



Agenda

Notice of a public meeting of

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To: Councillors Barbara Brodigan (Chair), Heather Phillips (Vice-Chair), Alyson Baker, Bridget Fortune, Stephanie Duckett, Nathan Hull, David Jeffels, Janet Jefferson, Tom Jones, Cliff Lunn, John Mann, Kirsty Poskitt, John Ritchie, Mike Schofield, Dave Whitfield, Peter Wilkinson

Non Councillor Members: Tom Cavell-Taylor, Emma Higgins, Anna Kirkham, Stephen Maltby, David Sharp, Andrew Smith, Ross Strachan and David Watson.

Date: Friday, 9th December, 2022

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: County Hall, Northallerton

PLEASE NOTE:

This meeting is being held as an in-person meeting and in public. The Government position is that of learning to live with COVID-19, removing domestic restrictions while encouraging safer behaviours through public health advice. In view of this, hand cleanser and masks will be available for attendees upon request. The Committee Room will be well ventilated and attendees encouraged to avoid bottlenecks and maintain an element of social distancing.

Please do not attend if on the day you have COVID-19 symptoms or have had a recent positive Lateral Flow Test.

Please contact the named supporting officer for the Committee, if you have any queries or concerns about the management of the meeting and the approach to COVID-19 safety.

Further details of the government strategy (Living with COVID-19 Plan) is available here – <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-sets-out-how-to-live-safely-with-covid-19>

Enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Patrick Duffy, Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer.
Email: Patrick.Duffy@northyorks.gov.uk Tel: 01609534546

Website: www.northyorks.gov.uk

Business

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2022** (Pages 3 - 10)
3. **Any Declarations of Interest**
4. **Public Questions or Statements**

Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have delivered notice (to include the text of the question/statement) to Patrick Duffy Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer (*contact details below*) no later than midday on Tuesday 6th December. 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 those taking a recording to cease while you speak.
5. **Chair' remarks**

Any correspondence, communication or other business brought forward by the direction of the Chair of the Committee.
6. **North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP), Annual Report 2021/2022 - Stuart Carlton, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's Service and Dr. Maggie Atkinson, Independent Scrutineer and Chair of NYSCP Executive (Presentation slides, followed by Annual Report)** (Pages 11 - 48)
7. **Children and Young People's Service: Financial Position - Joint Report of the Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Service and the Corporate Director for Strategic Resources** (Pages 49 - 56)
8. **Adoptions in North Yorkshire 2021/2022 - Judith Russ, Head of Placement Support and Tom Maxwell, Service Manager, Adoption (Presentation slides, followed by Report)** (Pages 57 - 82)
9. **Work Programme - Report by Patrick Duffy, Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer** (Pages 83 - 86)
10. **Other business which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances**

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall
Northallerton

Thursday, 1 December 2022

North Yorkshire County Council

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 2nd September 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: County Councillor Barbara Brodigan (Chair)

County Councillors: Alyson Baker, Stephanie Duckett, Bridget Fortune, George Jabbour (substituting for Councillor Tom Jones), Paul Haslam (substituting for Councillor John Mann) Nathan Hull, David Jeffels, Janet Jefferson, Cliff Lunn, Heather Phillips (Vice-Chair), John Ritchie, Dave Whitfield and Peter Wilkinson.

Co-opted Members: Tom Cavell-Taylor (Parent Governor Representative), Andrew Smith (Church of England) and David Watson (Voluntary Sector)

Officers: Stuart Carlton, Corporate Director - Children and Young People's Service, Patrick Duffy, Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer, Ali Firby, Child Death Review Officer, North Yorkshire and York. Judith Russ, Head of Placement Support and Stuart Williams, Senior Contracts and Commissioning Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tom Jones, John Mann, Kirsty Poskitt and Mike Schofield and Co-opted Members Emma Higgins and David Sharp and Portfolio Holders, County Councillor Janet Sanderson (Executive Member for Children and Young People) and County Councillor Annabel Wilkinson (Executive Member for Education and Skills)

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

12. Welcome and apologies

Councillor Barbara Brodigan thanked Members for having appointed her as Chair and looked forward to working with everyone.

She welcomed people to the meeting and Members introduced themselves.

13. Minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2022

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2022, be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

14 Any Declarations of Interest

There were none.

15. Public Questions

There were no public questions or statements.

16. Chair's Remarks

The Chair reported that she had attended the Executive on 23rd August, along with other Chairs of Scrutiny Committees. She had asked two questions. One concerned Free School Meals for families outside of the eligibility criteria. Although only 73% are entitled to take up, work is on-going and a good deal of online support and advice is available.

She had also enquired about Secondary School attendance levels - which is 87% across the county - and what is being done to help children who are being home educated. The attendance level is improving all the time. It does not include children who are being home educated, but a growing number of parents are now choosing to return their children to School.

The Chair also referred to the fact that there has been a drop in custodial sentences, which is welcome news.

17 Young Carers

Considered -

A presentation by Judith Russ, Head of Placement Support and Stuart Williams, Senior Contracts and Commissioning Officer.

As part of the presentation, there were two video clips shown. The first was about Ellie, a young carer, aged 11. The second was a young carer's song, by Charlotte.

The presentation is available [Here](#) and covered a wide range of areas, including:-

- Definition of a young carer
- The Local Authority's statutory duties
- Service delivery
- Aims of the Young Carers Service
- Data on numbers
- Emotional and mental health of young carers
- What young carers worry about
- Identification of young carers
- Awareness raising
- Referral and assessment
- Partnership Working
- Feedback
- Examples of clubs and activities available

The following points were highlighted, in particular:-

- A young carer is defined as someone aged 18 and under who cares for a friend or family member who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction, cannot cope without their support.
- The Young Carers and Adult Carers Support Service is an all age service delivered by a single provider in four localities. This provides a number of benefits, such as a clear cohesive offer to carers and closer collaboration between Service Providers.
- There are estimated to be 1,107 young carers, aged 0 to 15 and 2,426 aged 16 to 24 according to the 2011 census). There is no, one, agreed model with regards to the predicted prevalence of Young Carers in the population, a common ratio of 1:12 is often used as an indicator. This could mean that, potentially, there may be as many as 6,657 Young Carers in North Yorkshire.

- Emotional and mental health is a major concern among young carers. The Growing up in North Yorkshire Bi-Annual Survey received 16,000 responses in 2020. Young Carers worry about a range of matters such as family; the way they look; examinations; school-work problems; and falling out with friends.
- Young carers are referred from multifarious sources and can self-refer.
- Awareness raising takes place in a number of ways to ensure people are aware of the service. This includes sessions delivered to professionals in Schools, Community Groups and the Voluntary Sector and communication with Schools. As part of this, an example of a leaflet, targeted at young carers, has been developed – *DO I LOOK LIKE I CARE?* The aim is to make communications such as this interesting and exciting to young carers.
- The referral and assessment process was outlined.
- Partnership working is crucial, with the Young Carers Service providing a *whole family approach* which focuses on the young carer and their family.
- The Young Carers Service acts on feedback from young carers. For example, in response to the view that more support is needed at School, a number of School Hubs have been developed, where young carers can drop in to see a Young Carer Advisor on a lunch time. These are proving to be successful and the Directorate hope to expand their provision.
- Examples of the types of clubs and activities that are available across the county were provided. The Craven Budz and uTime Groups will now meet fortnightly, rather than monthly.
- Many platforms for feedback exist - including Youth Council and Carers Focus Groups. In addition, Schools are increasingly becoming involved in feedback, which the Directorate values and welcomes.
- In terms of transition from being a young carer to an adult carer, the fact that the service is now an all age service will make the transition easier to manage.

The Chair and Members thanked Judith and Stuart for their interesting and comprehensive presentation.

The following questions/comments were made by Members:-

- The Chair asked, in view of the data not being up-to-date, how confident officers are that young carers are being identified and not *going under the radar*? Stuart Williams responded that the Service is always attempting to broaden its reach, but some carers will choose not to engage. Resources will be put into getting to those young carers.
- The Chair also referred to the large increase in numbers - was this due to the success of awareness raising; outreach work; or other factors? Judith Russ stated that it is a combination of factors. It is a positive that young carers are declaring themselves as carers.
- Co-opted Member, David Watson, mentioned that North Yorkshire Arts are working with MIND to help pre-empt difficulties. Judith Russ stressed the importance of School attendance – if children are in School it is more likely that issues will be picked up. **Page 5**

- Councillor David Jeffels felt that there is a potential hidden problem, as some young people do not want to say they are carers. Can more be done to access young carers through GP Surgeries; Head Teachers, etc? Members would be happy to help in whatever way they could. Stuart Williams acknowledged that some young people do not want to say they are a carer. Therefore, the Service strives to make it a positive experience to overcome these perceptions.
- Councillor Cliff Lunn wondered if it could be the case that we are using young carers to provide services that we, as an Authority, should be providing? Judith Russ advised that it is important that adults are assessed so that they are aware of the help that is available to them. However, no service can fill all of the gaps.
- Councillor Stephanie Duckett commented that Selby seems to have very few clubs and activities compared to other areas. Yes, there are services available in Selby, but these are predominantly in the town centre. How do young people get into town to access these? Stuart Williams acknowledged that there had been a gap in provision during the procurement exercise, but activities are now in place. Providers do provide taxis and workers car share, but the Directorate is mindful of transport issues. In some cases, the money raised by the providers' fundraising activities is used for transport purposes.
- A Member felt that the Directorate should affirm to all types of School, particularly Academies, that they have a responsibility to young carers as well.
- Councillor John Ritchie wanted to know how effective partnership working is. For example, are we meeting the needs of young people's emotional and mental health? Also, when will the latest GUNY Survey be published? Stuart Williams confirmed that partnerships are working well; the fact that we are seeing more young people come forward is an encouraging sign. Judith Russ added that the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) plays a key role and there are other sources of support and signposting that are available prior to CAMHS.

The Corporate Director, Stuart Carlton, made the following points by way of clarification/assistance to the Committee on the questions above:-

- The needs of young carers are being met – Council staff, providers and other partners are doing a good job.
- The new service will be monitored.
- The Committee received an in-depth presentation on mental health at its February meeting. Recently appointed Members, in particular, might find this a useful reference point – he will arrange for it to be circulated.
- The Bi-Annual GUNY Survey (undertaken this year) is usually available in the autumn – he will check that is to be the case this year.
- Councillor Paul Haslam felt that data is critical to ascertain accurately the number of young carers. Support from Schools, in the form of blended learning, possibly, might assist. Is it an inclusivity issue? Stuart Carlton clarified that the number of young carers identified from other sources is coming out within the range that the Directorate is aware of.

- Councillor Nathan Hull commented that it looks like a lot of good work is occurring with young carers in a group setting but, for many young people, the thought of attending a group is not appealing. What is on offer for those children? In addition, there is a funding gap for the economic welfare of young carers - so where does the money come from? Judith Russ responded that the assessment process identifies whether group activities are appropriate. In terms of finance, the Income Maximisation Team is utilised. If specific support is required, the family can be referred to the Social Work Service.
- Councillor Alyson Baker asked whether, with the cost of living crisis, there is increased support for carers? Stuart Williams advised that families are helped to access support by signposting them to the support available.
- Co-opted Member, Dr. Tom Cavell-Taylor, asked whether there is back up data on how effective the service has been so that we could follow up with young carers, when they are older, how the support helped them? Stuart Williams said he was not aware of longitudinal research but he will find out if there is any available. The service does, of course, receive feedback direct from carers at the time.
- On funding distribution, Councillor Heather Phillips enquired how large needs are addressed and whether home education complicates the task faced by officers? Stuart Carlton advised that there is flexibility of funding within each provider area. He reminded Members that every parent has the right to request that their child be educated at home. His Directorate monitor it and meet with the parents to discuss, so that they have all the information upon which to take a decision. He will ascertain if any young carers are home educated and the suitability of that education.
- Councillor Peter Wilkinson felt there might be a number of carers who we are not aware of. Stuart Carlton was confident that the figures are about right. Furthermore, the Directorate does everything it can to promote awareness.
- Co-opted Member, Andrew Smith, mentioned the attainment of young carers. It is important to ensure that caring does not have a detrimental effect on their education.
- Councillor George Jabbour referred to the age profile of young carers across Districts, which is consistent for those between 0-15, but varies markedly between the ages of 16-24, with significant variation in Richmondshire.
- Councillor Jabbour also sought clarification as to how the 1:12 ratio was reached. Stuart Williams confirmed that there is no one set Indicator; we apply this ratio as it is most commonly used. That is where the figure of approximately 6,000 carers in the County emanates from. He will delve further into the District figures.
- Councillor Janet Jefferson commented that attendance at Secondary Schools has reduced and there are a higher number of carers in Secondary Schools. How many carers became carers during the Pandemic and is there enough support to young carers to enable them to go to events? The Corporate Director said that there is no evidence that attendance levels are linked to caring.

The Chair concluded the discussion by reiterating her thanks to officers for an informative presentation and responding to Members questions.

18. Child Death Overview Panel – Annual Report 2021/2022

Considered:-

A summary of the afore-mentioned Annual Report by Ali Firby, Child Death Review Officer for North Yorkshire and York.

The Annual Report had been circulated with the Agenda for the meeting.

Ali Firby highlighted the following points, in particular:-

- It is a statutory requirement to have a Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP).
- The Panel follows national guidance set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.
- The Panel review each child's death and, where it is possible to do so, learns from them to help prevent further deaths.
- All cases are anonymised.
- In the period concerned, there were 38 child deaths notified to the CDOP.
- 47% of the children notified were under one year old.
- The majority of deaths (87%) notified occurred within a Hospital Trust setting.
- In North Yorkshire, a greater proportion of the child deaths were female – nationally, the proportion is higher among males.
- Table 5 of the report highlighted the categories of death.
- The Panel's work is informed by a Joint Agency Response meeting that is held within a few days of the child's death. These meetings are well attended with good engagement. One of the issues considered is support to the family.

The Panel meets six times per year and reviewed 29 cases in 2021/2022. Five of these cases (17%) were found to have modifiable factors – that is, if action could be taken, this might help to prevent future child deaths – for instance, smoking within pregnancy.

The two principal achievements of the Panel in 2021/2022 related to Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) Prevention and Suicide Prevention. The former included the development of the SUDI "Prevent and Protect Model" and awareness campaign, with a strapline *Day or Night, Sleep Right*. In terms of Suicide Prevention, initiatives included having contacted Schools, Colleges and Further Education settings, outlining the action that can be taken within their own organisation.

Priorities for 2022/2023 are:-

- Exploring and developing the role of the Key Worker.
- Ensuring greater awareness of the What 3 Words App Campaign.
- An audit of cases to establish any themes, patterns or trends in relation to Neonatal twin deaths, given the increase locally

Members raised a number of questions and comments as follows:-

- Councillor Nathan Hull asked if there are any patterns among the 17% of deaths that had modifiable factors? Ali Firby advised that there are no patterns. Although she cannot provide details of the factors identified in these cases, as it may make them identifiable, she explained some examples of modifiable factors, which include unsafe sleeping practices; parents smoking during pregnancy; maternal obesity; alcohol use and supervision.
- Councillor Cliff Lunn remarked that, over the years, advice as to safe sleeping had altered several times. Is there now an agreed position? Ali Firby stated that the Panel is guided by research from the Lullaby Trust. There are conflicting messages from social media influencers. Therefore, professionals deliver the same, consistent messages and parents are encouraged to take advice from a professional.
- In response to a question from Councillor Heather Phillips, relating to Police Family Liaison Officers and whether CDOP had any issues with their reporting into the CDOP, Ali Firby confirmed the cases who are allocated a Family Liaison Officer are few and far between. They do not directly report into the CDOP - it is the Senior Investigating Officer who would do this and Ali Firby has experienced no issues in terms of their reporting.

The Chair thanked Ali for her presentation.

19. Work Programme

Considered:-

A report by the Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer, which invited Members to consider the Committee's Work Programme for 2022/2023, taking into account the outcome of discussions on previous Agenda Items and any other developments taking place across the county.

He highlighted the following:-

- The Committee has a fairly full looking Agenda for its next meeting in December 2022, comprising the Independent Scrutineer's Report on the work of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board; the Annual Report of One Adoption, North and Humber; and a financial update in respect of the Children and Young People's Service Directorate.
- Councillor Paul Haslam had contacted him to suggest a number of Items for inclusion in the Work Programme. The usual process would be for these to be considered by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Political Group Spokespersons at the Mid Cycle Briefing. The Chair confirmed that this would be the case.

Resolved –

That the Work Programme, as it currently stands, be noted.

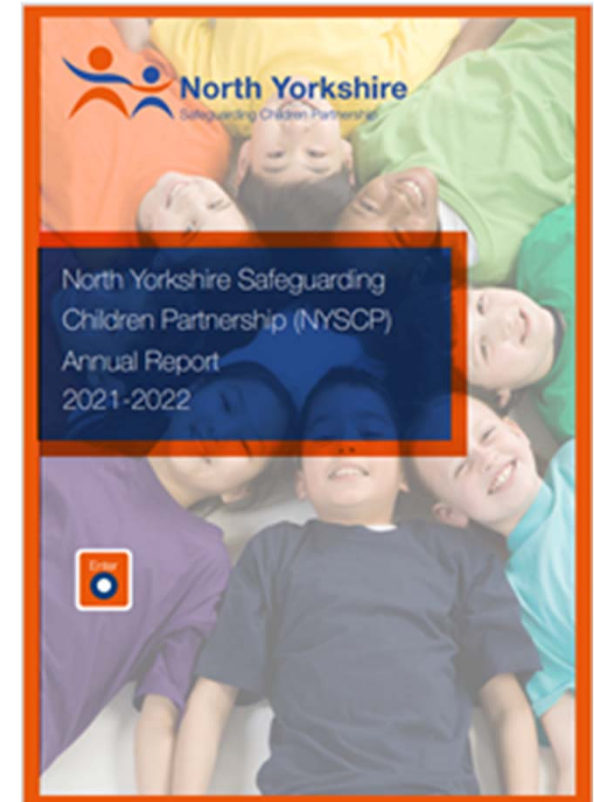
20. Other business which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances

There was none.

