



## **Agenda**

Notice of a public meeting of

# **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**To:** Councillors Barbara Brodigan (Chair), Heather Phillips (Vice-Chair), Alyson Baker, Stephanie Duckett, Nathan Hull, George Jabbour, David Jeffels, Janet Jefferson, Tom Jones, Cliff Lunn, John Mann, Yvonne Peacock, Kirsty Poskitt, John Ritchie, Monika Slater

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

**Date:** Friday, 8th December, 2023

**Time:** 10.00 am

**Venue:** County Hall, Northallerton

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting as observers for all those items taken in open session. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer, whose details are below, if you would like to find out more.

This meeting is being held as an in-person meeting.

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Enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Patrick Duffy, Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer.  
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## Business

1. **Welcome by the Chair**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th September 2023** **(Pages 5 - 14)**
4. **Declarations of Interest**
5. **Public Participation**

Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice to Paul Preston of Democratic and Scrutiny Services and supplied the text (contact details below) by midday on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023, three working days before the day of the meeting. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item. Members of the public who have given notice will be invited to speak:-

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

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

Any correspondence, communication or other business brought forward by the direction of the Chair of the Committee.
7. **Special Educational Needs and Disability Provision in the Scarborough and Whitby Area: Report of the Task and Finish Group - Councillor Liz Colling, Chair of the Task and Finish Group** **(Pages 15 - 34)**
8. **Children and Young People's Mental Health - Public Health Consultant** **(Pages 35 - 76)**
9. **North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership - Annual Report 2022/2023 - Executive Chair and Independent Scrutineer** **(Pages 77 - 118)**
10. **Work Programme - Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer** **(Pages 119 - 122)**
11. **Any Other Items**

Any other items which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances
12. **Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 10.00 a.m. (Venue: County Hall, Northallerton)**

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

**Contact Details:**

For enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Patrick Duffy, Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer. Tel: 01609 534546 Or email [Patrick.Duffy@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Duffy@northyorks.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

Barry Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive  
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall  
Northallerton

Thursday, 30 November 2023

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## North Yorkshire Council

### Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillor Barbara Brodigan (Chair)

Councillors George Jabbour, John Mann, Heather Phillips (Vice-Chair), Yvonne Peacock, Kirsty Poskitt, John Ritchie and Monika Slater

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

**Present (joined remotely):**

Councillors Stephanie Duckett, Nathan Hull and Janet Jefferson

Officers (Children and Young People's Service, unless stated): Andrew Dixon, Strategic Planning Manager, Howard Emmett, Assistant Director, Resources, Gill Kelly, Public Health Consultant, Amanda Newbold, Assistant Director, Education and Skills, Emma Phillips, Safeguarding Unit Manager and Patrick Duffy, Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer, Legal and Democratic Services

Officers who joined remotely: Paul Cliff, Shared Head of Adult Learning and Skills and Hannah Ellingworth, North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager

In attendance: Anita Dobson, Chair of the Child Death Overview Panel (joined remotely) and Paul Preston, Principal Democratic Services Officer, Legal and Democratic Services

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

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#### **27. Welcome by the Chair**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and, in particular, Councillors George Jabbour, Yvonne Peacock and Monika Slater, who had recently been appointed to the Committee by full Council.

#### **28. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alyson Baker, David Jeffels, Cliff Lunn and David Noland; Portfolio Holders, Councillor Janet Sanderson (Executive Member for Children and Families) and Annabel Wilkinson (Executive Member for Education and Skills); and Co-opted Member, David Sharp.

#### **29. Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023**

**Resolved –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**30. Any Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**31. Public Participation**

It was confirmed that no public questions or statements had been received.

**32. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair advised that she had attended the meeting of the Executive on 29th August 2023.

She had congratulated the Executive Members and the Directorate on the excellent outcome from the OFSTED Inspection.

She had noted the increase in the number of Education Health Care Plans and Children and Families Assessments and Special Educational Needs and resourcing - which is expected to continue - and asked how the Directorate will be able to maintain its high performance from a resourcing point of view. The Executive Member for Children and Families and the Corporate Director had advised that the new SEND Strategy is now working through the system but there is an issue nationally in relation to Education Health Care Plans, caused by a shortage of Educational Psychologists. Agency cover has been used but there is no easy fix.

