Young People's Member Champion Annual Report 2025/26 is provided at Appendix A.

##### **3.0 Young People's Member Champion Annual Report 2025/26**

- 3.1 Member Champions are elected Members who act as an advocate or spokesperson for a specific area of the Council's business. The main responsibility of each Member Champion is to encourage communication and positive action over the issue they represent. In doing so, they will:
- i) represent their area of interest both within and outside the Council in line with Council policy.
  - ii) contribute to the review and development of policies pertaining to their area of interest.
  - iii) challenge and question the Council, the Executive Members and the Chairs of Committees on issues relevant to their area of responsibility.
  - iv) monitor the Forward Plan and seek information from the Leader, Committee Chairs and Officers about forthcoming business and exert influence on behalf of the interest.
  - v) keep Members of all parties up to date with activities in relevant to the area of interest.
  - vi) provide positive support and on occasions constructive challenge to Officers on relevant issues.
  - vii) act as the Council's representative on relevant external bodies where appointed to by the Council.
- 3.2 This report highlights the meetings and events attended by the Young Peoples' Member Champion over the period from May 2025 to February 2026. It also details some performance areas that required further investigation, and the questions that were put forward to the Executive. The Member Champion has shown particular interest in finding out more about the rising number of permanent exclusions in primary schools, as well as in how the Council is supporting schools to manage the increasing cohort of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

#### **4.0 Alternative options considered**

4.1 No alternative options were considered.

#### **5.0 Financial, legal and climate change implications**

5.1 There are no significant implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 The report focuses on services and support for children and young people.

#### **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

- i) note the report;
- ii) receive an annual update next year.

#### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – The Young People’s Member Champion Annual Report 2025/26

Barry Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
10 March 2026

Report Author – Alice Fox, Senior Scrutiny Officer

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

# Young People's Member Champion Annual Report 2025/2026



## Foreword by Councillor Alyson Baker

It is an honour and a privilege to be Young People's Member Champion, and I have had another busy year representing North Yorkshire Council on all matters relating to children and young people, including children with special educational needs and disabilities and children in our care. I have taken part in many meaningful and insightful conversations with our partners, and I have enjoyed immensely speaking with children and young people and attending their celebratory events and festivals.

I have seen how deeply our officers and multi-agency partners care for the health and wellbeing of all children and young people and have been deeply moved by the first-hand stories that I have heard from young people themselves.

This year, we said goodbye to Sir Stuart Carlton as he retired as Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Service. I would like to welcome El Mayhew as our new Corporate Director, and I look forward to working with her.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported and continues to support our children and young people. I would especially like to thank the Healthy Schools Team for their ongoing work to improve children's health outcomes. I am extremely pleased about the healthy schools' events in Selby.

I continue to attend meetings of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Members' Group, and I have met regularly with officers who work with our unaccompanied young people seeking asylum. Throughout my work, I am always curious about how children with special educational needs and disabilities are being supported. This ongoing engagement has enabled me to offer support whenever possible.

My thanks go to everyone whose dedication has shaped the achievements outlined in this report.

**Councillor Alyson Baker**  
**Hillside & Raskelf Division**  
**Young People's Member Champion**

## Meetings and events attended up to February 2026

I'd like to point out that there have been many other occasions where I have supported parents and attended meetings, I have not gone into detail about these to maintain the privacy of the children and families involved.

### Children in Care Health Professionals Meetings

We heard from Lynda Fairclough about HOPE Boxes ("Hold On, Pain Eases") and how they are now working with York and Scarborough NHS Teaching Trust. The idea of a memory box is to reduce psychological trauma for mothers where their babies come into care due to safeguarding concerns. There are 2 boxes, one for the mother and one for the baby. Health care workers work in collaboration with mother to assist with making their own memory box with items such as comfort blankets, soft toys, hand and footprints, and name bracelets. Mothers decide on what they wish to put in the baby's box. If they choose not to make one, staff will still put one together to give to foster carers, who find it useful as a place to collect memories for baby as they grow. The initiative has received very positive feedback, particularly for the way it helps to reduce the trauma that mothers in this situation experience.

A regular and important feature of our meetings is hearing from young people themselves about their experience from being in care. We heard about the support provided by CAMHS (Children and Young People's Mental Health Services) and by our social care teams, who work tirelessly with children, young people and their families to help navigate some very complex and challenging circumstances.

### Working with Parish Councils

I worked with the Councillor for Osmotherley and their Parish Council to support Osmotherley Pre-School with issues relating to their building. I know how important it is for young children and their families to have access to early years services and support. Hopefully, our involvement has helped them find a way forward so that this vital service can continue.