The meeting concluded at 12.10 p.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021-2022





Dr Maggie Atkinson
Independent
Scrutineer



**Lindsey
Butterfield**
Assistant Chief
Constable,
North Yorkshire
Police



Stuart Carlton
NYCC Corporate
Director, Children
and Young People's
Service



Sue Peckitt
Chief Nurse
North Yorkshire Clinical
Commissioning Groups

Theme One: A Safe Life

- At the end Q4 there were **440** Child Protection plans (37/4 per 10k) and **427** Children in Care (36.4 per 10k)
- Fewer contacts screened by **MAST** (reduction of **14%** since 2018/19)
- Reduction in **children in care** to **443** (2019/20) compared to **427** (2020/21)
- Just **1** custodial sentence for a young person (compared to **27** in 2019)
- **42%** reduction in **first time entrants to Youth Justice** compared to 2017
- **380** referrals to CSC per 10k – compared to **494** nationally
- All frontline children and families staff are trained in **Family Finding**



Theme Two: A Happy Life

- **72%** of Children in Care live with a **NYCC Foster Carer**
- No new Independent Fostering Agency placements have been commissioned since the start of the strategy
- **206** children and young people supported through **Psychologically Informed Partnership Approach**
- **1209** individuals have registered for courses through the **Solihull Parenting Programme**
- **64.7%** of Care Leavers over 18 are living in suitable accommodation
- **2,221** children benefitted from the **Holiday Activities and Food Programme** over the Christmas Break
- **77%** of cases closed to the SEND Hubs **achieved their goals** in 2021/22, up from **62.9%** in 2020/21



Theme Three: A Healthy Life

- Routine **childhood immunisation rates** in North Yorkshire are generally above the national average, but slightly below the target coverage values, which for most vaccines is **95%**.
- In North Yorkshire for **11/18** vaccines coverage is rated **Amber**, (for most vaccines Amber represents **90-95%** coverage). For **4/18** vaccines North Yorkshire coverage is rated **Green** and for **3/18** vaccines, coverage is rated **Red**.
- Since October 2019, **253** (**64%** of the **369** School in North Yorkshire) have signed up to take part in our **Health Schools Award**.
- **57 Early Years Settings** have signed up for the **Healthy Schools Award** since the launch in November 2021.
- The proportion of 5-year-olds experiencing tooth decay in North Yorkshire (**20%**) is lower than the national average (**23.4%**) and Yorkshire & Humber Average (**28.7%**). North Yorkshire has a flexible commissioning arrangements for dental care which supports children and young people with known vulnerabilities.
- **9%** increase in the number of presentations at **Accident and Emergency** Departments
- **8%** increase in the number of inpatient admissions for children



Theme Four: Achieving in Life

- Return to a more expected trend in children becoming **Electively Home Educated**. In 2021/22, the number of EHE pupils increased by **5.7%** compared to **21%** in the previous year.
- During 2021/22 academic year to date, **4,096** suspensions have been received by **1,695** pupils, over **1,000** fewer suspensions than over the same period 2018/19 down from **6,328** suspensions
- **4.7%** of **Year 12 and 13** young people are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or unknown, down from **8.1%** in 2019/20
- **64.4%** of Care Leavers are employment, education or training



Being Young in North Yorkshire – Key Highlights

Social, Emotional Mental Health

- Relunched the NYSCP Self Harm and Suicide Ideation Pathway
Joint commission using s75 agreement and subcontract via specialist CAMHS
- NYCC s75 partnership agreement with HDFT to deliver 0-19 service
- Supported Mental Health Summit
- Independent Scoping project to review demand, capacity and pressures on children's mental health.
- Enhanced the Go-To website

Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

- Enhanced public facing material with service user input around Staying Safe Online and Reporting Images Online
- In partnership with Marie Collins Foundation and PFCC, delivered e-learning Click Path to Protection training
- Training around technology Assisted Child Sexual Abuse (TACSA)
- Continued focus on prevention and early intervention Op Choice and Op Divan

Online Safety/Abuse

- Developed BeAware resource
- Non-victim blaming language resources
- MACE Evaluation
- Child Exploitation Awareness Campaign
- North Yorkshire and City of York Home Office devolved decision making pilot for National Referral Mechanism



NYSCP Partnership Achievement Awards

- NYSCP showcasing the multi-agency work between the county council, police and NHS in safeguarding vulnerable children and families
- The awards are given to individuals or groups working or volunteering with children and young people.



Child Safeguarding Practice Review group

- NYCC must notify the National Panel Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (CSPRP) as well as DfE and Ofsted if it knows or suspects a child dies or is seriously harmed and abuse and neglect is known or suspected.
- SPRG carries out the reviews of cases that are notified to the CSPRP and of other safeguarding cases where there has been multi-agency involvement which could support learning.

Within North Yorkshire we have undertaken the following:

Number of notifications made to the CSPRP in 2021/22	1
Number of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR) awaiting publication (due to ongoing Police investigations)	3
Number of Serious Case Reviews (SCR) Outstanding from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (due to ongoing investigations)	1
Number of cases notified to North Yorkshire Safeguarding Practice Review Group (SPRG) in 2021/2022 by partners for consideration	5
Of the 5 cases notified to SPRG 2021/2022 for consideration, which have been reviewed locally for learning	4



Practice Development Subgroup

- Undertaken a Hidden Harm Campaign
- Threshold Guide and Early Help Events
- Day Night Sleep Right safe sleep campaign
- Planned and delivered Safeguarding week 2022
- Received feedback from frontline practice
- Developed a series of practice guidance, one minute guides and procedures available on www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/procedures-practice-guidance-and-one-minute-guides
- Developed a number of other documents for parents on issues such as:
 - Elective Home Education
 - ICON
 - Keeping Children Safe in Out of School settings – guidance for parents
 - Private Tutors, Coaches and Clubs – A guide for parents and carers
 - Safer sleep



Learning Improvement Subgroup

- Promoted 7 point briefings
- Shared learning from reviews
- Undertaken training and learning
- Delivered a series of masterclasses

Page 21

■ Audit summaries

■ Schools Safeguarding Audit

- Seek assurance of the level of safeguarding arrangements within all schools and identify areas for development
- Findings outlined in our 7 point briefing:
 - [School-Audit-2020-2021.pdf \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](#)

- Section 11 and Governance Audit:
 - Partners have reported a high level of compliance with the criteria in the audit
 - Recognise significant increase in demand on frontline teams (impacted by COVID-19)
 - Led to reviews of pathways, systems and processes, adapting practice and development of virtual working
 - Partners recognise some of the positive aspects of technology solutions/virtual delivery
 - Impact on staff wellbeing and resilience (e.g. new starters).
 - Partners have noted training is a priority over the next year.



Multi-Agency Safeguarding Thematic Deep Dive Audits

2021 – 2022 Deep Dive Audits

- Multi-Agency Response Children Subject to Repeat Child Protection Plans
- Multi-Agency Responses to Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Multi-Agency Responses to Cases of Children Experiencing Neglect

For 7 point briefings produced regarding the learning from our audits visit [NYS CP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://www.nyscp.org.uk/safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

Priorities for 2022 - 2023

- Multi-Agency Responses to Referrals on the Grounds of Neglect
- Multi-Agency Responses to Child Exploitation
- Multi-Agency Responses to Domestic Abuse



Multi-Agency Training and Learning

- Masterclasses continue to be a popular feature amongst our multi-agency professionals.
- A monthly free one hour lunch time webinar
- Recent masterclasses have included:
 - Child Sexual Assault and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre
 - NYSCP Quick Fire Updates
 - Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
 - PFCC Commissioned Services
 - Social, Emotional Mental Health
 - Growing up in North Yorkshire Survey
 - Child Exploitation

*“Perfect. They are so much better being on Teams rather than like they used to be [in person]. Really useful to hear about resources that NYSCP have put out there for us to use as a School”
Education Colleague*



*“The training was excellent - very engaging for virtual training, and the trainer was extremely knowledgeable and very clear. Very useful.” VCS
Colleague*

Framework for Decision-Making: Right help, at the right time, by the right person

- NYSCP held 5 launch events with over 400 people attending and a further 149 viewing our YouTube Chanel recording
- Our promotional video for the threshold guide has been viewed over 600 times

Page 24

“This course helped me gain a greater understanding of the support and procedures in place in North Yorkshire, and the inclusion of a guest speaker to share personal experience helped drive messages home. I also learnt from comments/questions from other participants as well.”
Voluntary sector colleague

“This has been very useful as an update on practice and on any changes, so I can feed back to my team – thank you” Health Colleague



Communications and Engagement

Joint Communication and Engagement Strategy between NYSCP and NYSAB

Campaigns include:

Hate Crime Awareness, Safeguarding, Hidden Harm, Mental Health, Safer Sleep, Private Fostering, Domestic Abuse, Anti-bullying, Creating Hope through Action, Young People's Mental Health Support

NYSCP Social Media

1667 followers on twitter – increase of 123 over the last year

Facebook – 481 followers

NYSCP Podcasts

NYSCP YouTube

NYSCP E-Bulletin

1752 professionals are signed up

When surveyed 94% said they found the content useful to their role

NYSCP Website

During 2021 – 2022 we have seen a total of 77,718 users visit our website with 205, 729 page views across the year



Safeguarding Week 2021

Partners from the Safeguarding Adults Boards, Children Safeguarding Partnerships, Community Safety partners across North Yorkshire, City of York and East Riding Council delivered a virtual safeguarding week during the week of 21st – 25th June.

Page 26

	2021
Number of online sessions	34
Registered attendees	2,450
% attendance	60%
Feedback survey responses	357
Did the week provide a good learning opportunity?	97%
Was the content informative?	98%
Was the content engaging?	97%

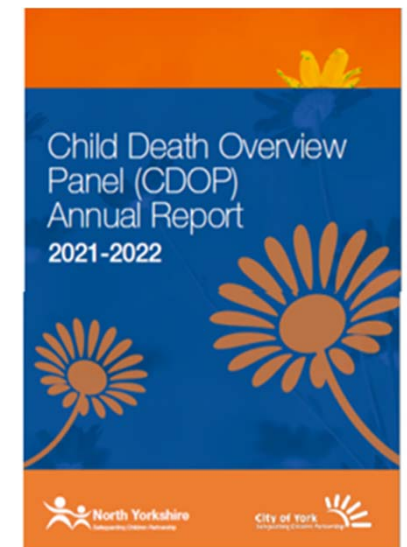
Child Death Review Process

- Child Death Review Partners, the Local Authorities and the Humber and North Yorkshire Independent Care Group (previously the Clinical Commissioning Groups for North Yorkshire) and City of York hold responsibility for the delivery of the Child Death Review Process as set out in the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- The publication of the Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance in 2018 built on the requirements set out in Chapter 5 of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and details how individual professionals and organisations across all sectors involved in the Child Death Review should contribute to guided standardised practice nationally and enable thematic learning to prevent future child deaths.

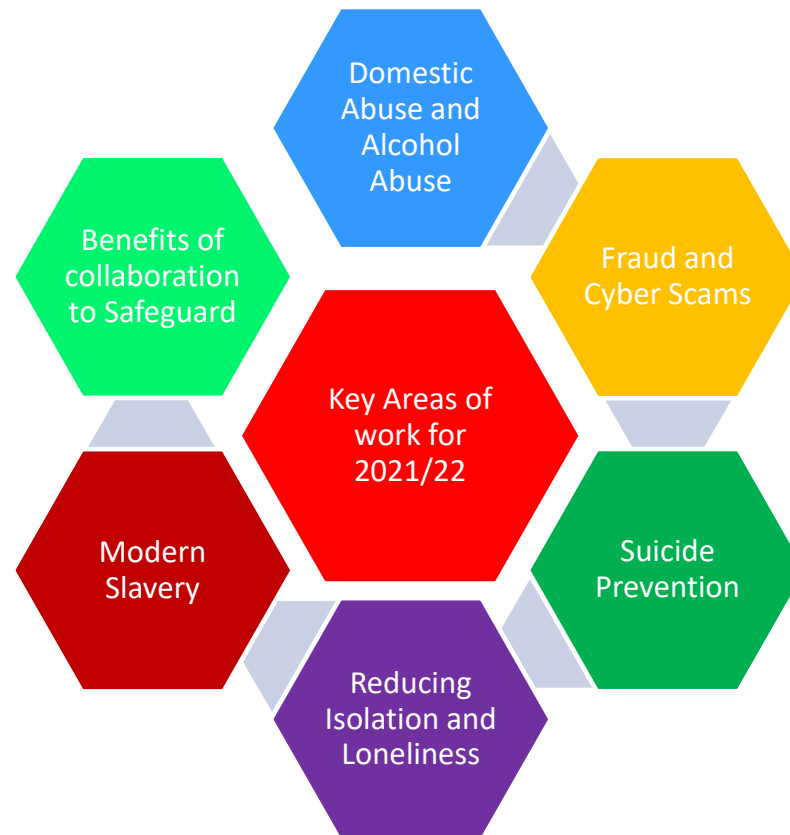


Child Death Review Process

- The process is undertaken locally for all children who are normally resident within North Yorkshire and City of York.
- The NYSCP are committed to learning from the circumstances and factors present in each death, and to;
 - Identify any change that can be made or actions which can be taken that might help to prevent similar deaths in the future
 - Share learning with colleagues locally, regionally, and nationally so that the findings will have a greater impact
 - Analyse trends and targeted interventions that can be delivered in response to findings, for example, through an extensive multi-agency campaign of training and awareness raising
 - For further information regarding the Child Death Overview Process, please refer to the CDOP Annual Report 2021/2022



Local Safeguarding Partnerships



Financial Position and Priorities for 2022-23

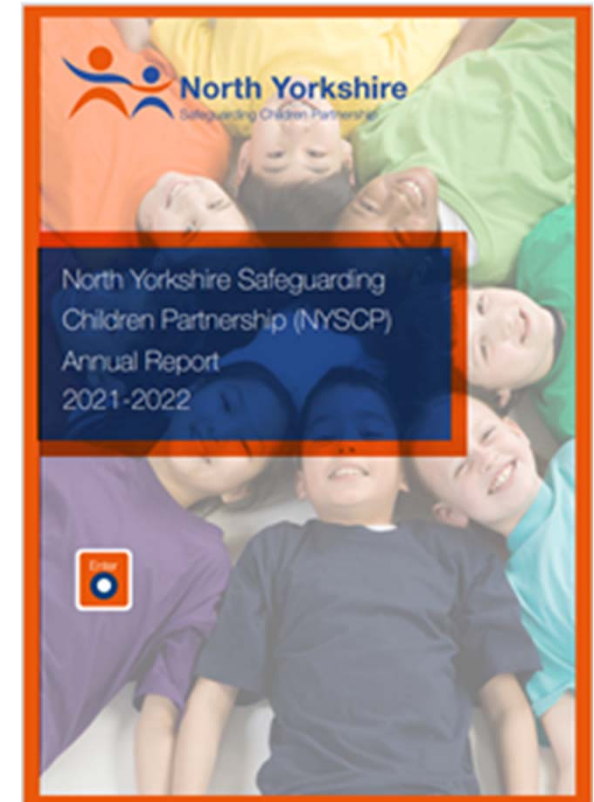
Organisation	Contribution (£)	Percentage of Budget
North Yorkshire County Council	143,183	48%
North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group	91,344	28%
North Yorkshire Police	44,633	17%
City of York Partnership (Child Death Contribution)	16,693	6%
Probation	1,434	0%
CRC	350	0%
Total Budget	297,636	100%

Page 30

- Children's Emotional Wellness and Wellbeing
- Parental Conflict
- Promote positives of online engagement, whilst minimising the risk children face online



Any questions?





North Yorkshire

Safeguarding Children Partnership

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) Annual Report 2021-2022

Enter

Contents

Statutory Safeguarding Partner Statements	3
Independent Scrutiny Statement	5
Our priorities for 2021 / 2022	8
Demographics of North Yorkshire	12
What is North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership?.....	13
NYSCP Partnership Achievement Awards	14
Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group	15
Practice Development Subgroup	16
Learning Improvement Subgroup	17
Multi agency Safeguarding Thematic Deep Dives	19
Multi agency Training and Learning	20
Multi Agency Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding	22
Communications and Engagement	24
Child Death Review Process	26
Voice of the child	27
Local Safeguarding Partnerships	28
Financial Position	29
Priorities for 2022 – 2023	29

Pages 33

Statutory Safeguarding Partner Statements

With the backdrop of emerging from the pandemic, front line colleagues across the County have shown remarkable ability in adapting their responses to meet the challenges created by it, and for this I am very proud and thankful to them. I want to thank everyone who continues to go above and beyond to make North Yorkshire a great place for children.

The Safeguarding Children's Partnership has demonstrated its ability to respond and to be creative in providing leadership through this difficult time. Our ability to safeguard children and support vulnerable families has continued, and moreover, we were able to progress our priorities and strengthen the coordination and efficacy of services.

I remain grateful to all of our partners and their dedicated front line staff for their support and steadfast commitment to the wellbeing all of our children.

I have been immensely proud to have undertaken the role of statutory partner for North Yorkshire Police over the last 12 months, working closely with dedicated and committed colleagues from a range of agencies.