A question was also raised as to whether there are any particular *hot spots*. The response was that there had always been greater demand in areas of increased deprivation but the Directorate is now seeing an increase in demand from families who are struggling as a result of other issues, such as cost-of-living pressures.

NOTED.

**33. Variation of the Order of the Agenda**

The Chair advised that she had agreed to a request to vary the order of the Agenda from that published, so that the Item on Adult Learning and Skills Service be held before the Item on School Closures and Governance.

**34. Adult Learning and Skills Service – Autumn 2023 Update**

**Considered –**

A presentation by Paul Cliff, Shared Head of Adult Learning and Skills, which is available [here](#).

The Shared Head of Adult Learning and Skills took Members through the context within which the Service operates; its aims and the approaches used.

The Strategy works to eight aims. These were outlined, together with the progress made against each of these.

He highlighted a number of points, including the following:-

- There has been significant increase in male learners and in 19-25 year old engagement in adult learning programmes during 2022/2023.

- A shaped curriculum is geared to individual learning progression.
- Everything is predicated with progression in mind, leading to a door for learners to step through.
- Personalised Learning College staff ensure closer links to the employment sector.
- An increase in funding has been secured from the Learning Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) to improve digital engagement such as cyber security for citizens

The Shared Head of Adult Learning and Skills further advised that an OFSTED Inspection had highlighted some areas for improvement. Policies had been tightened in response to this and good progress is being made against the areas identified.

Finally, he highlighted two case studies which illustrated how the Service has helped people achieve positive outcomes.

A number of questions/comments were made by Members. These are set out below together with, where appropriate, the response of the Shared Head of Adult Learning and Skills, in italics.

- What does the average apprentice look like? The perception can be of someone aged 16 to 19 on low pay.

*In North Yorkshire, a number tend to be adult returners - many in their early 30s who are upskilling or reskilling.*

- In terms of the blended approach referred to, how much work is undertaken with community bodies to support them?

*We take learning to people i.e. we go to where people come together. We are putting in place an infrastructure in Village Halls and Community Centres. Specific, targeted work is undertaken with Men's Sheds and on wellbeing, numeracy and digital access.*

- What is the pathway for young people for whom mainstream schooling does not work; is the Service reaching enough of these people?

*Yes, some pupils avoid School for mental health reasons. There are a number of internships pathways leading to employment. For example, we are working with Selby College to help shape their offer for young people. We strive to track demand and needs to shape the curriculum to help overcome barriers and to highlight the opportunities available. We manage that pathway.*

- It is interesting to see the focus on young men aged 16-24. How does the Service engage with those who are functionally illiterate?

*A range of measures is used - door drops; brochures in Libraries; website. As mentioned in an earlier response, the Service goes out to the community to engage with them – for instance, Race Days and Armed Forces Day. Learners also engage officers on an individual basis.*

- Thank you to you and the Team for what you re doing. What is different about the Service’s aims and objectives now, as a result of the OFSTED Inspection?

*It was identified in the Inspection that the Service is on a journey. We accelerated aspects of that journey such as monitoring and made slight changes to the curriculum, which OFSTED had commented was hobbyist in places. Changes have been subtle – it was more about pace.*

- How is the Service preparing for a Combined Authority and how is it expected to change as a result?

*The LSIP will be used as something of a blueprint for the budget to be spent on. The Service lobbies on shaping policies and procedures on various Boards and demonstrates that it is a key part of the Council’s Preventative Service. Helping people to engage with us leads to an increase in the number of people who are economically active. We demonstrate that we make a real difference.*

- Does the Service track how many people have become independent?

*Yes, we have invested in the system. There is decent progression rate of between 67% and 70% of people who go into adult education. We track people’s economic status and case studies can demonstrate that they are more economically active.*

- You mentioned that OFSTED used the term “hobbyist”. What did they mean by this and why did they consider that to be the case?