### Youth Justice Management Group

At the Youth Justice Management Group meetings, agenda items have included updates on the Liaison and Diversion Service, the Practice Plus Group – Young People in Custody, and a report on the ethnicity of children who have offended. A meaningful deep-dive analysis of global majority children who have offended enabled us to examine outcomes for these children in greater detail.

The Liaison and Diversion Service play a crucial role in identifying young people who have mental health needs, learning disabilities, substance misuse issues, or other vulnerabilities at the point they first encounter the criminal justice system whether as suspects, defendants, or because they have offended. The service supports them through these early stages and refers them for appropriate health and social care and enables them to be diverted away from criminal justice system into more appropriate and preventative services.

### Executive Meetings

I have attended Executive meetings throughout the year, and asked and commented on several performance monitoring questions at including:

- Suggesting that the excellent "Action on Poverty: A Guide for Schools in North Yorkshire" is circulated to members so they are aware of the issues and challenges facing schools.
- Expressing my concern that the Growing Up in North Yorkshire survey (GUNY) reports that 12% of pupils who responded to the survey stated that they have been victims of violence and 8% had carried weapons. I asked how these figures relate to national trends and statistics, and I was signposted to the safeguarding website <https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk>. The website has

many useful tips for parents and carers, and I have continued to promote this in my work with Parish councils, and I commend other councillors to do so.

- Raising the issue around the high and increasing number of permanent exclusions in primary schools. I asked what is driving this, what interventions are being put into place to help schools manage challenging behaviour, and whether it is isolated to a small number of schools/academies. I also wanted to know if the restrictions seen during the coronavirus pandemic played a part in affecting a child's early development. I was informed that schools are working with educational psychologists to address this issue.
- I asked if we could build on the success of the Library Summer Reading Challenge by having events and campaigns throughout the year that draw people to their local library and mobile library service and engage them in reading. I was informed that this was something the Council can look at. I note, with pleasure, that 2026 is a National Year of Reading and the Council, through their Library Service is supporting this: [National Year of Reading 2026 | North Yorkshire Council](#)
- The higher performance for the timeliness of new Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) is encouraging, and I asked how schools are managing with the increases in children with a plan. I was informed that timeliness of assessments was above national and statistical neighbour averages, and referral numbers are falling. Schools are deploying specialist staff, investing in training, and working closely with the Council and external agencies. The Council is continuing to advocate nationally for fair funding and North Yorkshire remains one of the lowest funded authorities for high needs, ranking 146 out of 151. The importance of ensuring that funding follows identified need was highlighted, regardless of whether a child had an EHC plan or a formal diagnosis.
- I asked what is driving the increase in the number of children supported through multi-agency Child Protection Plans (CPP) and what is being done to address the underlying causes. Numbers of children supported by a child protection plan are at a ten-year high, reflecting societal pressures and rising deprivation. A shift in the deprivation profile of North Yorkshire showed more children were living in the 30% most deprived communities and fewer in the least deprived, we know that deprivation levels are an indicator for families experiencing strain and adversity. Thresholds were being reviewed and early help provided where needed. I can confirm that since this time the numbers of Child Protection Plans have started to reduce, with the Quarter 3 Performance Report highlighting the first reduction in the number of children supported by a child protection plan since Q2 2023/24, with a 7.5% decrease from the previous quarter.

### **Navigating SEND Scrutiny: Shared Insights for Effective Scrutiny**

This was an online forum meeting delivered by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS). It tackled the complexities of SEND scrutiny, from legal frameworks and funding models to the real-world impact on children, young people, and families. I was pleased to discover that North Yorkshire seems to be ahead of the game compared to the other local authorities who attended. I look forward to considering further information and updates regarding developments and the performance of services for children with special educational needs and disabilities during the course of my champion work and when these items are tabled and discussed at the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **Safeguarding Children in Care Health Care Professionals Network (SCHCPN)**

Mark Wood from North Yorks Police gave us a briefing on Right Care Right Person (RCRP) which aims to ensure vulnerable people access the right support from the right emergency services. The toolkit supports forces to help them decide on the appropriateness of a Police response to these calls and to make sure that RCRP is successfully implemented, in partnership with health and social care agencies.

Tom Maxwell (Head of Regional Adoption Agency One Adoption North and Humber) spoke on the adoption matching process, and the training available to prevent and support pre-adoption order disruptions.