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership has continued to work collaboratively and collegiately, constantly delivering on the challenges we have faced, which has not been easy in post pandemic conditions. Our teams have worked relentlessly to keep children safe, and it has been clear to me that the welfare of children and effective safeguarding has been at the very heart of everything we have done.

The safeguarding of children is an area that has, and continues to, receive significant public scrutiny both locally and nationally. The expertise, support and appropriate challenge offered by the partnership as North Yorkshire Police responded to the recommendations from the recent HMICFRS National Child Protection Inspection has been gratefully received. This approach is testament to the strength of the partnership, and the relationships between key stakeholders. Despite the challenges that will undoubtedly continue, and the planned changes in key personnel over the next 12 months, I am confident that the partnership will continue to deliver effectively and I wish them the best of luck.



Stuart Carlton
Director of Children Services,
NYCC (North Yorkshire County Council)



Lindsey Butterfield
T/ACC Local Policing & Safeguarding

As the country has emerged from restrictions and challenges imposed by the COVID pandemic, the NYSCP has continued to respond dynamically to the needs of children and families who have been negatively impacted in various ways. Whether this has been helping children and young people to manage their emotional and mental health, strengthening multi-agency responses to child exploitation, or taking forward lessons learned from local and national reviews – the strong partnership working has been timely and effective.

With much change anticipated across the three statutory partners - health, police and the local authority - the need to maintain those strong partnership relationships will be even more critical if we are to keep a relentless focus on the safety and welfare of our children across North Yorkshire. The CCGs have now been replaced by the new Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, which will assume statutory safeguarding responsibilities previously held by the CCG, and will be committed to continuing the excellent work of the Partnership.

Page 34



Sue Peckitt

Chief Nurse, Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (formerly the North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group or CCG)

Independent Scrutiny Statement

I am both independent chair of the Executive of NYSCP and its Independent Scrutineer. In the scrutiny element of my role I am bound by the requirements of the Children and Families Act 2017 alongside Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, to give a formal Statement of Assurance regarding the fitness for purpose of the NYSCP, and the degree to which it complies with those legislative or statutory guidance requirements.

In the 2021-2022 financial year I convened and chaired four Executive meetings. I have been a Participant Observer at meetings of all the subgroups whose reports follow. I keep the statutory Director of Children and Young Peoples Services and other leading officials in partner bodies aware of what I find as I undertake Scrutiny. I also co-lead two Development Days a year at which partners report, reflect, and take learning away into their own organisations and the partnership’s Executive or subgroups.

Based on my work described above, and from the extensive and detailed reading and analysis I have done and continue to do on issues in and around North Yorkshire, I now present my formal assurance that NYSCP complies with the legal requirements placed on Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships. I also confirm that all concerned are aware that the improvements and striving for excellence in which they are all engaged are never “finished” or perfect but are continuous.

The Executive oversees strategy, sets direction, and holds both commissioners and providers to account. It also scrutinises, plans for and evaluates how well agencies work in partnership. Its agendas cover an annual cycle within which all services and initiatives are reviewed, questioned and held to account. NYSCP’s work encompasses the policy and practice previously overseen by both the Children’s Trust and the NYSCP’s predecessor body the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board (NYSCB.) It does so through its oversight of the ambitions and intentions in “Being Young in North Yorkshire” which

covers all aspects of childhood and youth.

The NYSCP then has a number of subgroups which focus on particular aspects of its work. The scrutiny element of my work revolves around my attending, observing and presenting assurance on their quality and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 compliance. These groups are:

- Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and Contextual Safeguarding. The work is driven at a strategic level by an overarching countywide group, picked up operationally in each of the seven current second-tier council areas. The MACE groups’ structures and ways of working are currently under review, based on what has been learned so far and shaping the work for the future.
- A Local Safeguarding Practice Review Group (LSPRG) ensuring serious and challenging themes are tackled by systematic formal reviews which then feed into professional practice, training, reflection and ever stronger assurance of quality
- A Practice Development Subgroup (PDS) which brings together those who can drive practice through in their own organisations as a result of learning drawn not only from the LSPRG’s work and recommendations but from wider sources in research, or the work of national regional or local bodies
- A Learning and Improvement Subgroup (LIS) which both helps to drive learning and the NYSCP’s offer of training, briefing, web materials and other initiatives, but also gives a sound setting in which the county’s schools and other educational settings can find means of ensuring their contributions to fulfilling “Being Young in North Yorkshire” are both grounded, and seen by the wider partnership.

Also feeding into NYSCP are district based Local Safeguarding Partnerships (LSPs) which bring together agendas on children's and adults' safeguarding, and issues of community safety. North Yorkshire shares the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and the Child Death Review Panel (CDRP) and Section 11 Audit activity with its neighbouring Unitary Authority the City of York Council. This work across boundaries creates efficiencies, given York and North Yorkshire share commissioning and provision of services by public sector agencies other than those within local government, and by voluntary sector bodies.

The report that follows has been approved by staff in leadership positions in NYSCP's Statutory Partner bodies. They lead a Partnership of equals focusing on wellbeing and safeguarding, from early interventions by universal services, through ever more specialised and sometimes statutory provision.

The three statutory partners are:

- North Yorkshire County Council,
- North Yorkshire Police Service, and
- Humber and North Yorkshire, Integrated Care Board, inheriting the work of the county's previous CCGs.

The NYSCP also relies on joint working across a large number and wide range of Relevant Agencies in District Council and community bodies, physical and mental health service providers, education at every level, housing, the early years sector, voluntary and community bodies, and children and young people themselves. The NYSCP also maintains links with and takes assurance from the county's Safeguarding Adults Board, the Domestic Abuse and Violence Partnership, the North Yorkshire Office of the Fire Police and Crime Commissioner, and other relevant bodies whose work supports the families and communities in which North Yorkshire's children and young people live and learn.

The Report is supported by data where it is available, so that all content bears weight and authenticity, and so that trends are reported on, issues are explained, and plans for future activity are explored from a data informed basis.

The report also reports on progress in:

- how well the youngest children and young people and their families are supported and nurtured to provide the best possible start in life;
- services for and trends in children's and young people's physical and mental or emotional health and wellbeing and how well services are commissioned and provided;
- what happens when a child or family needs an early, preventive offer of additional help or support, whether from social care, special education or other services;
- interventions that seek to help families to halt declines in wellbeing caused of physical, emotional or developmental neglect, domestic abuse or violence, or any form of exploitation;
- what happens if stronger, more directive safeguarding needs to happen with a family in the best interests of the children concerned including if they must be removed from their families and placed in care, and
- how services respond if a child or family is in conflict with the law, or has to deal with a range of extraordinary challenges, palpable dangers, or tragedy.



In the latter groups, interventions are often multi-agency and may be statutory. They are always aimed at restoring, or maintaining and assuring, the safety and wellbeing of children, their families and communities.

2021-2022 financial year passed as North Yorkshire entered the recovery and refresh stages of dealing with the effect of unprecedented challenges, triumphs and griefs of the COVID 19 pandemic. Though this report is published after the end of the 2021-2022 financial year and the worst effects of COVID 19, the after-effects are still with us. This means many of the pages that follow account for services' and partners' responses to the legacy of the worst effects of COVID 19. Ongoing wariness surrounds issues such as "all-in" returns to shared office or meeting spaces, and a need to continue to work flexibly wherever possible.

There is a great deal of pragmatism about not wishing to lose all that was learned about partnership working, inter-agency cooperation and flexibility during the worst days of the pandemic, and a determination to create a new, not trying to return to an old, normality. The after-effects of COVID 19 also continue in how well organisations and their staff continue to recover both pace and capacity. All agencies remain actively engaged in responding to safeguarding challenges that face staff and clients given that COVID 19 has in fact not gone away, and Long COVID remains a challenge for some, whatever their age or previous health status. All partners are determined not to lose gains made by working in partnership as a matter of course, rather than in separated bodies that sometimes cooperated as might have happened before March 2020.

Whilst patterns of demand on services have changed to some degree, where client groups' needs have become obvious again following the end of lockdowns, services are aware of their need to continue to adapt. The expectation is that demand for services, already rising and not always supported by additional resources, will continue to rise, exacerbated by a "long tail" of equally un-resourced work that could not be or was only minimally done during the pandemic.

As this report is completed, the effects of long-term exhaustion in staff at the end of their energy reserves is still palpable. It may be a feature of services, presenting particular challenges that go on through 2022-2023, not least also given the growing economic and financial challenges facing both services and their client groups. This Annual Report captures ongoing high quality services and practice improvement, including where inspection bodies have reviewed particular services to vulnerable children and young people. However, this is set against considerable odds and stretched financial, physical and human resources across agencies.



Dr Maggie Atkinson

Independent Scrutineer and Chair of NYSCP (North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership) Executive

Our priorities for 2021 / 2022

In 2021 we launched the NYSCP Being Young in North Yorkshire (BYINNY) strategy 2021 - 2024. As a partnership we recognise the diversity across North Yorkshire and how important it is to harness this when agreeing our delivery plans. We wanted to articulate our vision and provide a collective focus for the next three years with the flexibility to add and amend our delivery plans to reflect the ever-changing landscape.

Our children and young people are our future, we want them to thrive in North Yorkshire and achieve the best possible outcomes they can. The BYINNY strategy sets out our vision which is shaped by the feedback from children and young people living in North Yorkshire and sets out our four key themes of children and young people having:

- a safe life
- a happy family life
- a healthy life, and
- achieving in life

• Page 36



Key areas of progress against our four themes:

Theme One A safe life

- At the end of quarter 4 there were 440 Child Protection Plans (37.4 per 10k) and 427 Children in Care (36.4 per 10k).
- Fewer contacts screened by MAST (Multi Agency Screening Team) – reduction of 14% since 2018/19
- 1,357 external Early Help Assessments completed in the three terms of 2021
- Reduction in Children in Care from 443 in 2019/20 to 427 in 2020/21
- Just 1 custodial sentence for a young person in 2021, down from 27 in 2018
- 42% reduction in First Time Entrants to Youth Justice compared to 2017
- 380 referrals to Children's Social Care per 10k – compared to 494 nationally.
- All frontline Children & Families Staff are trained in Family Finding

Theme Two A happy family life

- 75% of Children in Care live with an NYCC Foster Carer
- No new Independent Agency placements have been committed to since the strategy
- 206 children and young people supported through the Family Finding Partnership
- Approached 1,000 young people through the Family Finding Partnership
- 1,209 individuals have registered for courses through the Solihull Parenting Programme
- 64.7% of Care Leavers are living in suitable accommodation
- 2,221 children and young people engaged from the Holiday Activities and Food Programme over the Christmas Break
- 77% of Care Leavers met their Educational Needs goals in 2021/22, up from 62.9% in 2020/21

Theme Three A healthy life

- Routine childhood immunisation rates in North Yorkshire are generally above the national average, but slightly below the target coverage values, which for most vaccines is 95%.
- In North Yorkshire for 11/18 vaccines coverage is rated Amber, (for most vaccines Amber represents 90-95% coverage). For 4/18 vaccines North Yorkshire coverage is rated Green and for 3/18 vaccines, coverage is rated Red.
- Since October 2019, 253 (64% of the 369 School in North Yorkshire) have signed up to take part in our Health Schools Award.
- 57 Early Years Settings have signed up for the Healthy Schools Award since the launch in November 2021.
- The proportion of 5-year-olds experiencing tooth decay in North Yorkshire (20%) is lower than the national average (23.4%) and Yorkshire & Humber Average (28.7%). North Yorkshire has a flexible commissioning arrangements for dental care which supports children and young people with known vulnerabilities.
- 9% increase in the number of presentations at Accident and Emergency Departments
- 8% increase in the number of inpatient admissions for children

Theme Four Achieving in Life

- Return to a more expected trend in children becoming Electively Home Educated. In 2021/22 the number of EHE pupils increased by 5.7%, compared to 21% the previous year.
- During 2021/22 academic year to date, 4,096 suspensions have been received by 1,695 pupils, over 1,000 fewer suspensions than over the same period 2018/19 down from 6,358 suspension
- 4.7% of Year 12 and 13 young people are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or unknown, down from 8.1% in 2019/20.
- 64.4% of Care Leavers are in employment, education or training

The Full strategy can be read here: [82425-Being-Young-in-North-Yorkshire-Amendments_V2_Screen-Version.pdf \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](#)

BYINNY has an extensive action plan that seeks to gain assurances from a variety of meeting structures, groups and wider partnerships to fulfil our ambition. In 2021/2022 it was recognised through working with our relevant agencies and most importantly children and young people themselves we identified three overarching areas of focus which underpin both the work we do as individual organisations and collectively, these are:

Social, Emotional Mental Health

Achievements in 2021/2022 include:

- Re launched the [NYSCP Self Harm and Suicide Ideation Pathway](#). The purpose of the pathway is to improve the referral processes, and the coordination of information, advice, support and treatment that is provided to children and young people who self-harm and/or experience suicidal ideation.
- Joint commissioning of Compass between Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Local Authority (LA) using Section 75 arrangement and sub-contract via specialist Child and Adolescence Mental Health Service.
- Re-established strategic and operational partnerships across North Yorkshire
- North Yorkshire County Council's Section 75 partnership agreement with Harrogate District NHS Foundation Trust to deliver the 0- 19 service, prioritising Emotional Health and Resilience Service for 6-19 year olds
- Supported Mental Health Summit - Senior Leaders from CCG, LA, Tees Esk and Wear Valley and Voluntary sector met in Feb 2022 and committed to the development of a system wide service transformation in response to the identified increased demand and pressures.
- Supported the commissioning of an Independent Scoping Project to review demand, capacity and pressures on Children's Mental Health. Report to be completed by April 22 and will feed into the summit work.
- Enhanced [The Go-To website](#), a directory of local children and young people wellbeing and mental health services in North Yorkshire

Page 37

Online Safety / Abuse

Achievements in 2021/2022 include:

- We have enhanced our public facing material with service user input
 - Children and young people's [Staying Safe Online](#)
 - Parent and Carer [Reporting Images Online](#)
- In partnership with Marie Collins Foundation (MCF) we have worked with the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime commissioner, North Yorkshire Police, and other safeguarding leads to support the role out of Marie Collins Foundation E-learning Click Path to Protection equipping staff with the skills to manage increasing numbers of incidents of online harm for children
- Professionals in North Yorkshire are being upskilled in responding to a child harmed through Technology Assisted Child Sexual abuse (TACSA).
- Parents having access to material will help them respond to, what for most parents is, devastating news. The addition of the resource for parents on finding out about their child being sexually abused came about after workshop arranged with school police officers.
- The need for messages aimed at children to come from other children was achieved through working in partnership with North Yorkshire Police Cadets.

Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

Achievements in 2021/2022 include:

- We have continued to listen to the voices of children, young people, parents, carers and our communities and consulted with them to develop a series of resources to raise awareness through our Be Aware website.
- We have also made a commitment to use non-victim blaming language across our partnership that seeks to empower children, young people, parents and carers, and now have a toolkit for professionals to support with this, available on our Be Aware website.
- In January 2022, NYSCP undertook an evaluation of our MACE arrangements by facilitating a series of 7 workshops across North Yorkshire with those who attend the MACE Level 2 Locality meetings. Partners outlined significant strengths in partnership attendance, information sharing, developing key relationships with other agencies within that locality area and valued the sharing of themes and trends around exploitation across the MACE areas. Meetings held on a virtual platform brought significant savings of time and cost of travel, but didn't hamper the value of the meeting. The feedback has also been used to help shape our multi-agency plans around areas for development including disruption planning, partnership information sharing with the Police and multi-agency training across this complex, every changing landscape.
- We have run awareness campaigns including Child Exploitation Awareness Day in March 2021 and 2022
- We have also delivered direct work within our communities to raise awareness with children and young people. Raising awareness and empowering parents as safeguarding partners is also fundamental to our work in this field.
- NYCC and City of York have worked with the Home Office to be one of ten sites to pilot the devolved decision making for the National Referral Mechanism. The panel enables decisions to be made about whether a child may have been subject to modern slavery and human trafficking to be made locally by professionals who know the child.



Demographics of North Yorkshire

North Yorkshire is the biggest geographical county in England at 803,761 hectares (approximately 3,100 square miles). Although the county is large, it is sparsely populated with approximately 620,610 residents (ONS population estimate) based in a variety of urban and rural communities. North Yorkshire stretches across the country from the North Sea coast to within 12 miles of Morecambe Bay, and from south of the M62 to the edge of Teesside. In 2023 North Yorkshire will become a unitary council know as North Yorkshire Council and will be a merger of the existing county and district/borough councils.

Children growing up in the county enjoy the beautiful countryside although many children and young people also grow up in the many market towns and smaller communities within the county. Due to the sparse nature of most of the county, children and young people can feel isolated due to the long distances they have to travel to meet friends or use amenities.

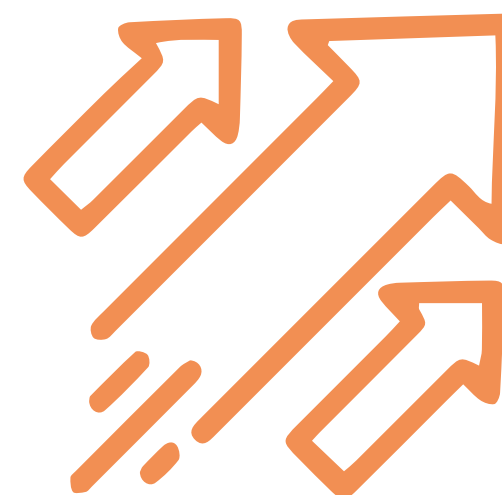
- 803,761 hectares
- 3,103 miles
- 620,610 residents
- 2 NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups
- 7 District Councils
- North Yorkshire Police
- Schools (table)

	Nursery	Primary	Secondary	Special	PRU	Grand Total
Community	3	91	14	7	4	119
Foundation		1				1
Free		2				2
Voluntary Aided		23	1			24
Voluntary Controlled		86				86
Total	3	203	15	7	4	232
Converter Academy		79	19	2	1	101
Sponsored Academy		20	8	1		29
UTC			1			1
Total	0	99	28	3	1	131
Grand Total	3	302	43	10	5	363

What is North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership?