*This is where it was seen that some people come back to the same course again and their wellbeing aims were not tracked. We needed to articulate our purpose more clearly. We have been able to put steps in place to show progression and changed the way courses are built rather than, necessarily, the nature of the course.*

- Numbers are provided for Community Education, Adult Skills, High Needs Education and Apprenticeships in Health and Social Care. Have these figures remained static, or have they increased/reduced in recent years?

*There has been a marked increase across all areas this year. However, take up is not back to pre-Covid levels.*

The Chair thanked Paul Cliff for his presentation.

### **35. School Closures and Governance Briefing**

#### **Considered –**

A presentation by Amanda Newbold, Assistant Director, Education and Skills, Howard Emmett, Assistant Director, Strategic Resources and Andrew Dixon, Strategic Planning Manager

The presentation is available [here](#)

Officers highlighted a number of points in relation to each of the three principal elements of the presentation:-

#### School closures, process and academies

- There are 358 Schools in North Yorkshire as at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. Of these, 211 (60%) are maintained and 147 are Academies (40%).



- The majority of Primary Schools have not become Academies.
- Numbers on roll are, typically, increasing in Secondary Schools and reducing at Primary level.
- 16 Primary Schools have closed since 2017 – only one of these was an Academy.
- There have also been closures at Primary and Secondary level, via amalgamation.
- There is a presumption against the closure of (officially designated) rural Schools. This does not mean that they should not close, but that the case for closure should be strong and the proposal must be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area. This is known as *the rural presumption*.
- There are a number of challenges in leading small Schools. For example, targeted support for individual pupils can be a challenge.
- It was outlined how Schools are funded, together with the pressures they face. Next year there is projected to be an overall deficit in School budgets of £20 million.
- The Local Authority has a range of measures to support Schools in financial difficulty and continue to lobby for a fairer funding settlement for our Schools - particularly in relation to small Secondary Schools.
- Monitoring is on a risk-based approach which considers pupil numbers, educational performance and finance.
- A graded approach is taken on support and intervention.
- The closure process was outlined for Local Authority Maintained Schools and Academies. The key difference is that, for the latter, the Secretary of State for Education is the decision maker; the Local Authority is only a consultee. The legislation states that the Local Authority has to agree to the closure of a designated rural Academy, but is silent on what would happen if it did not agree.

#### Are closures and a lack of Governors related?

- The short answer is no. Poor governance, irrespective of the number of Board Members, can increase the vulnerability of a School.
- Good governance is about the quality and rigour of governance in the three key roles of exercising positive influence over strategic direction, performance and finance.
- Even so, closure can still be necessary, despite good governance, and there are occasions when good governance can be a recognition that a School should be proposed for closure.

#### Governor recruitment, training and selection

- The Local Authority provides wide ranging support, which includes attendance of Local Authority Officers at Governing Board meetings, training packages and support for Head Teacher recruitment.

A number of questions/comments were made by Members. These are set out below, together with, where appropriate, the response of the officers in italics.

- There is a requirement to provide transport. Is this cost considered at the time of a School's closure, as it will be an additional cost to the School?

*Yes, it is taken into account. Re-use of the budget is a difficult question. Education has to use a national funding formula. Therefore, it is not possible to put the Local Authority budget into the School.*

- Does the Local Authority look back and calculate the cost to it, in terms of transport, as a result of a School closure?

*We work with colleagues in Integrated Passenger Transport. There was one example where the cost was calculated, as an additional service had to be put in. The cost did not equate to the School's in-year deficit but, theoretically, it could have helped, had the option been available.*

*In addition, as closure decisions can take a long period of time, families start to move. It is difficult to say what would have happened if families had stayed.*

- In terms of improvement, what support is provided to Academies? Does the percentage of pupils with SEND in Harrogate have the potential to be an issue?

*Yes, we support Academy Trusts and there is a regular dialogue with the majority of them. Many are supported at an Inter-School level. The new School at Woodfield in Harrogate has an autism speciality. The School will take a new cohort over time.*

*There are occasions when Schools are rebrokered into another Trust. This decision is taken at Regional Director level.*

- The impact on Church Schools is significant. Of 40 Church Schools in North Yorkshire, 29 have fewer than 100 pupils. On numbers, we can have a planned way of working as the situation with reduced numbers on roll is known in advance. Performance is more difficult – if a School is underperforming, there is a directive for it to become an Academy. Academies are often reluctant to take on a small School as they cannot take on the School's financial deficit. Therefore, we can find ourselves in a closure process. In that sense, we are reactive. This is a systemic issue, where we are left with smaller Schools. How can we work together to preserve Schools where we need them and avoid their closure through under-performance?