### **Corporate Parenting Members' Group**

As well as attending the Corporate Parenting quarterly meetings, Councillors Sanderson, Goodrick and I joined care experienced young people at their meeting in Scarborough. We discussed a range of issues that they encounter and heard first-hand accounts. As a result of this meeting, I would like to highlight two organisations that the public can support by purchasing bags which are then donated directly to children in care: <https://comfortcasesuk.org/> and <https://madlugfoundation.org/>. Other than in emergency situations, officers have confirmed that children and young people are provided with suitable luggage to transport their possessions.

### **Multi Agency Looked After Partnership (MALAP)**

I am pleased to see that there continues to be very strong multi agency partnership working across the county and a lot of learning from each other.

### **Celebratory Events**

I was delighted to be invited to a number of events that celebrate our children and young people's diversity and achievements.

### **Eid Al-Adha Celebrations**



I attended the Eid Al-Adha celebrations at Northallerton Scout Headquarter where our young people came together to eat and play games.

### **Foster Day Event**

I was invited to a Foster Day held at Carlton Lodge Activity Centre, where I had the opportunity to meet with our foster carers and the children and young people in their care. The children and young people were able to participate in the many outdoor activities on offer. There were workshops for the adults organised by the Psychologically Informed Partnership Approach (PIPA) team, which included Trauma and Neurodiversity with a focus on Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity (ADHD) and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

### **Healthy Schools Celebration**

The sun shone at the North Yorkshire Healthy Schools Celebration which was once again held at Harlow Carr. Pupils were able to explore through three workshops.

There was outdoor learning with pond dipping and planting with the Council's Outdoor Learning Service and Harlow Carr's Education Team.

A really important workshop to help children to learn how to keep safe when online was run by Young Gamblers & Gamers Education Trust (YGAM). There was also a workshop finding out more about recycling and reducing waste with the Allerton Park Waste Team.

Over lunchtime they made fruit kebabs with the FEAST (Food. Entertainment. Arts. Sport. Together) Holiday Team and explored activities with the Travel, Waste and Youth Voice Teams from the Council and Compass Phoenix.

Congratulations to the following schools who all received Healthy Schools Awards:

#### Bronze Award

All Saints C of E Primary School, Harrogate

#### Silver Award

Willow Tree Community Primary School, Harrogate

#### Gold Award

Glusburn Community Primary School

### **We gave out a new award!**

It is now five years since the Healthy Schools programme started, so there is the brand new 'Gold Renewal' award for schools to keep their Gold level going. Schools need to apply again to show they still have everything in place to achieve all four themes in their school. There is also a new Platinum level award, which is even higher than Gold, so I hope to be presenting some schools with that award next year!

#### Gold Renewal Award

Le Cateau Community Primary School, Catterick Garrison  
Oatlands Infant School, Harrogate

### **This is Me Festival**

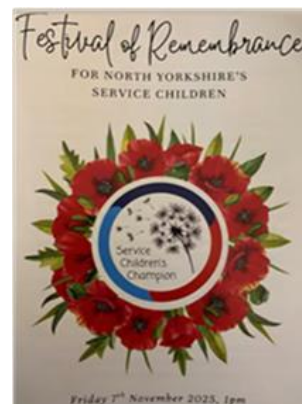
This year's This is Me Festival was once again held at Ripon Rugby Club. Organised by Nidderdale Children's Resource Centre, young people were able to enjoy a fully inclusive festival alongside their families and carers. It was a really enjoyable, sunny day, and everything had been so well thought out and carefully organised. I'm looking forward to this year's event in June!



I attended the Virtual School Graduation at Romanby Golf Club, and we were again blessed with wonderful weather. It was great to see Joe Fishburn, the BBC's Gladiators Champion there. Joe was brought up by his grandmother, a kinship carer, and was able to identify closely with our young people.

### **Festival of Remembrance Children's Service**

It is always an honour and a privilege to attend this moving service. As the Council with the largest number of service children in the country we understand the special consideration that Service children and their families need.



### **Service Children Christmas Concert**

I was delighted to attend "A Christmas Cracker", which celebrated the talents of our Service Children and local communities through music, performance and creativity.

This event did what it set out to do, that is to "fill your heart with warmth and wonder". It included performances from the Service Children's Choir, Richmond School and Sixth Form, Risedale School and a wonderful music and dance contribution from the Nepalese community.

It was a great start to Christmas organised by our tireless and hard working Service Children's Champion, Angela Campbell.

**Councillor Alyson Baker**

This page is intentionally left blank