This arrangements document sets out the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for North Yorkshire, established in accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018).

The three safeguarding partners who are responsible for the local Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements in North Yorkshire are North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), the Integrated Care Board (formerly the Clinical Commissioning Group or CCG) and North Yorkshire Police (NYP). [NYSCP-MASA.pdf \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](#)



NYSCP Partnership Achievement Awards

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership showcasing the multi-agency work between the county council, police and NHS in safeguarding vulnerable children and their families.

The Partnership Achievement Awards are given to individuals or groups working or volunteering with children and young people.

Awards have recently been presented to the following professionals:

- Jess Ward, the CEO and Founder of Inspire Youth, who supported the Be Aware consultation sessions which aimed to keep young people safe from exploitation.
- Helen Lavender, Schools Liaison Police Officer across Hambleton and Richmondshire, whose support for young people ensures their risk of entering the Criminal Justice System is reduced by recognising early indicators and introducing a support plan.
- The Hambleton family assessment support team which uses local networks to support the most vulnerable families and children at risk of harm.
- Karen Hedgley, Designated Safeguarding Nurse, who has been instrumental in developing the Day or Night, Sleep Right campaign to reduce the number of sudden unexpected deaths in infancy.
- PC Antony Kent of the Police Community Safety Hub in Richmondshire, who is involved in the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) team.

Stuart Carlton, North Yorkshire County Council's Corporate Director of the Children and Young People's Service, said: "I would like to say a huge congratulations to the winners who have demonstrated innovative ways to keep our most vulnerable children and families safe from harm. These awards are organised by the partnership to highlight the best safeguarding practices and help to drive up standards across the county."

Lindsey Butterfield, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable in North Yorkshire Police, said: "It's fantastic to see the work of North Yorkshire Police officers being recognised by the partnership. I'm incredibly proud of the achievements of Antony and Helen and thank them for their hard work and dedication in safeguarding the most vulnerable in our communities."

Elaine Wylie, Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children in North Yorkshire and York, said: "Promoting the welfare and safety of all children is an exceptionally challenging area of professional practice, requiring commitment, resilience, skill and creative thinking. It is great to see all of these competencies demonstrated by the worthy recipients of these awards, and to recognise the difference they have all made to the lives of children and young people, and to multi-agency working across North Yorkshire."

NYSCP is looking for nominations for future achievement awards and more information about how you can nominate individuals, teams or services can be found at www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/partnership-award



Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group

North Yorkshire County Council is duty-bound to notify the National Panel Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (CSPRP), and by extension the Department for Education and OFSTED, if it knows or suspects a child dies or is seriously harmed, and abuse and neglect is known or suspected. The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Practice Review Group (SPRG) carries out reviews of the cases that are notified to CSPRP and of other safeguarding cases where there has been multiagency involvement which could support learning.

Within North Yorkshire we have undertaken the following:

Number of notifications made to the CSPRP in 2021/22	1
Number of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR) awaiting publication (due to ongoing Police investigations)	3
Number of Serious Case Reviews (SCR) Outstanding from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (due to ongoing investigations)	1
Number of cases notified to North Yorkshire Safeguarding Practice Review Group (SPRG) in 2021/2022 by partners for consideration	5
Of the 5 cases notified to SPRG 2021/2022 for consideration, which have been reviewed locally for learning	4

For each LCSPR and SCR detailed action plans have been commenced created and actions undertaken to address the identified need. This is monitored quarterly within the NYSCP Learning and Improvement Subgroup and regular reports on progress to the NYSCP Executive. It is the view of the NYSCP Executive that these reports will not be publicly published until all due processes are concluded to ensure there is no influence to statutory investigations.

Practice Development Subgroup

The Practice Development Subgroup seeks to assure and contribute to the development of child safeguarding practice in line with National and the current NYSCP BYINY Strategy. This is achieved by providing healthy challenge and holding professionals to account with respect to safeguarding children practice.

During 2021/22 the subgroup has:

- Undertaken a Hidden Harm campaign
- Launch of the Threshold Guide and Early Help Events
- Launched the Day Night Sleep Right safe sleep campaign
- Planned and delivered Safeguarding Week 2022 activity
- Received feedback from frontline practice to support strategic developments
- Priorities for 2022 – 2023
- Seek to develop the way feedback from frontline practice shapes the work of the sub group
- Consider how the NYSCP Website can be developed to support the broader focus on the BYINY priorities

The NYSCP maintains the multi-agency safeguarding procedures for North Yorkshire and provides practice guidance and one minute guides (OMG) for professionals. The NYSCP procedures, practice guidance and one minute guides can be found at:

- www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/procedures-practice-guidance-and-one-minute-guides

Practice guidance and one minute guides developed or updated in 2021/2022 includes:

- [Child Protection Medical Assessments](#)
- [Concealed, Denied or Late Presentation of Pregnancy](#)
- [Framework for decision-making: Right help, at the right time by the right person](#)
- [MACE & Contextual Safeguarding Lv. 1](#)

- [MACE & Contextual Safeguarding Lv. 2](#)
- [NYSCP Standards and Criteria](#)
- [Safeguarding Practice Review Process OMG](#)
- [School Child Protection Manual](#)
- [Self-Harm and Suicidal Ideation Pathway](#)
- [Submitting a referral to the National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\) for a child](#)
- [Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy \(SUDI\) Prevention One Minute Guide for Professionals](#)
- [Whistleblowing Practice Guidance](#)
- [Writing a Child Protection Policy Practice Guidance](#)

The NYSCP has also produced numerous other documents and developed areas of the NYSCP website to provide guidance to parents on issues such as:

- [Elective Home Education](#)
- [Elective Home Education One Page Guide](#)
- [ICON](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Out of School Settings – guidance for parents](#)
- [Private Tutors, Coaches and Clubs – A guide for parents and carers](#)
- [Safer sleep](#)

For further information, please visit our website at:

- www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/help-guidance-and-support

Learning Improvement Subgroup

The Learning and Improvement Subgroup seeks to identify, report and act upon any appropriate examples of local, regional, and national learning through the Learning and Improvement Framework. During 2021/21 the Learning and Improvement Subgroup has:

- Promoted 7 point briefings
- Shared learning from Reviews
- Undertaken Training and Learning
- Masterclasses
- Audit summaries

Section 11 and Governance Audit Summary of learning

2020/21 saw the first time the Section 11 and Governance Audit has utilised the same tools by partner organisations for North Yorkshire and the City of York across for both Children and Adult Services.

Summary of findings:

Partner organisations have reported a high level of compliance with the criteria stated in the audit. However, whilst partner organisations have stated that they have the requirements in place, it can be noted that their assessment of their level of compliance was lower than the level which would be indicated by their responses to each criteria. This may indicate that there is a reduced level of confidence in the arrangements that partner have in place, or that they are striving to improve on these requirements, to ensure that they are fully embedded.

Partner organisations recognise that there has been a significant increase in demand on front-line teams, which is directly attributable to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This has led to reviews of pathways, systems, and processes, including adapting practice and the development of virtual working with technological solutions. Partner organisations are also mindful of the impact on staff, their wellbeing and resilience, particularly new starters.

It should be noted that partner organisations recognise both positive and negative aspects brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, including improved partnership working through virtual platforms, maintaining face to face delivery which were in place at the time of the audit and the challenges of working from home. At the time the audit was completed, it should be noted that partner organisations stated they were responding to an increase in missing persons, individuals in mental health crisis, older people with complex needs, hidden harm in children and young people, and adults with drug and alcohol related issues.

A number of partner organisations have identified that training is a priority over the next year.

A number of partner organisations stated that undertaking the Section 11 and Governance Audit activity has provided them with an opportunity to review and reflect on our safeguarding processes and future strategic planning.

Recommendations from the report

NYSCP Recommendations:

1. The NYSCP liaise with the Children and Families Service regarding Independent Schools not following contractual arrangements in respect of the reporting of safeguarding concerns, and report back to the Practice Development Subgroup, identifying any actions and recommendations, as appropriate.

Joint Recommendations for the NYSCP and North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB):

Managing Allegations against Staff is a key area of work and there is a need to continue to deliver safeguarding and refresher training, to ensure that staff's knowledge is kept up to date.

2. Support organisations with the development of strategic plans and policies and procedures, which should be reviewed in line with NYSCP and NYSAB safeguarding policies and procedures respectively.

3. The NYSCP and NYSAB in conjunction with the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership (NYSCP) undertakes an annual Training Needs Analysis to identify any areas of weakness and development in multi-agency training.

It was noted that one partner organisation did not respond to the questions regarding having procedures to notifying the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) or Safeguarding Team, or where a worker who has raised a concern cannot continue in their current employment, that the organisation fulfils its moral and legal obligation to offer support to enable them to move on. Where this is the case, the partners should provide assurance to the NYSCP/ NYSAB that these arrangements are in place and if not provide timescales for implementation or a rationale for why these are not in place.

5. The NYSCP, NYSCP and NYSAB Joint Engagement and Communication Strategy needs to be highlighted across the Partnerships to ensure partner organisations have joined up approach to safeguarding, which promotes the safety and well-being of children, young people, adults and families.

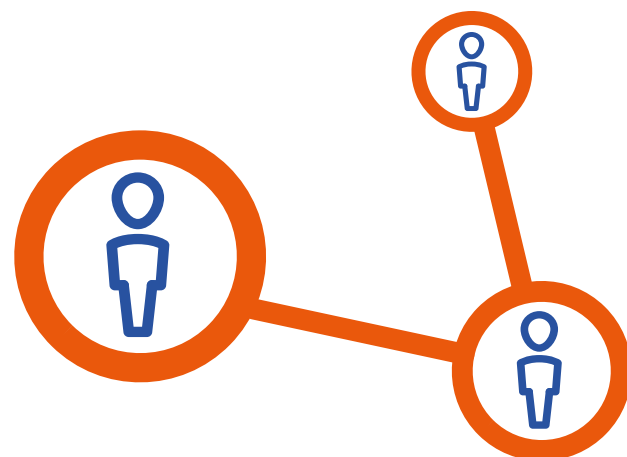
6. Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT) be requested to share their findings from a recent culture survey and the effectiveness of this with the LIS (Learning and Improvement Sub) and PPDL (Policies, Practice, Development and Legislation).
7. Where partners have identified concerns regarding information sharing and these issues cannot be resolved, concerns should be raised by partners through the NYSCP and NYSAB Subgroup(s), as appropriate, including supporting examples of practice supporting these issues

Schools Safeguarding Audit

Between November 2020 and June 2021, the NYSCP completed its biennial audit of the safeguarding arrangements within primary and secondary phases of education for children and young people up to the age of 18. The purpose of the audit is to seek assurance of the level of safeguarding arrangements within all schools and identify areas for development.

For more information about the learning see our published 7-point briefing:

- [School-Audit-2020-2021.pdf \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk/School-Audit-2020-2021.pdf)



Multi agency Safeguarding Thematic Deep Dives

When partner agencies and individual professionals engage in case auditing, it helps understand:

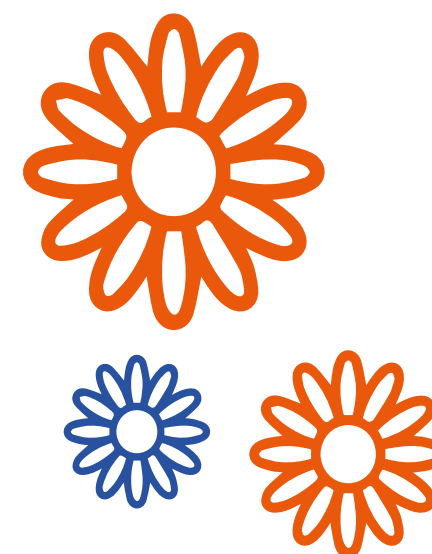
- the effectiveness of front-line practice in protecting children and young people
- how well the lessons of Case Reviews and other reviews of practice have been learnt; and
- what the impact of locally delivered training has been.
- importantly, it allows us to identify good practice and ask questions about whether things could be done differently to improve the safeguarding system.

During 2021–2022 we have undertaken the following deep dive audits

- Multi-Agency Responses Children Subject to Repeat Child Protection Plans
- Multi-Agency Responses to Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Multi-Agency Responses to Cases of Children Experiencing Neglect

For more information about the learning from audits visit our published 7-point briefing:

- [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk/NYSCP)



Priorities for 2022 – 2023

The Learning and Improvement Subgroup has identified the following deep dive audit themes be explored in 2022:

- 1. Multi-Agency Responses to Referrals on the Grounds of Neglect:** This audit will focus on the most common category for Child Protection Plans and will look at how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on childhood neglect and its predisposing factors. This audit will be completed between January and April 2022.
- 2. Multi-Agency Responses to Child Exploitation:** Examining cases relating to Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (including referral to the National Referral Mechanism) and a case with an online element to exploitation. This audit will be completed during the autumn term.
- 3. Multi-Agency Responses to Domestic Abuse:** Following the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board (NYSCB) audit in 2018 of the “Multi-Agency Responses to Safeguarding Children Where Domestic Abuse is a Feature”, this audit will identify how multi-agency working have changed in response to domestic abuse since the last audit, especially considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This audit will be completed between the Autumn / Winter term

Multi agency Training and Learning

NYSCP Developments in Safeguarding Mini Masterclass

The Masterclasses continue to be a popular feature amongst our multi agency professionals. A monthly free one hour lunch time webinar provides frontline staff with updates on a variety of topics. During 2021/2022 we have undertaken the following:

- Child Sexual Abuse and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre
- NYSCP Quick Fire Updates
- Mental health and Suicide Prevention
- OPFCC Commissioned Services
- Mini Masterclass Social, Emotional Mental Health
- Growing up in North Yorkshire Survey
- NYSCP Quick Fire Updates
- Child Exploitation

IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services) who attended a Masterclass on the 25/03/21 said:

“The training was excellent - very engaging for virtual training, and the trainer was extremely knowledgeable and very clear. Very useful.”

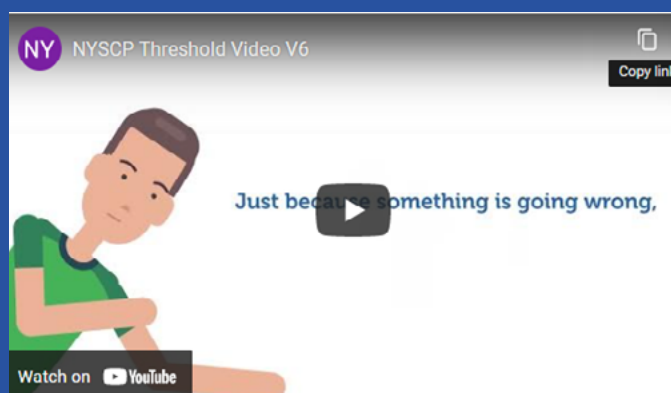
‘Voluntary sector colleague’

“Perfect. They are so much better being on Teams rather than like they used to be [in person]. Really useful to hear about resources that NYCSP have put out there for us to use as a School”

‘Education Colleague’

Each Masterclass is recorded and can be viewed via our [NYSCP YouTube Channel](#)

Attendance has grown year on year and just under 600 people registered on to the events with 400 attending the session live. We have seen an additional 500 views on our YouTube recordings of the Masterclasses.



Framework for decision-making: Right help, at the right time by the right person

NYSCP held 5 launch events, 3 in June 2021 and 2 in September 2021. Just over 500 people registered for the event with just under 400 attending in person. We also have seen an additional 179 views on our [YouTube Channel](#).

The [“Framework for decision-making: Right help, at the right time by the right person”](#) has been developed to help and support practitioners working with children across all agencies and organisations, when faced with a decision about the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person. It is a collaborative approach to support and drive our shared ambition of the right help, at the right time from the right service and, importantly, from the right person.

Our promotional video for the threshold guide has been viewed over 600 times on YouTube.

“This course helped me gain a greater understanding of the support and procedures in place in North Yorkshire, and the inclusion of a guest speaker to share personal experience helped drive messages home. I also learnt from comments/questions from other participants as well.”

‘Voluntary sector colleague’

“This has been very useful as an update on practice and on any changes, so I can feed back to my team – thankyou”

‘Health Colleague’



Multi Agency Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

The Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and Contextual Safeguarding (CS) across North Yorkshire focuses on; Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Harmful Sexual Behaviour, (HSB) Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT), Missing from Home (MFH), Online Child Exploitation (OCE) and wider Contextual Safeguarding. Our [MACE Level 1](#) arrangements focus on the identification, risk assessment and risk management of children at risk of or experiencing harm and [MACE level 2](#) focuses on the sharing of information around potential perpetrators and locations that could pose a risk of harm to children and young people within our communities.

Moving to meetings on a virtual platform has seen significant savings of travel time for partners across North Yorkshire. This has resulted in increased representation at our Level 2 meetings. Over 25 different statutory and relevant agencies attend MACE Level 2 including professionals from; Police, Children Social Care, Youth Justice, Drug and Alcohol Services, Housing providers, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Primary, Secondary, Independent and Specialist Schools, Army Welfare, CAMHS, 0-19 Health Services, Young Carers, Community Safety, Probation and third sector commissioned services. Work to promote the work of MACE has continued both virtually and face to face across the county including through our [NYSCP Safeguarding Masterclasses](#) as well as identifying resources to increase awareness including [Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking](#).