*The Education White Paper was considering how a move to full academisation could be undertaken in a planned way. That has now been withdrawn.*

*The prevailing picture for most vulnerable Schools is that they can be without an Academy Sponsor and in a closure situation. We continue to work with Governors, engaging them in challenging conversations at an early stage, so that they are aware of the issues.*

*Performance is on a risk-based approach. Additional capacity has been put in through the School Improvement Service and more Schools are achieving good outcomes. We meet with Department for Education representatives every fortnight, but the requirement for a strategic approach has been removed by the withdrawal of the White Paper.*

- Do we have retention issues in respect of Governors? I am reassured to hear of the interaction between the Local Authority and Governors, but do we have the right people and how do we maintain parental choice?

*Each School will have a separate answer as to vacancies. We acknowledge that some are not operating at full complement. We provide support through recommendations for Local Authority Governors. Generally, however, recruitment sits with each school.*

*For denomination Schools, these have been based, historically, on Church boundaries. We are in close contact with Diocesan Authorities and carefully select the catchment area to ensure access to the next Faith School if a School closes, in order to try to protect that access.*

- Given the pressure on finances and population, can we get ahead of the curve to protect key Schools to manage their decline?

*We constantly monitor pupil numbers to ensure they are not too high and work with Schools to change their PAN (Published Admissions Number), where required.*

*We work proactively with Schools to avoid there being a situation where there is no other option available than closure.*

- What we have discussed today illustrates an issue with rural Schools not having the capacity to undertake back-office jobs. Parents move their children to another School due to an adverse OFSTED judgment/low numbers on roll and, therefore, it has to close.. It costs a lot to close a School and, in the case of Burnt Yates School, it would have involved less cost to finance a School Improvement Officer, to ensure good paperwork - which was a shortcoming, as safeguarding information could not be produced when it was requested by OFSTED.

*The number of support days from the Local Authority to Schools has been increased to 1500. No School has been judged Inadequate due to safeguarding issues. The role of the Local Authority is not to provide back-office support, but to ensure awareness, training and accountability.*

- Affordable housing goes hand in hand and lack of this can lead to Schools becoming isolated.
- The funding formula nationally does not help, as it is based on deprivation rather than disadvantage.
- Can we write to Department for Education to request a change to the funding/financing of Academies to take on risks and assist rural schools?

*There is already such a mechanism in place via the School Improvement Offer, which identifies the support Academies can access.*

The Chair thanked the officers for their detailed presentation.

### **36. Child Death Overview Panel, Annual Report 2022/2023**

#### **Considered –**

A presentation by Hannah Ellingworth North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager.

The presentation provided:-

- an overview of the work of the Panel;
- data on the number and category of deaths
- achievements in 2022/2023; and
- its priorities for 2023/2024

Hannah highlighted the following:-

- The Panel looks at all deaths of children up to the age of 18 in North Yorkshire and York, excluding still births and planned terminations.
- 22 children died in 2022/2023 – 16 in North Yorkshire and 6 in York. This is the lowest number for five years.
- Through this reporting period, there have been a total of 12 expected and 10 unexpected deaths reviewed by the Panel. The Coroner is responsible for determining the cause of death and carrying out a post-mortem examination. Where the post-mortem examination is not able to identify cause, or the death is found to be unnatural, the Coroner will hold an inquest to examine any relevant factors in order to provide details on the cause of death.
- All child deaths discussed at the Panel are categorised using a national template analysis form provided by the National Child Mortality Database. This information is reported back to the National Child Mortality Database, who provide national data on deaths of children on an annual basis.
- Achievements in 2022/2023 include embedding the role of Key Worker within each Joint Agency Response Meeting and the What3Words Initiative, in collaboration with Hull, East Riding, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Child Death Overview Panels to promote the use of the What3Words app, via a co-ordinated communication campaign.
- Priorities for 2023/2024 include:-

**ICON** - During ICON WEEK the Panel aim to raise awareness of key messages and resources to let parents and care givers know that infant crying is normal and there are methods which can be taken to cope.