We know that those who pose a risk of harm to young people will create networks that enable children to cross local and regional boundaries to avoid detection. MACE Level 2 locality groups have responded to this, by undertaking a series of mapping meetings across our traditional district boundaries to understand the threat and risk posed through extra-familial harm.

This has brought together professionals from different organisations working in different areas of NY and our boundary areas to share information, identify places and spaces where young people do not feel safe and individuals who may pose a risk of harm. Multi-agency plans have then been put in place to disrupt the exploitation and held those who pose a risk of harm to young people to account.

The year has also seen a continued focus on prevention and early intervention with North Yorkshire Police initiatives such as [Operation Divan](#) and [Operation Choice](#) seeking to support, rather than criminalise young people, and divert them away from crime and potential exploitation. North Yorkshires Trusted Relationship has continued to offer support to children who are at risk of, or being exploited. For many reasons young people who are being exploited can initially find it difficult to work with professionals and as such, the trusted relationship service compliments the work of statutory partners by offering an informal, highly flexible support offer to develop positive trusted relationships with children and young people. For example, throughout 2021/22, in 60.6% of closed episodes, the trusted relationship services had supported a reduction in the child exploitation risk.

“We all need to be aware of child exploitation, because it damages family relationships on so many deep levels and in ways we never imagined”

Raising awareness of the issues affecting children and young people through exploitation have been central to the progress made this year. We have continued to listen to the voices of [children, young people, parents, carers](#), and our [communities](#) and consulted with them to develop a series of resources to raise awareness through our [Be Aware website](#). We have also made a [commitment](#) to use non-victim blaming language across our partnership that seeks to empower children, young people, parents and carers. We have run awareness campaigns including [Child Exploitation Awareness Day](#) in March and continued to support and promote work to support children who are abused online in partnership with organisations such as the [Marie Collins Foundation](#). We have also delivered direct work within our communities to raise awareness with children and young people such as our specialist Hand in Hand services over five months delivered interactive sessions in schools to over 4,600 children. Raising awareness and empowering parents as safeguarding partners is also fundamental to our work in this field. Parents valuing our commissioned Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE) Service in offering vital support and advocacy where their children are at risk of, or are being harmed by offenders outside of the home.

Finally, following a successful bid made by NYCC and City of York to the Home Office to be one of ten sites to pilot the devolved decision making for the [National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#), a joint NRM panel was created. The panel enables decisions to be made about whether a child may have been subject to modern slavery and human trafficking to be made locally by professionals who know the child. The process is quality assured by the Home Office and subject to independent national evaluation. However, within North Yorkshire the pilot has seen a drastic reduction in the considerable time delays previously seen around decision making. It has enabled the average time for a Reasonable Grounds decision to be made for a young person to be on average just over 15 days and a Conclusive Grounds decision in just over 35 days. We have also welcomed additional support provided in this area from the [Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship Service](#) run through Barnardos and additional training provided by [Hope for Justice](#) to over 70 frontline professionals working across North Yorkshire and the City of York.

We continue to build our Be Aware knowledge. Be Aware is an online knowledge hub set up and run by NYSCP in collaboration with young people, parents and carers, and professionals across North Yorkshire to help prevent and tackle child exploitation.

To find out more visit www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/beaware

The poster features the North Yorkshire logo at the top left. It includes three circular icons: a child sitting on the floor, a woman looking at a smartphone, and a person being supported by another. The central text reads 'Be Aware of child exploitation in North Yorkshire'. Below this, it states 'A Hub for Everyone in North Yorkshire, so we can tackle Child Exploitation together.' and lists three bullet points: 'Raise awareness', 'Spot the signs', and 'Know where to go for help and advice'. At the bottom, it provides the website 'www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/beaware' and a QR code with the text 'Scan the QR code to find out more'.

Communications and Engagement

Over the past year we have worked with North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adult Board and Community Safety Partnership to sign up to a joint Engagement and Communication Strategy safeguardingadults.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Joint-Engagement-and-Communication-Strategy.pdf

We are working together to ensure people who live, work, or visit North Yorkshire are aware of what 'safeguarding' means and have access to information that will help them make informed decisions and stay safe. We want to listen to the views what people have to say to us about safeguarding whether this be feedback or sharing experiences. The whole community needs to understand what abuse, exploitation, harm, and neglect looks like, as well as the roles they play in keeping people safe and promoting welfare. Safeguarding is everybody's business.

Page 44


During 2021-22 we have delivered campaigns on

- Hate Crime Awareness Week
- Safeguarding Week 2021 (North Yorkshire, York, and East Riding)
- Hidden Harm
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- Advice for Parents & Carers during Lockdown
- Safer Sleep Week
- Domestic Abuse Aware & "Ask for Ani" codeword scheme
- Day or Night Sleep right
- Private Fostering
- Young Peoples Mental Health Support
- Safer Internet Day
- Anti-Bullying Week
- 16 days, 16 stories – taking a stand against gender-based violence
- Creating Hope through Action – Suicide Prevention Campaign

At the end of March 2022, we saw a total of 1667 Followers on twitter a growth of 123 within the year. Our tweet impressions continue to increase and our engagement on the platform focuses to the professional audience.

 Follow us on twitter: [@NYSCP1](https://twitter.com/NYSCP1) / [Twitter](https://twitter.com/NYSCP1)

During 2021 - 2022 we have introduced Facebook to our catalogue of social media channels. We have seen 415 people like our page and 481 people follow us, on this platform focus is to parent and carers.

 Like us on Facebook: [North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership - Home | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NorthYorkshireSafeguardingChildrenPartnership-Home)

NYSCP E-bulletin

Our monthly free e-bulletin continues to grow with 1752 people currently signed up to receive the latest news. In November 2021 we asked our subscribers for their views, with 94% saying they found this useful to their role, the feedback also resulted in changing the way we deliver this electronically to minimise technical issues in accessing the latest news and developments in safeguarding children and young people. You can view previous versions online by clicking the link below.

Sign up by visiting: [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

NYSCP Website

During 2021-2022 we have seen a total of 77,718 users visit our website with 205,729 pages views across the year. Feedback on our website is extremely positive and has been highlighted by many as an extremely valuable resource for all things Safeguarding Children.

www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk

NYSCP Podcast

Also new to 2021 – 2022 is our NYSCP Podcast hosted by our Policy and Development Officer and selected guests. A variety of topics are featured from Private Fostering, Operation Choice, Commissioned services, ICON, and Hidden Harm. Just over 260 people have listened to one of our podcasts and this is something we are keen to increase over the coming year.

Listen now by visiting anchor.fm/north-yorkshire-safeguarding-children-partnership

NYSCP YouTube

In August 2021 we launched our YouTube Channel offering another option for professionals to access our recorded webinars, masterclasses and share learning. The channel is separated into targeted playlists for professionals and the public. For more information please visit:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCUeuPdnazmoELTpkuNEW80g



Safeguarding Week 2021

Partners from the Safeguarding Adults Boards, Children's Safeguarding Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships across North Yorkshire and the City of York as well as East Riding Council delivered a virtual Safeguarding week during the week of 21st – 25th June.

The following information gives a feel as to the sessions.

	2021
Number of online sessions	34
Registered attendees	2,450
% attendance	60%
Feedback survey responses	357
Did the week provide a good learning opportunity?	97%
Was the content informative?	98%
Was the content engaging?	97%

Our thanks to the vast array of partnership presentation and to those who made the time to attend, learn and share with colleagues.

Child Death Review Process

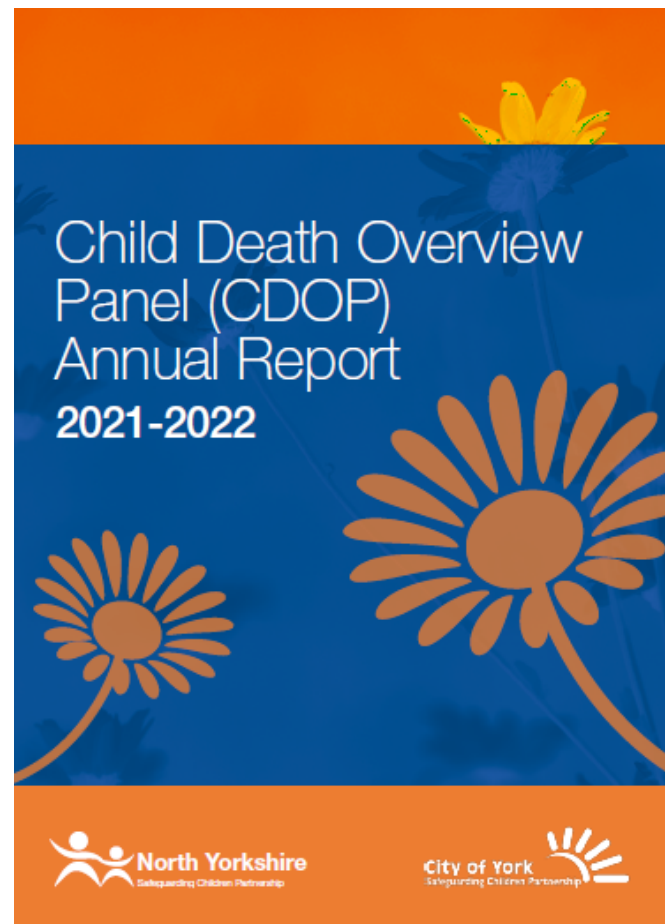
Child Death Review Partners, the Local Authorities and the Humber and North Yorkshire Independent Care Group (previously the Clinical Commissioning Groups for North Yorkshire) and City of York hold responsibility for the delivery of the Child Death Review Process as set out in the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The publication of the [Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance in 2018](#) built on the requirements set out in Chapter 5 of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 and details how individual professionals and organisations across all sectors involved in the Child Death Review should contribute to guided standardised practice nationally and enable thematic learning to prevent future child deaths.

The process is undertaken locally for all children who are normally resident within North Yorkshire and City of York.

- The NYSCP are committed to learning from the circumstances and factors present in each death, and to;
- Identify any change that can be made or actions which can be taken that might help to prevent similar deaths in the future
 - Share learning with colleagues locally, regionally, and nationally so that the findings will have a greater impact
 - Analyse trends and targeted interventions that can be delivered in response to findings, for example, through an extensive multi-agency campaign of training and awareness raising

For further information regarding the Child Death Overview Process, please refer to the [CDOP Annual Report 2021/2022](#).



Voice of the child

As a partnership, we heard routinely from relevant agencies of the work they do to capture the voice of the child within the work they are undertaking on an operational basis. Within our audit activity we regularly see how professionals are seeking and speaking directly with children and young people. Within the work of the partnership, we routinely use feedback from children and young people to help us to seek assurance that agencies are all they can to be child focused and listen to the voices of our service users.

Throughout the year as a partnership we have:

- Ensured our Youth Voice groups across North Yorkshire have a platform at our NYSCP Strategic Group meeting
- We routinely use and promote the use of the Growing Up in North Yorkshire Survey which hears directly from students across North Yorkshire schools this has been used along with feedback from children and young people in the creation of the NYSCP Being Young in North Yorkshire Strategy.



Local Safeguarding Partnerships

Local Safeguarding Partnerships (LSPs) are local safeguarding meetings where partners come together. Professionals are based in Children, Adult and Community Safety services and aim to raise awareness of safeguarding in the local area and respond to local need. The groups identify learning needs, share good practice and deliver the local priorities within the Board and Partnership's business plans. We have four groups across the County in Harrogate, Craven, Hambleton and Richmondshire, Selby and Scarborough and Ryedale. Examples of the work taking place in the local safeguarding partnerships include:

Selby

The Selby LSP took part in Safeguarding Awareness Week 2021. Working with community safety partners, a focus was placed upon one safeguarding theme a day. Communications were both targeted and for the general public. The themes included:

- Domestic Abuse and Alcohol Misuse,
- Hidden Harms,
- Community Safety Hubs,
- What to report/ How to report general messages and
- Benefits of collaboration to safeguard.

The Selby LSP has taken time this year to review the priorities across safeguarding and community safety and agreed the local priorities for further development. A focus of the partnership has been to local professionals across services following the COVID-19 pandemic, a strengthening those existing relationships. The approach in the upcoming year (2022/23) will be to focus our work on an issue/topic every quarter and will include general awareness raising/an overview of the topic of focus, highlighting upcoming guidance and practice changes and identifying communication or training needs. This approach will give the partnership a broader awareness of subject matters and services, and will hopefully enable closer working, increasing access and use of local services to prevent abuse.

Hambleton and Richmondshire

The Hambleton and Richmondshire Local Safeguarding Partnership is well-attended by a wide range of both statutory and non-statutory partner agencies.

On the agenda for the first meeting of the year the organisations each provided a summary presentation slide to share with the Board a summary of the activities undertaken by their services during Safeguarding week (2021-22). Areas which were promoted / had awareness raised included:

- fraud and cyber scams
- modern slavery
- reducing isolation and loneliness
- suicide prevention and
- support for carers.

Each organisation has reported regularly on what they are doing to promote safeguarding throughout the year including their support of national awareness days.

Partner agencies have supported each other's local campaigns through their social media platforms and shared resources within their agency workforces.

Case discussions brought to the forum in the last 12 months were consent and information disclosure, Safeguarding in Sport and the Victim Code and the new Domestic Abuse Bill. The focus of the final quarter was on each of the agencies providing a plan on a page, which outlined the role of the organisation, main safeguarding contact (s) details, useful website links and the services priorities in relation to safeguarding activity.

The Board and Partnerships record quarterly updates to be presented at the LSPs on key topics and issues. These updates are published on the NYSAB website and are available to view here:

safeguardingadults.co.uk/lsp

Financial Position

The NYSCP budget is agreed annually and contributions made by several partners outlined below.

Organisation	Contribution (£)	Percentage of Budget
North Yorkshire County Council	143,183	48%
North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group	91,344	28%
North Yorkshire Police	44,633	17%
City of York Partnership (Child Death Contribution)	16,693	6%
Probation	1,434	0%
CRC	350	0%
Total Budget	297,636	100%

Priorities for 2022 – 2023

Within the NYSCP Strategic Group Meeting a review of the Being Young in North Yorkshire Strategic Action Plan was undertaken progress updates received by relevant agencies against the action identified. Upon review of the BYINY Strategy the following three areas were agreed to be the priority areas for 2022/2023:

Children's Emotional wellness and wellbeing

Reduce demand on specialist provision, ensure parents and carers feel upskilled and confident to support children, develop a single point of access for all and to roll out trauma informed schools and wider settings.

Parental Conflict

Aim to develop across the partnership understanding of the impact of parental conflict on children and how to work with parents/families on this topic

Promote positives of online engagement whilst minimising the risk children face online

Increase awareness of the threats and opportunities for the online space for children and young people. Empower children and families to take positive action whilst utilising technologies.

Contact details:

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
NYCC, South Block
Room SB216,
County Hall,
Northallerton,
North Yorkshire, DL7 8AE

www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk

www.twitter.com/nyscp1

nyscp@northyorks.gov.uk

Contact us

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

Our Customer Service Centre is open Monday to Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm
(closed weekends and bank holidays). Tel: **01609 780 780**

email: customer.services@northyorks.gov.uk web: www.northyorks.gov.uk

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

Tel: **01609 780 780** email: customer.services@northyorks.gov.uk

Authors:

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Unit

James Parkes, Ali Firby, Natalie Wood, Emma Phillips and Haydn Rees Jones

This page is intentionally left blank

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9TH DECEMBER 2022

CYPS FINANCIAL POSITION

JOINT REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE AND CORPORATE DIRECTOR – STRATEGIC RESOURCES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This paper highlights the areas presenting with the most significant financial pressures facing Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) as at Quarter 2 (Q2) 2022 and the management action that has been taken in response to the pressures. In addition, the report provides an update on school funding pressures.

2.0 CYPS FINANCIAL PRESSURES

2.1 At its meeting on 29 November 2022, the Executive received the Quarterly Performance and Budget Monitoring Report for Q2, 2022. The report highlighted a projected overspend in Children and Young People's Services of £5.2m. This reflected a number of sustained financial pressures.

2.2 A summary of the main variances is shown in the table below:

Table 1: Summary of Variances

Service Area	Budget 2020-21 (£k)	Outturn 2020-21 (£k)	Variance 2020-21 Latest (£k)
Disabled Children's Service	5,465	6,553	1,088
Inclusion	2,710	2,952	242
Home to School Transport	32,437	34,489	2,052
Children & Families	30,287	30,693	406
Children & Families - Placement Budget	10,080	9,390	(690)
Pooled Placement Budget	1,606	4,055	2,449
Education & Skills	129	158	29
Finance & Management Support	1,128	979	(149)
School Redundancies & Pension Enhancements	1,001	1,064	63
School Improvement	936	672	(264)
CYPS Commissioning	969	869	(100)
Safeguarding Unit	460	473	13
Director's Unit	29	27	(2)
Outdoor Learning	-	(54)	(54)
Music	5	111	106
Local Authority Provision for High Needs	2,500	2,500	-
High Needs	-	528	528
Sponsored Academy Deficits			
DSG* Overspend to be carried forward	-	(528)	(528)
Total	89,742	94,931	5,189

* Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

- 2.3 The following sections highlights some of the key areas of financial pressure and management action undertaken in response.

3.0 HIGH NEEDS AND SEN

- 3.1 The most significant financial pressure within the Directorate relates to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) within the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). In 2022-23, the Directorate is projecting a financial pressure in the order of £0.5m. This will be in addition to the accumulated deficit of £9.6m from prior years. Over a number of years, there has been an unprecedented increase in the numbers of requests for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) – numbers of EHCPs have increased from 1,728 in January 2015 to c.4,330 in November 2022 (a rise of c.150%). Whilst the Department for Education (DfE) has provided some additional funding, most notably in the 2022-23, High Needs Block funding remains insufficient to fund current and growing demand and the trend is expected to continue with the rate of increases in demand expected to outstrip any increases in DfE funding. The in-year projected deficit for 2023-24 is expected to amount to at least £4.5m.
- 3.2 To assist in meeting continued demand and to reduce spend in the independent sector, NYCC have successfully bid for a Free Special School in Selby (although DfE delivery has been delayed). Satellite provision has been developed at Mowbray School in Ripon (opened in January 2020) offering 60 additional specialist places. Actions have also been taken forward in the strategic plan to strengthen the targeted mainstream offer for those young people that need an enhanced offer of support in a mainstream environment. Ten schools are now providing a Targeted Mainstream Provision and the Local Authority (LA) is committed to working with schools and academies to establish a total of 31 provisions across the county.
- 3.3 Locality boards have continued to operate and expand their membership. These are made up of local leaders from schools, colleges, and the LA to work in partnership to identify and address local Inclusion and School Improvement priorities.
- 3.4 Executive Members approved the Strategic Plan for SEND in early September 2018. The Strategic Plan outlines key areas of detailed review to reshape provision in both mainstream and special school settings, the core and additional offer to schools around inclusion support services, bids for free special schools and ways of working, collaboration, and governance. This is a comprehensive strategy aimed at improving the offer for children and young people within the funding available. The Strategic Plan is currently being refreshed in conjunction with partners and stakeholders and Member approval for the Plan will be sought in the coming months.
- 3.5 The LA continues to work to bring high needs expenditure to levels that can be sustained within anticipated future high needs funding levels. The funding gap represents a significant unfunded pressure from DfE. A financially sustainable, inclusive, and effective system is a high priority for the local authority, and we will continue to work to address the gap.

- 3.6 The LA faces a significant challenge in that projections indicate that there may be a shortfall of c.350 specialist places in the next 3 to 5 years, unless specialist places can be expanded within the county. Our priorities for investment include:
- completing the roll-out of Targeted Mainstream Provision;
 - addressing the lack of SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) provision in the north and central parts of the county;
 - developing a new provision which could support secondary-aged pupils with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) in a central area within the county;
 - progressing with modest scale high value-for-money schemes that expand our existing range of specialist provisions, particularly where there is high demand for admissions.
- 3.7 However, capital investment opportunities are limited by recent DfE high needs capital provision allocations which provided only £0.716m for North Yorkshire in the 2021-22 allocation round, and an additional £8.468m from the 2022-23 and 2023-24 allocation rounds. North Yorkshire has received the lowest per head high needs capital allocation out of 149 local authorities.
- 3.8 We remain concerned about the scale of available capital funding and the scale of our specialist provision capacity challenge, and we continue to make representations to the DfE regarding the distribution methodology for high needs capital funding. However, we continue to explore options including:
- DfE bidding opportunities;
 - modest scale high-value capital investments;
 - redirection of school condition grant;
 - local authority capital investment.
- 3.9 To this end, we have submitted an application as part of the latest DfE special school free wave (October 2022) to secure an SEMH provision in the Hambleton/ Richmondshire area, catering for pupils aged 8-16. The outcome of the bid is anticipated in the Spring Term 2023.
- 3.10 North Yorkshire will also be participating in the DfE Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme, as part of Tranche 3. Detailed diagnostic work is expected to commence in Summer Term 2023. Some additional non-recurring grant funding may be available as an enabler to deliver savings against the high needs grant.

4.0 SEN TRANSPORT

- 4.1 Linked with the pressures arising from the increase in Education, Health and Care Plans, the local authority has also seen financial pressure in SEN home to school transport budgets. The number of children receiving special transport has risen, particularly as provision within Special Schools has risen. In 2021-22, the local authority spent £14.1m transporting 1,290 children with SEN compared to £5.6m in 2015. The LA has also seen price pressure arising from driver shortages in the industry, market forces and general inflationary pressure.

5.0 OTHER CYPS BUDGET AREAS

- 5.1 Other CYPS areas with financial pressure include:
- **Pooled Budget** – the budget comprises both care (LA budgets) and education (DSG) as well as some anticipated health partner contributions. A small number

of very expensive care arrangements for children with multiple vulnerabilities and needs, agency nursing costs and market volatility have contributed to the financial pressure. High-cost external placements are being reviewed to ensure they remain cost-effective and given the limited choice, opportunities to explore alternative arrangements are being explored.

- **Disabled Children's Services** – lower than anticipated health contributions and additional staffing costs have led to the current financial pressure. A review of services for disabled children and their families seeks to scope a range of actions across a number of workstreams and involving a number of agencies to ensure areas for transformation and efficiencies are identified. Management action to appropriately increase health contributions is being explored.
- 5.2 Management action to address areas of financial pressure include approaches to manage demand and, working with partners to ensure a collaborative approach to meeting the needs of children and young people. The Directorate has previously undertaken focussed reviews on SEN administration, SEN and mainstream transport, taking forward actions to ensure efficient processes and scheduling.
- 5.3 The financial environment remains challenging. As reported as part of the Q2 Executive Quarterly Performance Report, despite some high performance supporting positive outcomes for children, young people and their families, demand remains high. Referrals to Children's Social Care in Q2 (2022) were 26% higher than in 2021 and we are seeing a need for families to be re-referred for further episodes of intervention. The rise in contacts and referrals is likely to be reflective of the increasing pressure on families, linked to a combination of the lasting effects of the pandemic and the rising cost of living. The number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) have also continued to rise.
- 5.4 The financial outlook for Children and Young People's Services remains a challenge. For example, North Yorkshire receives one of the lowest funding per head settlements in the country for high needs funding. The Directorate is subject to significant levels of uncertainty a result of inflation, provider market volatility and staffing pressures. Other funding pressures include the DfE's withdrawal of 50% of the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokerage Grant from April 2022. 100% of the grant will be withdrawn from April 2023. Statutory school improvement functions will, therefore, only be funded from April 2023 by agreement from schools to 'de-delegate' funding from LA maintained schools.
- 5.5 The Directorate has contributed to transformation and savings plans previously. The Directorate will continue to explore future developments to identify budget mitigations and strategies as part of budget setting, to reduce the impact of exceptional and unpredictable budget pressures, and to consider alternative cost-effective approaches to service delivery.

6.0 SCHOOL BALANCES

Primary & Maintained Nursery Schools

- 6.1 Aggregate primary and maintained nursery school balances increased from £17.576m as at 31 March 2021 to £17.600m as at 31 March 2022. There were 15 primary schools with a deficit balance on 31 March 2022 compared to only 11 as of 31 March 2021 – an increase of four.

- 6.2 Following receipt of school start budgets, 103 primary schools and 1 maintained nursery school (58%) have budgeted for an in-year deficit although it should be noted that only 10 schools are projecting to be in deficit by 31 March 2023.
- 6.3 There were 67 schools (out of 180 LA maintained primary and nursery schools) projecting an accumulated deficit position by March 2025 (gross deficit position totalling £5.9m).
- 6.4 It should be noted that 1 LA maintained primary schools have been issued with a Notice of Financial Concern.

Secondary Schools

- 6.5 Aggregate secondary school balances improved from a net deficit position of £918k as of 31 March 2021 to a net deficit position of £203k as of 31 March 2022. There were five (out of 15) secondary schools in an accumulated deficit position, with aggregate deficits totalling £3.45m as at 31 March 2022. This is small improvement compared to March 2021 and saw one secondary school move from an accumulated deficit position into an accumulated surplus position following a recovery plan.
- 6.6 Each of the five schools are still projecting to have an accumulated deficit as of 31 March 2023.
- 6.7 There were seven schools projecting an accumulated deficit position by March 2025 with a gross deficit position totalling £4.4m. Even after taking into account those schools who are projecting an accumulated surplus by March 2025, the net aggregate projected deficit is £2.9m
- 6.8 It should be noted that 3 secondary schools have been issued with a Notice of Financial Concern.

Special Schools

- 6.9 Of seven LA maintained special schools, three were in deficit as of 31 March 2021 with a net aggregated deficit positions of £1.6m. This position deteriorated during 2021-22 with aggregate balances reducing from £41k deficit as at 31 March 2021 to £462k deficit as at 31 March 2022. Based on the submission of school start budgets, this is expected to further reduce to £1.67m deficit by 31st March 2023 with only two special schools projecting an in-year surplus during 2022-23.
- 6.10 All seven special schools are projecting to be in an accumulated deficit position by March 2025 with aggregated accumulated projected deficits of £3.9m.
- 6.11 It should be noted that 2 special schools have been issued with a Notice of Financial Concern.

School Financial Pressures

- 6.12 The LA remains particularly concerned regarding small, rural secondary schools and we continue to lobby for a fairer funding deal for North Yorkshire. NYCC have argued for more targeted funding for those secondary schools who are evidentially more rural – with pupils typically travelling longer distances – where there are greater challenges of achieving economies of scale with comparatively fewer pupils.

6.13 North Yorkshire secondary schools are placed 140 out of 150 local authorities in terms of revenue funding level per pupil. On average, a school in North Yorkshire will receive £5,713 per pupil in 2022-23 compared to a national average of £6,213. Comparing the funding for a 1,500-pupil secondary school this equates to a difference in funding of £0.75m. The funding for North Yorkshire primary schools is more favourable with a position of 31 out of 150 local authorities in terms of funding per pupil. For primary schools, a North Yorkshire school will receive on average £4,899 per pupil compared to a national average of £4,786.

6.14 Schools produced their 2022/23 Start Budgets prior to several emerging cost pressures being fully known (e.g., pay and energy bill inflation). It is anticipated that many schools will see a deterioration in their budget position for the 2022/23 financial year compared to their original forecast. Mid-year projections are expected from schools by end-December 2022; school Balances will be analysed in further detail during the spring term 2023 and actions picked up with individual schools are part of the support, challenge, and intervention framework.

6.15 The Department for Education (DfE) announced in July 2022 that overall school funding will increase by +1.9% for the 2023/24 financial year. School budgets have experienced significant cost pressures in the 2022/23 financial year, and this is likely to continue through to 2023/24. Cost pressures include:

- Pay award cost pressures with the September 2022 teachers pay award of 5% and an increase of 8.9% in starting salaries. A National Employers offer of £1,925 on non-teaching (NJC) salary points from 1st April 2022 plus a 4.04% increase on allowances; this equates to a 10% increase for staff on lower salary bands;
- Energy inflation cost pressures in excess of 200% and uncertainty as to the impact of the Government Energy Bill Relief Scheme;
- Overall inflationary pressures in excess of 10%;
- Cost pressures associated with additional support for Covid recovery and catch up;
- Cost pressures associated with supporting an increasing number of pupils with SEND;
- Below forecast inflation increases in school funding provided by Government for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.

6.16 In the Autumn 2022 Statement, the Government announced that nationally:

The core schools budget in England will receive an additional £2.3 billion of funding in 2023-24 and £2.3 billion in 2024-25. After adjusting Spending Review 2021 budgets down to account for the removal of the compensation for employer costs of the Health and Social Care Levy, this brings the core schools budget to a total of £58.8 billion in 2024-25, £2 billion greater than published at Spending Review 2021. This restores 2010 levels of per pupil funding in real terms and provides an average cash increase for every pupil of more than £1,000 by 2024-25, compared to 2021-22

6.17 At the time of writing this report, no further information has been provided by the DfE as to how this funding will be allocated.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This report provides a briefing on financial issues affecting the Children and Young People's Directorate, including schools. Specific directorate issues are outlined in sections 2, 3,4 and 5. An overview of the financial position for school balances is outlined in section 6. As a briefing paper there are no specific recommendations or decisions and therefore no specific financial implications for this paper.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no specific legal implications identified within this briefing paper.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific equalities implication identified within this briefing paper.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific climate change implications identified within this briefing paper.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the contents of the report.

STUART CARLTON
Corporate Director, Children and
Young People's Service

GARY FIELDING
Corporate Director, Strategic Resources

County Hall, Northallerton
9th December 2022

*Report Prepared by Howard Emmett, Assistant Director, Strategic Resources
Background Papers: None*

This page is intentionally left blank

Adoption Annual Report

1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

This presentation demonstrates The North Yorkshire Adoption Team performance and where it sits within the whole One Adoption Agency North & Humber - covering 2021-22 financial year (April 2021 – March 2022).

One Adoption North and Humber is a shared adoption service between the five local authorities: North East Lincolnshire Council, City of York Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The Regional Adoption Agency is hosted by City of York Council.



Adoption Activity

Across the 5 Local Authorities in the 'One Adoption North & Humber' Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) during 2021/22:

- **102** Children had a plan for adoption
 - **19** plans reversed
- **86** Placement Orders were granted
- **112** children were placed with adoptive families
- **84** Children were adopted from Care

Within **North Yorkshire (activity within period Apr21-March22):**

- **11** Children had a Plan for adoption
- **6** Children were granted a Placement Order
- **8** Children were matched with a prospective adopter
- **9** Children were placed with a prospective adopter

Adoption Scorecard

- The Adoption Scorecard provides an overview of the timeliness of Local Authorities in placing children in need of adoption with a family
- North Yorkshire’s performance is generally strong, although due to the low numbers, performance can be influenced by the impact of individual cases encountering delay during proceedings, usually within the court arena.

Page 60

	North Yorks.	RAA Average (exc. NYCC)	National Average (rolling 3 years)
A10: Average days between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family adjusted for foster carer adoptions*	269	398	412
A2: Average days between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child for adoption and deciding on a match	162	146.5	220
A3: Percentage of children who waited less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family.	73%	42%	56%
*adjusted for foster carers removes children adopted by their foster carer from the average, providing a more meaningful measure of adoption performance			

OFFICIAL

Adopters

Across the One Adoption North & Humber RAA during 2021/22:

- **72** families were approved as suitable to adopt.
 - Down from 100 over the same period of 2020/21 and 89 over the same period of 2019/20
- **103** prospective adopters were matched with child(ren)
 - **104** children were placed within the RAA
 - **18** children were placed outside of the RAA
- **79** prospective adoptive families had a child(ren) placed;
 - **77** (93.9%) had a child from within the RAA placed with them
 - **2** (1.5%) had a child from outside the RAA placed with them.
- **84** adoptive families adopted a child/children, up from 62 over the same period of 2020/21, but down from 95 in 2019/20.

Adopters

Within **North Yorkshire** during 2021/22:

- **18** families were approved as suitable to adopt
- **20** families were matched to children – all from within the RAA
- **20** prospective adoptive families had children placed with them
- **12** families adopted children

As of 31st March 2022:

- **21** prospective adoptive families approved as suitable to adopt, but still waiting for a match.
- **1** prospective adoptive families were matched with a child, but the child was not yet placed.
- **16** prospective adoptive families have a child placed with them, but have not yet received the Adoption Order.

Adoption Support – what we offer

The team deliver a wide range of support from assessment of need, annual events & bespoke training courses that cover topics such as;

- Contact and Identity
- Parenting Adopted Teens
- Therapeutic Parenting Techniques
- Enhanced Adoptive Parenting
- Theraplay
- Non Violence Resistance training
- Training for schools in relation to supporting adopted children in education
- The team also offer 'drop in' sessions for adoptive parents, giving them an opportunity to come and talk to one of our Family Support workers / Adoption social workers and discuss any issues, in turn receiving support, guidance and advice.

Adoption Support – in numbers

Across One Adoption North and Humber in 2021/22 there were:

- **160** new contacts for Adoption Support
- **100** New Assessments for Adoption Support

At the end of 2021/22, across the RAA there were:

- **286** open adoption support cases
- **183** children receiving support via the Adoption Support Fund

Within **North Yorkshire** during 2021/22, there were:

- **78** contacts for Adoption Support
- **56** resulted in a new assessment for Adoption Support started

At the end of March 2022, in **North Yorkshire** there were:

- **107** open Adoption Support Cases
- **58** open Adoption Support Fund cases

Peer mentor service

The Peer Mentoring Scheme in OANH (contracted via Adoption UK) remains consistent and stable, with a learning offer of support and is well resourced.

Current figures;

23 peer mentors:

- 5 Same sex couple peer mentors
- 13 Sibling Adopter peer mentors:
 - 5 where the children were placed together
 - 8 with siblings either not biologically related or where a biological sibling has been born later and adopted into the family
- 3 EPP Peer mentors
- 45 families currently accessing the peer mentor service via 1 to 1 support
- 22 families accessing the what's app support service linked with a peer mentor

Future Developments

- Adoption Support North Yorkshire:

- Implementation of an additional screening (Initial Visit) process for enquiries made re adoption support. This approach will raise the profile of adoption to align stronger with the strengths in relationships practice model and supports adoptive families to draw strength & support from their networks. It will also allow social workers to;
- dedicate more time to solution focussed assessments
- Use the assessment process as an opportunity for intervention, alongside assessment
- Focus on broader elements of support, not just external therapy provision via ASF
- It will ensure outcomes of assessments are timely, evidence based and goal orientated and provide clear, child focussed and measurable plans.

Adoption support social workers undertaking assessments will also have a 20 (working day) mid-way review with their line manager.

- Further embed the Strength in Relationship Practice model across Adoption Service

- Including peer group supervisions, Signs of Safety Mapping meetings and Restorative Practice Training

Future Developments continued..

- The Adoption Service is now responsible for **Step-Parent Adoptions**, having received a total of 34 referrals since April 2022. We have developed a clear & robust referral and screening process, alongside providing practice and legal training to staff and managers.
- We aim to continue to build on the local offer around adopter recruitment campaigns
- To continue to contribute to the development of social work practice across the children's teams with the ongoing training around the combined CPR/Rule 14 – this is co delivered by the Adoption service manager & adoption lawyer
- Within the RAA, a research project is underway with regards to the modernisation of indirect contact in adoption. This is called the 'letter-swap' project.