**Who's Sober?** - Building on the success of the Day or Night Sleep Right campaign, the Panel will launch a further campaign, Who's Sober, which will help promote the need to have a safe and sober adult in the home when caring for babies and young children.

**Road Safety** - The Panel will work with Roadwise to promote safe use of roads for pedestrians, drivers and cyclists. This work will consider learning from modifiable factors in child deaths and will also link in with colleagues from North Yorkshire and York Highways, and others, to ensure a full partnership approach to this work.

Some questions/comments were made by Members. These are set out below, together with, where appropriate, the response of Hannah Ellingworth/Anita Dobson, the Chair of the Panel, in italics.

- What was the thinking behind choosing Who's Sober as one of this year's priorities?

*We look to reduce the risk of future deaths by looking at trends. Where alcohol is involved at events, sometimes the parent or carer can fall asleep. The Panel has noted that alcohol use by some parents/carers has been a factor in a number of cot deaths caused by unsafe sleep.*

- Did the same factors apply to the decision to choose Road Safety as one of the Priorities?

*Yes, when looking at the trends, sometimes things just jump out at you, as was the case here.*

- Has there been any discussion to extend the range of the Panel to reflect the changing way that North Yorkshire Council works with the Looked After Children Board? Also, might the age range be extended beyond 0-18, to 25?

*We will seek the views of the Panel on this and raise it at a regional level.*

David Watson, Added Member, commented on the Panel's partnership with Roadwise and offered support from North Yorkshire Sport who, as well as working on an Active Travel Fund (as part of the UKSPF), have strong links to Schools and sports provision that may help to spread the road safety messaging.

Anita Dobson said this would be appreciated and had made a note to get in touch with North Yorkshire Sport after the meeting.

Anita Dobson mentioned that Members would be welcome to observe a Panel meeting if they would find this helpful.

The Chair thanked Hannah Ellingworth and Anita Dobson for their presentation.

### **37. Work Programme 2023/2024**

#### **Considered –**

A report by Patrick Duffy, Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer, which invited Members to consider the Committee's Work Programme for 2023/2024.

The Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer commented that the Committee has a good spread of Items for its next two meetings.

#### **Resolved –**

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

### **38. Any other Items**

The Chair advised that she had no other Items of business to raise.

### **39. Date of Next meeting**

This would be held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at County Hall in Northallerton, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

The meeting concluded at 12.30 p.m.

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## North Yorkshire Council

### Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

8 December 2023

#### Scrutiny Task and Finish Group – Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Provision in the Scarborough and Whitby Area

##### Report of the Task and Finish Group

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the report of the Task and Finish Group concerning SEND provision in Scarborough and Whitby.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At full Council on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Councillor John Ritchie proposed the establishment of a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group to look at SEND Provision in the Scarborough Area. The Chair of this Committee accepted his proposal.
- 2.2 The Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group were approved at your meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 and are enclosed at **Appendix 1**. The Committee agreed to extend the scope of the review, set out below, to include Whitby:-

The Task and Finish Group will examine the following questions:-

- a) *How are parents/carers of children and young people with SEND being supported in their children's education? (essentially, their "journey")*

and, following the engagement process referred to in paragraph 3 of these Terms of Reference ...

- b) *Are there any areas where more could be done to improve access to information, advice and support for families in the Scarborough and Whitby area?*

- c) *Are there any recommendations for action as a result of this process.*

**NOTE:** Members are aware that SEND provision is working well for many families will be interested to hear examples of this as well.