One
Adoption
Agency
NORTH & HUMBER

Adoption in North Yorkshire 2021/22

This report covers 2021-22 financial year (April 2021 – March 2022), and provides a detailed summary of North Yorkshire's performance and where it sits within the whole One Adoption Agency North & Humber.

Contents

Executive Summary – Adoption Service	2
One Adoption North & Humber Adoption performance	3
North Yorkshire specific adoption performance during 2021/22	4
Plans for Adoption	4
Placement Orders	5
Adoption Orders	5
NYCC performance in relation to The Adoption Scorecard 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22	6
North Yorkshire – Overview of Adoption activity 2014/15 – 2021/22	7
Prospective Adopters	8
One Adoption North & Humber during 2021/22 in numbers:	8
North Yorkshire Focus:	8
Adoption Support:	9
One Adoption North & Humber 2020/21 in numbers	9
Current figures;.....	10
North Yorkshire Adoption Support	10
Finance	13
Ongoing service Development	13

Executive Summary – Adoption Service

2021/22 Financial Year (1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022)

Context of the Regional Adoption Agency;

One Adoption North and Humber is a shared adoption service between the five local authorities: North East Lincolnshire Council, City of York Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The Regional Adoption Agency is hosted by City of York Council.

The number of children going through the adoption process in North Yorkshire remains low, with 11 children placed for adoption over each of the past two years and 11 children adopted from care in 2021/22 (down from 13 in 2020/21). Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic will inevitably have impacted the numbers to some extent across the RAA, the low number of adoptions in North Yorkshire is to be generally expected, as the Strength in Relationship Practice Model seeks to support children within the family networks. As this model is fully embedded, many children that perhaps would have historically been considered for adoption are now supported and cared for within their family network.

Whilst the number of children adopted from care in North Yorkshire is low, we continue to see encouraging and consistent performance in relation to the timeliness that children progress through the adoption process and are placed within an adoptive family. North Yorkshire's performance is notably better than the national average across all three timeliness measures from the Adoption Scorecard.

	North Yorks.	RAA Average (exc. NYCC)	National Average (rolling 3 years)
A10: Average days between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family adjusted for foster carer adoptions*	269	398	412
A2: Average days between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child for adoption and deciding on a match	162	146.5	220
A3: Percentage of children who waited less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family.	73%	42%	56%
<i>*adjusted for foster carers - this removes children adopted by their foster carer from the average, providing a more meaningful measure of adoption performance</i>			

North Yorkshire continues to be a net contributor to the RAA's pool of prospective adopters, with 22 families starting an assessment last year and 12 families approved over the 12 months to 31st March 2022. As of the end of 2021/22, in North Yorkshire there were 21 prospective families approved as suitable to adopt and waiting for a child to be matched with them. A further 16 families had a child placed with them but were waiting to receive an Adoption Order.

Reflective of both the number of adoptive families in North Yorkshire, and North Yorkshire's commitment to providing effective adoption support, the volume of adoption support work undertaken remains high. Despite, 11 children being adopted from care in 2021/22, 78 requests for adoption support were received. At the end of 2021/22, 107 children were in receipt of Adoption Support, well over a third of the 239 cases across the whole of the RAA.

One Adoption North & Humber Adoption performance

Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022:

- **84** children had an Adoption Order granted
- **86** Placement Orders were granted
- **103** children were matched with an adoptive family
- **112** children were placed with an adoptive family (this will include children that were matched in 2020/21)
 - o Compared to 94 in 20/21
- **104 of the 112** children placed with an adoptive family were from within the RAA

For children who were adopted in the One Adoption North & Humber region it took an average of:

- **373** days between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family, compared to 412 days nationally.
- **150** days between a Local Authority receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family, higher than the national average of 116. days.
- For children who were adopted since April 2019, or have an approved adoption plan and are still going through the process, on average **48%** waited less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family. The average for England was 56%.

One Adoption North and Humber are proud that they are one of the only agencies in the country that is numerically sufficient, approving more, adoptive families compared to sets of children needing an adoptive family. The number of adopters approved continues to be steady and is able to meet the needs of the cohort of children requiring adoptive placements. The number of children needing families is falling meaning that there is more choice for children in the region.

However, they have to be the right adopters for the children waiting, and at times, it is not possible to find the right match for a child within the region, albeit it is rare that we encounter a situation like this. If this is the case a decision is made early by the child's Local Authority that a search should be made on a national basis. Some children will wait longer due to a national shortage of adopters for sibling groups, older children, and children with disabilities.

North Yorkshire specific adoption performance during 2021/22

As we emerge from the past two years and the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Children in North Yorkshire, and the wider Regional Adoption Agency LAs, continue to achieve permanence with an adoptive family in a timely way and we are proud of this.

In the context of the data reflected in this report and the associated timeframe, it is relevant to note the courts continue to work through a number of backlogs in cases, which do have the potential to cause delays.

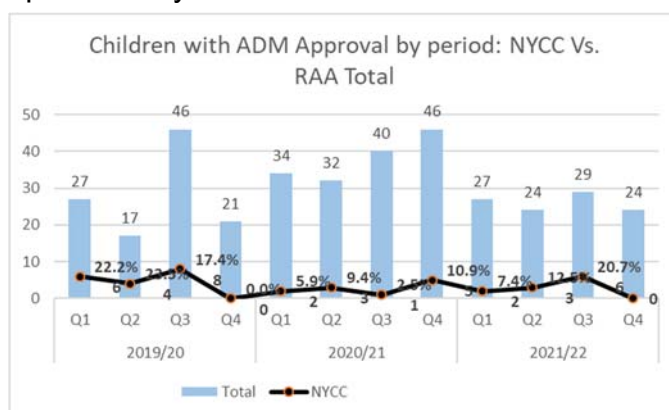
Plans for Adoption

Once a child enters the care system, comprehensive assessments of birth families are completed to determine whether it is safe for that child to return to parent’s care or wider family. If these assessments do not have a positive outcome, then a recommendation of adoption may be made at the child’s Looked After Children Review. Once this recommendation is made then a plan for adoption will be considered, and could be approved, by the ‘Agency Decision Maker’ (ADM) in the child’s LA.

In 2019/20 a relatively high number of ADM approvals were recorded (n=18), as a comparison in 2020/21 (n=11) During 2021/22 the number of approvals remained stable at 11.

Over period 2020/21, we have seen 11 children from North Yorkshire receive ADM approval to be placed for adoption. This has remained stable in 2021/22 with 11 over the same period, with 1 sibling group of 3 and 1 sibling group of two, the rest being single children. Whilst the number of ADM approvals in North Yorkshire remained stable, the overall number across the RAA reduced, from 152 ADM approvals in 2020/21 to 102 in 2021/22. As a result, the proportion attributable to NYCC has increased, nearly doubling from 5.7% to 10.8%.

Continuing the recent trend, it is worth noting that in period 2021/22, North Yorkshire saw the lowest number of children (9 in total) placed for adoption of any of the authorities in the RAA. This is likely to be reflective of the increased focus in North Yorkshire on the importance of the role of the wider family network in supporting and caring for children. This is laid out in North Yorkshire’s Strengths in Relationship Practice Model, which focuses on harnessing family networks to support children to remain at home or within the family network, using the Family-Seeing model, Family Group Conferencing and Relationship Based Practices to build support long term networks centred on the child. The inevitable



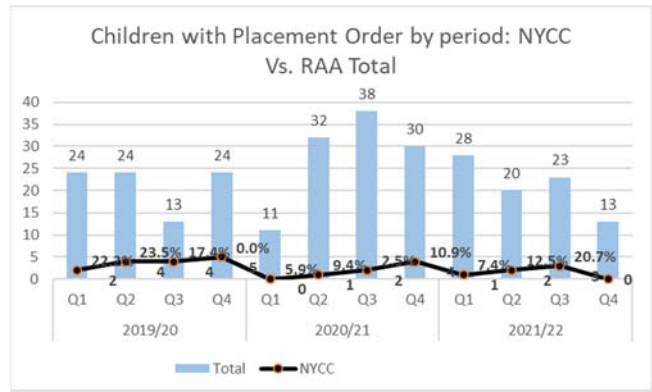
impact of this is that we see a reduction in the number of children leaving care through adoption.

Reflective of the high quality decision-making in North Yorkshire, there has been just 1 reversed decision in relation to plans of adoption for children, since Quarter 2 2020/21.

Placement Orders

Once the decision has been made to place a child for adoption and a plan for adoption approved by the ADM, a Placement Order may be granted by the court.

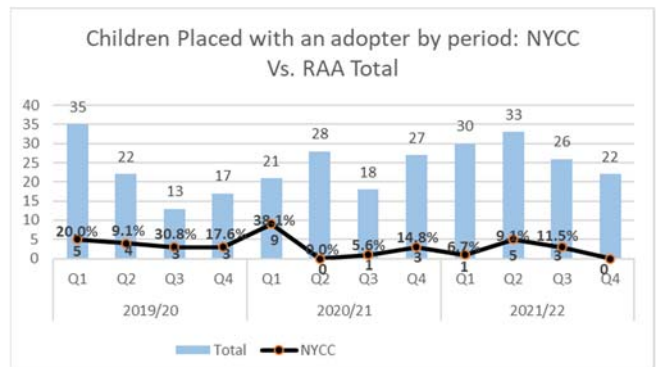
With a reduction in the number of children being placed for adoption this is leading to a reduction in the number of Placement Order’s being granted. In 2020/21, 7 children received a Placement Order, reducing to 6 in 2021/22. Over the same period, it is worth noting that the RAA LA average has also reduced to 17 from 22.8 in 2020/21.



This is indicative that at least some of this reduction is potentially linked to the impact of the pandemic, as the reduction has been observed across the RAA, rather than just in NYCC.

Once a plan for adoption has been agreed the Regional Adoption Agency can then work with the child’s social worker, along with other agencies, to find the best possible match for that child. The RAA uses dedicated family finders, family finding forums, and Linkmaker (an electronic local and national searching tool) as well as holding monthly family finding meetings to consider the cohort of children and adopters in the region, ensuring the best matches and choice for our children.

Reflective of the recent stability in the number of children receiving a Placement Order, the number of children being matched with a prospective adopter at the end of Q4 2021/22, is 8. This shows very little move away from the long-term average of 3 per Quarter. The number of children matched across the RAA has slightly increased to an average of 25.8 at the end of Q4 2021/22 compared to a long-term average of 25 at the same point in 2020/21.



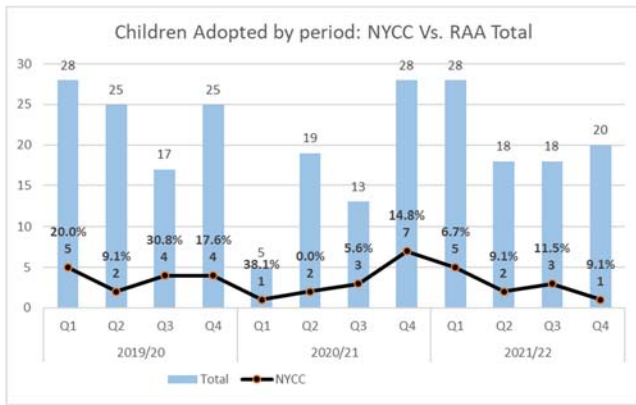
Given both the overall lower number of Placement Orders granted and the overall reduction in children placed for adoption, this is likely to lead to reductions in the number of children being matched, placed and formally adopted.

Once a Placement Order has been granted and a match has been recommended at panel and approved by the ADM, then the child can be placed with the prospective adopter.

The number of children placed with an adopter reduced fractionally down to 9 at the end of 2021/22 compared to 13 at the end of 2020/21. Whilst the North Yorkshire number remains low, the RAA total has increased up to 112, compared to 89 in 2020/21. As a result, the proportion attributed to North Yorkshire children has dropped from 9% in 2019/20 to 7% in 2020/21.

Adoption Orders

Once a child has been placed with a prospective adopter, an Adoption Order may be granted by the courts to legally make the child a part of the adoptive family.



The number of adoptions increased in the latter part of 2020/21 in North Yorkshire, which was aligned to the increase noted across RAA (n=28). However, at the end of 2021/22 the numbers in North Yorkshire and the RAA have come back in line within normal expectancy (n=11).

Across the RAA, a total of 84 Children left Care through adoption in the 2021/22, a notable increase compared to 65 in 2020/21. It is worth noting that the high number of adoptions in 2021/22 have been driven by a continuation of the spike seen in Q4 2020/21 into Q1 2021/22 – this will in part be linked to children being adopted following delays linked to the pandemic. As these children will now mostly have been adopted from care, it is likely that we will see the number of children adopted from care reduce into the coming financial year.

Adoptions by Period	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
York	10	3	11
North Yorks.	15	13	11
N. E. Lincs.	18	10	6
Hull	33	27	46
East Riding	19	12	10
TOTAL	95	65	84

The table above shows the breakdown of RAA adoptions by period, regarding each Local Authority. A number of Local Authorities are now beginning to see stability in the number of adoptions in each period, with the exception of Hull who have experienced an increase on pre-pandemic numbers in 2021/22. However for the other authorities this gives a good indicative impression of what demand may be like in the future.

NYCC performance in relation to The Adoption Scorecard 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22

Whilst the numbers shown above are undoubtedly important in understanding the volume of work North Yorkshire’s adoption service and the Regional Adoption Agency are undertaking, it does not necessarily show how well we are performing in relation to the children that are adopted from care. In line with North Yorkshire’s commitment to find permanence for children as quickly as is reasonably and safely possible, one of the most informative ways that we can measure our success is by looking at the time taken to reach various stages of the adoption process.

The following provides an overview against the measures included in the Adoption Scorecard. The Adoption Scorecard provides an overview of the timeliness of Local Authorities being able to place children in need of adoption with a family;

- **A10: average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted – adjusted for Foster Carers***
- **A2: average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family.**
- **A3: measures the number and percentage of children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family**

	North Yorks.	RAA Average (exc. NYCC)	National Average (rolling 3 years)
A10: Average days between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family <i>adjusted for foster carer adoptions*</i>	269	398	412
A2: Average days between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child for adoption and deciding on a match	162	146.5	220
A3: Percentage of children who waited less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family.	73%	42%	56%
<i>*adjusted for foster carers removes children adopted by their foster carer from the average, providing a more meaningful measure of adoption performance</i>			

North Yorkshire performance is generally strong in regards to timeliness throughout the adoption process. Our timeliness in relation to the average number of days between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family is strong, outperforming both the national average and the RAA average across scorecard measure A10 and A3. Whilst we have seen a slight deterioration across measure A10 (from 230 days to 269 days) and A3 (from 76% to 73%), it is worth noting that the low number of children placed for adoption in North Yorkshire does mean that delay in the court proceedings for a single child can have a considerable impact on the overall outcome.

North Yorkshire performance remains stronger than the national average against measure A2 at 162 compared to 220 days nationally. The RAA performance is stronger still, with an average of 146.5 days. This is likely to be a direct result of the high number of Early Permanence Placements used by other authorities in the RAA. These, by their very nature, inevitably result in a shorter duration between court authority and a match.

North Yorkshire – Overview of Adoption activity 2014/15 – 2021/22

The table below shows the North Yorkshire trends in relation to the work undertaken by the Adoption service.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Overall LAC population (excluding UASCs)	446	418	407	419	412	428	417	404
Plans for Adoption agreed	47	32	32	29	16	18	11	11
Placement Orders Approved	30	45	21	28	13	15	7	6
Adopted	52	35	31	33	13	15	13	11
% of LAC adopted (based on end of year LAC)	11.7%	8.4%	7.6%	7.9%	3.2%	3.5%	3%	2.7%
Open Adoption Support cases (children)				81	107	88	87	107

Prospective Adopters

Please note: responsibility for finding, approving and matching adopters has now moved to the Regional Adoption Agency, information on North Yorkshire's adopters is no longer being produced by the Regional Adoption Agency, and is therefore not included within this report. The below has been included to provide an overview of this activity over this reporting period.

One Adoption North & Humber during 2021/22 in numbers:

Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022:

- **72** families were approved as suitable to adopt.
 - o Down from 100 over the same period of 2020/21 and 89 over the same period of 2019/20
- **103** prospective adopters were matched with child(ren)
- **112** children placed with prospective adopters
 - o **104** children were placed within the RAA
 - o **18** children were placed outside of the RAA
- **79** prospective adoptive families had a child(ren) placed;
 - o **77** (93.9%) had a child from within the RAA placed with them
 - o **2** (1.5%) had a child from outside the RAA placed with them.
- **84** adoptive families adopted a child/children, up from 62 over the same period of 2020/21, but down from 95 in 2019/20.

North Yorkshire Focus:

From April 2021 to 31st March 2022

- **22** families started Stage 1
- **19** families started Stage 2
- **18** families were approved as suitable to adopt
 - o Up slightly from 14 over 2020/21

- **20** families were matched to children
 - o All of which were within the RAA
- **20** prospective adoptive families had a child(ren) placed;
 - o Up from 12 over 2020/21
- **12** Adoptive families in North Yorkshire adopted a child/children
 - o Down slightly from 10 over the same period of 2020/21

As of 31st March 2022

- **21** prospective adoptive families approved as suitable to adopt, but still waiting for a match.
- **1** prospective adoptive family were matched with a child, but the child was not yet placed.
- **16** prospective adoptive families have a child placed with them, but have not yet received the Adoption Order.