- 2.3 A Working Group does not have to be politically proportionate. The Task and Finish Group was made up of a range of political groups and comprised:-

- Councillor Liz Colling, Chair (Labour)
- Councillor David Jeffels (Conservative)
- Councillor Janet Jefferson (North Yorkshire Independent)
- Councillor Heather Phillips (Conservative)
- Councillor John Ritchie (Labour)

### 3. THE CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Working Party understands the challenging financial situation faced by the Council and its partners. The Children and Young People's Service Directorate (the Directorate) face a High Needs Block accumulated deficit of £10.3m (reported in Schools Forum March 2023).
- 3.2 The rise in new Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) is a consequence of the increasing demand for assessments. The total of 1,123 requests for EHCPs in 2022/2023 represented a 40% increase on the number from the previous year. On current data, this increase is expected to be a sustained trend.
- 3.3 Over the course of the 2022/23 academic year to date, a total of 6,509 suspensions have been received by pupils in North Yorkshire Primary and Secondary Schools, an increase from 4,608 seen in the same period of 2021/22. A total of 92 pupils have been permanently excluded this academic year to date, an increase from 47 seen in the same period last year. This high number of exclusions includes 17 children permanently excluded from Primary Schools, the highest number seen in the past five years.
- 3.4 North Yorkshire is impacted by the difficulties there are nationally, in terms of the availability of key professionals, including Educational Psychologists.

Source: Paragraphs 3.2 to 3.4, above are based on published information contained in the Executive Performance Report Quarter 1 for 2023/2024.

- 3.5 All Schools and education settings in the Scarborough and Whitby area have legal duties regarding identifying and meeting Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. At this point in time there are currently no Schools in Scarborough that host Targeted Mainstream Provision (TMPs). There are three TMPs in Whitby, two in Primary Schools and one in a Secondary School.
- 3.6 Scarborough Councillors had received feedback from constituents that there is variability in SEND information, advice and provision.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The Working Party adopted a three staged approach as follows:-
- Firstly, we familiarised ourselves with key information concerning SEND in North Yorkshire – the Information Pack we considered, prepared by the Directorate, is enclosed at **Appendix 2**.
  - Secondly, we had a face-to-face engagement session at Scarborough Town Hall, on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The event, which lasted for three hours, was attended by approximately 20 parents and carers of children with SEND in Scarborough and Whitby, together with three school governors, four charities and one commercial provider.
  - Thirdly, we received a summary of the data for Scarborough and Whitby, which was part of a countywide Survey of SEND undertaken in September 2023. There were 17 respondents for this area. We also had feedback from two focus group sessions organised by Parent Carer Voice in the Scarborough and Whitby area where 12 families participated.



## 5. WHAT DID THE INFORMATION FROM THE PROCESS TELL US?

- 5.1 The first thing to say is how much the Task and Finish Group appreciated parents, carers, charities, providers and school governors' contributions to the face-to-face session, and participation in the questionnaire and focus groups for sharing their stories and experiences. These were immensely powerful and it was emotional for us to hear first-hand about the day to day lived experiences for families as they support their children/the children in their care.
- 5.2 What also came across was the desire to work together and with the Local Authority to improve the situation – to learn about what is valued and to address the challenges that can be faced for the benefit of all families.
- 5.3 To provide some structure to the session parents and carers were asked to consider the following key questions:-
- What has been helpful, and what were the helpful bits?
  - How did you find out about support?
  - What has been difficult in terms of educational information, advice and support?
  - What else might have been helpful, (more of, less of, different?)
- 5.4 Views were expressed both verbally and via written responses. In this report we have attempted to represent the key points made and acknowledge that some points were made by many respondents, whilst others were specific to a smaller group or an individual.
- 5.5 A summary, in respect of each of the questions asked, is provided below:-

a) What has been helpful, and what were the helpful bits?	
Points frequently made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good support from my School (examples given from Early Years and Nurseries, Mainstream and Special Schools)</li> <li>- SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service)</li> <li>- MPAT meetings, bringing professionals together to discuss options</li> <li>- Joined up help from professionals</li> <li>- Primary School emotional support sessions</li> <li>- SENCOS (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators) who are understanding and caring</li> <li>- Understanding my child's needs e.g. autism</li> <li>- Autism training in School</li> <li>- Peer support</li> <li>- SEND charities provide good support</li> <li>- A culture of inclusion in the School led by the headteacher</li> <li>- A professional who really listened</li> <li>- Early help</li> <li>- A diagnosis</li> <li>- Portage</li> <li>- Support (either 1:1 or in a small group)</li> <li>- Understanding and valuing what my child can do (and not just what they find hard)</li> </ul>
Points less frequently made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adapted curriculum materials</li> <li>- School staff and other professionals willing to try</li> <li>- Health staff training School staff on managing medical needs</li> </ul>

b) How did you find out about support?	
Points frequently made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contact with parents in similar situations, online Forums</li> <li>- Social Media</li> <li>- Local Charities</li> <li>- Sharing information from School that comes from outside organisations</li> <li>- Parent organisations, such as Parent Carer Voice, Yorkshire Coast Families and Carers Plus</li> </ul>
Points less frequently made	There was general consistency in this section

c) What has been difficult in terms of educational information, advice and support?	
Points frequently made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poor communication from professionals including the Local Authority and Health</li> <li>- Responsivity/timeliness of communication from professionals</li> <li>- Not knowing where to access accurate information</li> <li>- Concern that there have been cuts to some services</li> <li>- Professionals not working and talking together</li> <li>- Lack of provision</li> <li>- Schools excluding children for behaviours linked to their disability e.g. not making eye contact</li> <li>- Lack of understanding and support from some Schools for parents/carers</li> <li>- Lack of key professionals and delays e.g. Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists</li> <li>- The process can feel difficult – many hoops to jump through to obtain help within the School environment</li> <li>- Schools lack of knowledge about SEND</li> <li>- It feels like a constant battle</li> <li>- Having to source information yourself</li> <li>- No support is available in the School Holidays for working parents/carers</li> <li>- Lack of play facilities in parks, etc., for children with disabilities</li> <li>- Long waits for autism diagnoses</li> <li>- Timescales generally are too long, including EHCP Process</li> <li>- School not welcoming</li> <li>- My child not receiving full time education/part time timetable</li> <li>- Lack of transition support from School</li> </ul>
Points less frequently made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of SENCO in School</li> <li>- Professionals not available due to ill health</li> <li>- Provision for children and young people who are anxious</li> <li>- School budget not allowing for support</li> <li>- No play therapy</li> <li>- Specialist technology support</li> </ul>

d) What else might have been helpful (more of, less of, different?)	
Points frequently made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Easier access to services</li> <li>- More information/support from Schools and the Local Authority</li> <li>- A key contact at the Local Authority</li> <li>- Respectful and positive communication</li> <li>- Families and professionals talking together</li> <li>- Greater support for the transition to Secondary School</li> <li>- Staff trained on Autism</li> <li>- Greater support for parents and carers as well as the child</li> <li>- A School Place – all Special Schools are full</li> <li>- The EHCP process not being so slow</li> <li>- The availability of specialist professional support e.g. Educational Psychologists and Speech and Language Therapists</li> <li>- Greater transparency from professionals (the Local Authority and Health) with parents and carers</li> <li>- Higher pupil to staff ratio</li> <li>- More small group support</li> <li>- More parent/carer support</li> <li>- Interventions in Schools/settings that support well being and mental health, speech and language (some specific examples given)</li> </ul>
Points less frequently made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More opportunities to work in class</li> <li>- Cover for staff in Schools and the Local Authority who are off work</li> <li>- Better technology support e.g. eye gaze</li> </ul>

## 6. IMPORTANT KEY THEMES

6.1 From the face-to-face session and the survey results, a number of key themes have emerged:-

- The experiences of children and young people and their families is variable
- Parents and carers report considerable variation in practice in mainstream Schools
- The importance of School Leadership in, among other things, setting the right, supportive framework is crucial.
- Information is not always clear and accessible relating to the responsibilities of different parts of the system including Schools, the Local Authority and Health
- Positive and timely communication is important to supporting parent and carer confidence and reducing the sense of 'battle' for families. The quality of communication is variable and timeliness can be an issue including between the Directorate, Schools and parents/carers
- Knowing how to access timely and accurate advice, support and information can be challenging for families
- The School culture and how rules are applied is important in being and feeling included, and also in being and feeling excluded
- The importance of improving access to more inclusive social and leisure opportunities for children with additional needs, particularly during School holidays
- For some families the 'system' can feel arduous and slow
- Connections and support from other parents and carers is highly valued