Adoption Support:

One Adoption North & Humber 2020/21 in numbers

Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022:

- **160** new contacts for adoption support
 - o Up from 106 over the same period of 2020/21 and 158 over the same period of 2019/20.
- **100** new assessments for adoption support
 - o Down from 111 for the whole of the 2020/21 financial year

At 31st March 2022:

- **239** open adoption support cases
 - o Up slightly from 238 at the end of last financial year
- **183** Children receiving support via the Adoption Support Fund.
 - o Down slightly from 195 at the end of 2020/21.

Peer Mentor Service:

The Peer Mentoring Scheme in OANH (contracted via Adoption UK) remains consistent and stable, with a learning offer of support and is well resourced.

Newcastle University conducted research into the project, which is the biggest peer-mentoring scheme in the country; the headlines from the paper completed in 2022;

- A strength in the Yorkshire and Humber model has been the ability to add the lived experience, expert knowledge, of experienced adopters into the lives of prospective or adopters facing challenges. There was recognition that this everyday experience of adoptive life is enduring and that families may experience critical moments of challenge at any point in the adoption lifecycle, but that these can be held and supported by a strong accessible adoption community and appropriately available specialist services.

- Peer Mentoring has been an extremely successful intervention in adoptive family lives and mutually beneficial for mentees and mentors. It has generated new resources, strategic and operational feedback on critical points and potential solutions. Mentees have reported feeling more confident about how to navigate the services and which they could approach for help and support.
- The Peer Mentoring Scheme is an incredible success, extremely well organized and supported, understood by participants and valued by all stakeholders.

Current figures:

23 peer mentors:

- 5 Same sex couple peer mentors
- 13 Sibling Adopter peer mentors:
 - 5 where the children were placed together
 - 8 with siblings either not biologically related or where a biological sibling has been born later and adopted into the family
- 3 EPP Peer mentors
- 45 families currently accessing the peer mentor service via 1 to 1 support
- 22 families accessing the what's app support service linked with a peer mentor

North Yorkshire Adoption Support

Adoption Support is a significant provision within our service delivery and can be relevant at various stages throughout the life of the child and their adoptive parents. All adopters are invited to take part in support groups, attend training courses and annual social events.

The team deliver bespoke training courses that cover topics such as;

- Contact and Identity
- Parenting Adopted Teens
- Therapeutic Parenting Techniques
- Enhanced Adoptive Parenting
- Theraplay
- Non Violence Resistance training
- Training for schools in relation to supporting adopted children in education
- The team also offer 'drop in' sessions for adoptive parents, giving them an opportunity to come and talk to one of our Family Support workers / Adoption social workers and discuss any issues, in turn receiving support, guidance and advice.

The team also deliver events for the children and their families including various annual events to enhance the sense of belonging around being part of the local adoption community. An example of this being the summer picnic where 159 people attended in total 82 adults and 77 children. Feedback captured from the event;

Adopters;

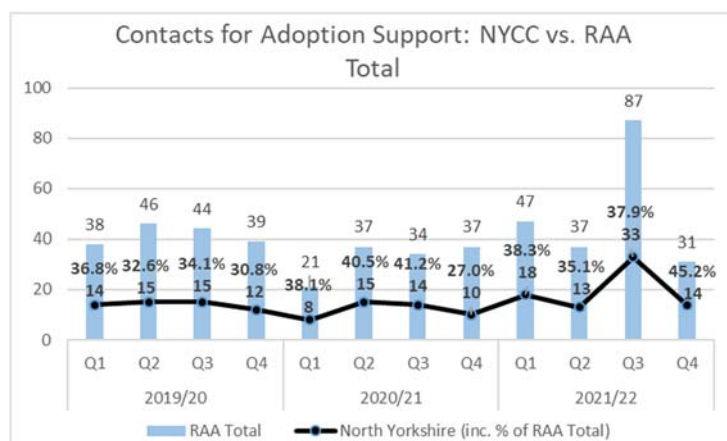
- *"Lovely to be able to spend time with other adoptive families and connect with social workers who have helped us on our journey"*
- *"It was a brilliant day out, gave us chance to speak to other adopters and for our boy to interact with other children from a similar background"*

- *“it’s a non-judgemental place to go with a really good range of things for the children to do, see and feel in a large, open space”*

Child;

- *“It was a fun day out and it was nice to be with my family and meet new people, I enjoyed the bubble man and the animals”.*

Since the establishment of the RAA, North Yorkshire has consistently seen high levels of adoption support when compared to the wider RAA. The number of contacts for Adoption Support has increased year on year, from 47 at the end of 2020/21 to 78 at the end of 2021/22. North Yorkshire has often approved and matched the highest amount of adopters within the RAA which brings with it, the level of support needs adoptive families have. The North Yorkshire offer for adoption support is clear, consistent and well received by families which in turn means that referral intake and requests for support remains high, as we pride ourselves on being a service that is visible, available and trustworthy.



As we emerged from the pandemic and restrictions eased, the service experienced a notable increase in the number of contacts for adoption support, increasing to an average of 20 per quarter during 2021/22 compared to 11.8 at the end of 2020/21. This aligns with the trend across the RAA, which has increased from 26.5 per Quarter in 2020/21 to 40 per Quarter in 2021/22.

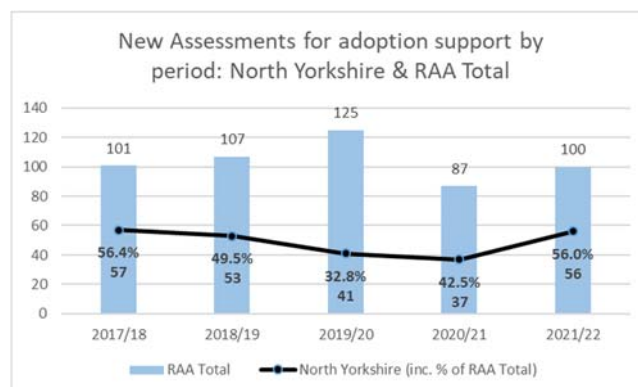
Nearly every Quarter of the past 4 Quarters, North Yorkshire has accounted for just under half of all contacts for Adoption Support in the RAA. This is reflective of the good offer of support available to adoptive parents in North Yorkshire.

During 2021/22, of the contacts to North Yorkshire for Adoption Support:

- 12 resulted in either signposting or advice and support
- 9 resulted in another LA undertaking the assessment (due to the family living outside of North Yorkshire or them living in another LA and the timeframe being 3 years post granting of the Adoption Order for their child, which means NYCC do not hold the responsibility to provide adoption support as it falls to the LA in which the family reside)

- 56 resulted in a new assessment

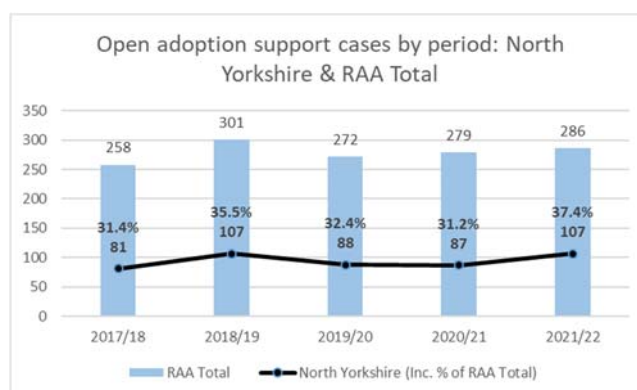
Having seen the number of new assessments for adoption support gradually reduce over the past 4 years, from 57 in 2017/18 to 37 in 2020/21. 2021/22 has seen an increase to 56 new assessments. Reflective of North Yorkshire’s position as a net contributor to the RAA in terms of Adoptive families, North Yorkshire continues to receive a high number of contacts for adoption support. This inevitably results in the number of assessments for adoption support completed each year in North Yorkshire, particularly when compared to the number of child adopted from North Yorkshire’s care.



Over the past 3 years, North Yorkshire has accounted for 16% of adoptions whilst accounting for 56% of assessments for adoption support. This ties in to North Yorkshire’s commitment to support permanency for the children well beyond the initial placement to ensure the best possible outcomes for the child and family and in upholding our commitment to the Adoption community.

A new assessment framework for adoption support developed by the Centre of Excellence in Leeds has been introduced throughout One Adoption North and Humber, this has been adapted and training and guidance provided for regional variation. This has unified the approach to adoption support through the region and raised the standards of assessment, planning and reviewing for our adoptive families. Emphasis is being made on outcome led plans and support being wider than therapeutic interventions.

Aligning with the increase in the number of assessments over the course of this financial year, the number of adoption support cases open to North Yorkshire has also increased, up from 87 at the end of 2020/21 to 107 at the end of 2021/22. The number open to the RAA have increased from 279 to 286. North Yorkshire continues to have a disproportionately high number of open adoption support cases, accounting for 37.4% of open cases across the RAA. As of the end of 2021/22, of the 107 open adoption support cases, 54 (50.5%) had been open for 12 months or more.



With Adoption support cases remaining high in North Yorkshire, and the number of new assessments continuing to increase, it is also worth noting that North Yorkshire has seen a decrease in the number of open cases accessing the Adoption Support Fund (ASF) at the end of 2021/22 (from 64 to 58). Over the same period, the RAA total has reduced by 12 (195 to 183). It may be that the needs of families are already being met by the Adoption Support offered by North Yorkshire’s adoption services, meaning that ASF cases are starting to reduce. It is worth noting that the ASF was previously planned to come to a close at the end of 2022. This has now been extended to March 2025.

Finance

Adoption Budget

The table below shows the outturn from last financial year:

In 2021/22, the Adoption Team budget that consists mainly of staffing costs was underspent by £277k - £235k of this was one-off income from the RAA. Without this income from the RAA, the budget would have still underspent by £42k due to vacancies within the staffing establishment and reduced expenditure on mileage (mainly as a result of virtual working during the pandemic). Adoption Delivery and Adoption Allowances came in almost on budget.

2021/22 Outturn	Budget (£)	Outturn (£)	Variance (£)
Adoption Team*	691,300	414,800	-276,500
Adoption Delivery	134,600	135,900	1,300
Adoption Allowances	1,251,500	1,250,000	-1,500

*The service received £235,000 from the RAA in 21/22 which is included in the Adoption Team budget.

The table below shows the forecast for this current financial year:

The latest forecast for this financial year for Adoption Team is on budget. The Adoption Delivery forecast is slightly under budget mainly due to rationalising subscription fees and Adoption Allowances are under budget due to fewer than budgeted allowances being paid.

2022/23 Q2 Forecast	Budget (£)	Forecast (£)	Variance (£)
Adoption Team	718,600	717,800	-800
Adoption Delivery	139,400	126,200	-13,200
Adoption Allowances	1,315,300	1,246,700	-68,600

Ongoing service Development

The Regional Adoption Agency is continuing to grow and develop and make positive strides forward. Joint adoption panels for North Yorkshire and York and East Riding, Hull and North East Lincolnshire are now running well. They follow the same procedures and contribute to establishing and aligning best practice across the region. Panels have worked quickly to adapt to working virtually and all panels are now working at full quoracy on virtual platforms. Chairs

and Vice Chairs have worked with dedication and commitment to ensure that business of panels continues to enable children to be placed and adopters to be approved.

One Adoption North and Humber works closely with One Adoption West Yorkshire, hosted by Leeds City Council, sharing the 'One Adoption' brand and website, and running a joint marketing strategy.

Adoption Support North Yorkshire

In response to the continuing growth in the number of adoption support referrals and assessments into the team, we are about to implement an additional screening process to dealing with enquiries made for adoption support. The introduction of an Initial Visit process means that families who refer in to our service requesting an assessment of need, will have an allocated social worker / family support worker, in their home within 10 working days, working alongside them to screen the issues of concern and provide timely advice and guidance around opportunities for next steps / support. Key elements of North Yorkshire's family seeing model have been adapted to fit in line with this approach, with a particular emphasis on utilising the family networks for support.

If cases progress to an assessment of need, the frontloading as a result of the Initial Visit process, allows the assessing social worker to dedicate more time to solution focussed assessments and seeing the process as an opportunity for intervention, alongside assessment. The result being, outcomes of assessment are timely, evidence based and goal orientated and provide clear, child focussed plans. The aim is for this process to go live in November 2022.

Step Parent Adoptions

In April 2022, step parent adoption cases were implemented into the adoption service for the first time. We are proud to report that we have worked hard to embed a very clear referral and screening process for these and provide practice and legal training to the staff team and managers. Since April the team has dealt with 34 referrals and we are pleased to report that the first step parent adoption order was granted in October 2022 in respect of a case in the team. It is worthy to note that from a service perspective we are confident that the implementation of this work into the adoption team has resulted in more robust screening approaches and a more streamlined, evidence based and thorough approach to assessment, resulting in best outcomes for children and families.

Other developments

The Adoption service has raised its profile within North Yorkshire in the context of joining up with the strengths in relationships practice model. We now have a social worker who is championing the family seeing model within practice and she contributes to 'coaching' her peers across the service in the relevant models of practice,. This extends to the introduction of peer group supervision and signs of safety case mapping meetings taking place regularly within the team, to help unpack complex casework and develop a learning culture. In February 2023 the team will access the Restorative Practice training delivered in-house by North Yorkshire, which will enhance service delivery and outcomes within adoption support.

The team have implemented local recruitment campaigns that we deliver across the county in order to drive up adopter recruitment across the region based on trend of a reduction in prospective adopter enquiries. These are happening monthly, as of October 2022, and will be reviewed early in the New Year. We are active across all relevant social media platforms and work alongside One Adoption West Yorkshire in deliver regular Facebook Live sessions for anyone wishing to know more about adoption. This is in addition to the One Adoption North and Humber Information Events, which occur monthly.

The Service Manager and Adoption Lawyer have delivered a number of training sessions about the combined Child Permanence and Rule 14 report, to the cohort of social workers and practice supervisors across all of the Child Permanence and Reunification children's teams in North Yorkshire. As a result, we are already seeing an improvement in the quality of Child Permanence Reports being provided to ADM. In particular the improvement in providing robust, up to date genograms and a stronger emphasis of evidence pertaining to current and future risk factors and the impact of harm for children.

Within the RAA, a research project is underway with regards to the developments around letterbox contact in adoption. The 'letter swap' project is focussing on the development of a digital platform to be used for adoptive and birth families as a way of modernising contact, whilst ensuring safety and confidentiality for all concerned. It is hoped that this project will conclude and proposals identified around Easter of 2023.

Tom Maxwell

Service Manager

Adoption

North Yorkshire County Council

Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9th December 2022

Work Programme 2022/2023

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report invites Members to consider the Committee's Work Programme for 2022/2023, taking into account the outcome of discussions on previous Agenda Items and any other developments taking place across the county.
- 1.2 The Work Programme schedule is enclosed as an Appendix.

2.0 Scheduled Committee dates and Mid-Cycle Briefing dates remaining in 2022/2023

2.1 Committee Meetings

- Friday 9th December 2022 at 10.00 a.m.
- Friday 24th February 2023 at 10.00 a.m.**

2.2 Mid Cycle Briefing Dates

- Friday 27th January 2023 at 10.00 a.m. (in respect of the Committee meeting on Friday 24th February**)

** The reserve date for County Council is also on 24th February. Therefore, it may be prudent to move this meeting back one or two weeks

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to confirm, comment, or add to the areas listed in the Work Programme Schedule.

Report Author: Patrick Duffy, Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer

Contact Details:

Tel: 01609 534546 E-mail: Patrick.Duffy@northyorks.gov.uk

25th November 2022

Background papers relied upon in the preparation of this report – None

YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2022/2023

SCOPE OF THE COMMITTEE

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

PROGRAMME FOR FORMAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS (PLEASE NOTE: SOME ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE/CONFIRMATION)

FRIDAY 9 TH DECEMBER 2022 - COMMITTEE MEETING AT 10.00 A.M.			
ITEM	DRAFT OUTLINE	METHOD	LEAD
North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership - Annual Report 2021/2022	Summary on the work of the Partnership between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022.	Report and presentation	Stuart Carlton, Corporate Director
Financial position - Children and Young People's Service	This will include information on LA Maintained Schools accumulated balances information and projected start budget information by school phase. It will also include an update on school funding arrangements for 2023/24.	Report	Howard Emmett, Assistant Director, Strategic Resources
Adoptions in North Yorkshire 2021/2022	Will include information on matters such as- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Placement Orders - Adoption Orders - Adoption Support - Peer Mentor Service - Future Developments 	Report and presentation	Mel Hutchinson, Assistant Director, Children and Families and Judith Russ, Head of Placement Support

FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2023 - COMMITTEE MEETING AT 10.00 A.M.

ITEM	DRAFT OUTLINE	METHOD	LEAD
Schools Update	The current picture, in terms of figures for all North Yorkshire County Council Schools and Academies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance and standards - Funding - Strategic planning 	Report/Presentation	Amanda Newbold, Assistant Director, Education and Skills
County Lines (subject to discussion with partners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The situation nationally - The position in North Yorkshire - The approach in North Yorkshire 	Presentation	Mel Hutchinson, Assistant Director, Children and Families

ITEMS FOR MID CYCLE BRIEFING

DATE	POTENTIAL ITEM
Friday 27 th January 2023 at 10.00 a.m. (in respect of the Committee meeting on 24 th February)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance Misuse – Briefing (confirmed – Louise Wallace, Director of Public Health) • To give initial consideration to an outline Work Programme for 2023/2024. • Consideration of draft Agenda for Committee Meeting on 24th February (but see paragraph 2.2 of covering report about possible date change)

ITEMS UNALLOCATED, IN TERMS OF A DATE.

- Youth provision outside of schools
- School avoidance
- Data re Breakfast Clubs in Schools

This page is intentionally left blank