## **7. WHAT WE ARE SUGGESTING IN LIGHT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS - WAYS IN WHICH THE SITUATION CAN BE IMPROVED**

7.1 We feel that there are a number of actions by the Directorate that would lead to further improvements. We have grouped these into four headings - Schools; external communications; internal processes and liaison with partners; and wider working with the third sector i.e. voluntary and community organisations. We would also like to note that a cross cutting theme of positive and responsive communication with families and young people runs throughout all of the recommendations.

### Schools

- a) *Promote access to training and resources for Schools through SENCO Networks, Locality Board websites and parent carer forums.*
- b) *Ensure that Schools are aware of their legal duties in relation to part-time timetabling as part of their duties.*
- c) *Continue to promote the development of Targeted Mainstream Provision across all areas of the County to ensure an increase in this provision and equity across the localities.*

### External Communications

- d) *Review the information/resources that the Directorate make available with service users and families to make them more visible, user-friendly and accessible, including the Local Offer and the Local Area SEND Strategy.*
- e) *Review existing documents/website information setting out what children, young people and their families can expect as part of their SEND journeys, in terms of what they can expect from practitioners and Schools, as part of assessment and support planning, and in compliments, complaints and appeals processes.*
- f) *Regularly publish clear data on the timescales being achieved for SEND processes.*
- g) *Review SEND communication arrangements, so people are not left waiting for responses and follow-up actions to be made in a timely fashion.*

### Internal Processes and liaison with Partners

- h) *Share the findings of this review with relevant parts of the system in order to promote good practice and promote the benefits of hosting TMPs, including:*
  - *Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale Locality Board*
  - *Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale SENCO Network*
  - *Headteacher briefings*
  - *SEND and Alternative Provision Local Area Partnership Board*
  - *Local Authority and Parent Carer Communications and Engagement Strategic Group*
- i) *That County SENCO Networks and Locality Board Events be promoted as a vehicle for sharing good practice.*

- j) *Share findings of this review with Commissioners in the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board to understand views regarding access to and provision of Speech and Language Therapy.*

#### Wider working with the Third Sector

- k) *Explore with Parent Carer Voice how the work of various Parent Carer Charities is promoted and linked.*
- l) *To continue to support and promote FEAST (Food, Entertainment, Arts, Sport, Together Holiday Activities and Food Programme for North Yorkshire, funded by the Department for Education) for eligible families for children with disabilities.*

### **8. NEXT STEPS**

- 8.1 Following consideration by this Committee, the intention is to present our report to the Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee (ACC) on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 for its views/endorsement. NOTE: It is possible that the ACC will call a special meeting to consider the report before March, so as to enable it to be considered by the Executive sooner than is currently anticipated.
- 8.2 We extend an invitation to Councillor Barbara Brodigan, as Chair of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to attend the ACC meeting, together with any other Members of this Committee who would like to hear and contribute to the discussion.
- 8.3 It is anticipated that the report will then be presented to the Executive at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

### **9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 It is a statutory requirement for the Local Authority to make provision for SEND. In terms, though, of the recommendations in this report, there are no direct legal implications.

### **10 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 No additional requirements.

### **11 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no direct equalities implications.

### **12. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 An initial climate change assessment form has been completed and that indicates that there are no direct climate change implications.

### **13 CONCLUSIONS**

- 13.1 The engagement with parents and carers of children with SEND and their lived experiences has been incredibly valuable. All of us on the Task and Finish Group were affected by their stories. The ideal would be to ensure that the good practice that is happening is consistently available to all children and their families in the area and to

help overcome some of the challenges that we have heard about. We understand that this will take time to achieve and we must continue to work together across all organisations and with young people and their families.

13.2 There are, however, several actions that we could take to help make improvements. We seek your support to these suggestions.

13.3 Whilst this piece of scrutiny has looked at the situation in Scarborough and Whitby, we understand that a similar pattern of strengths and concerns identified by parents and carers are likely to be elsewhere in North Yorkshire. Therefore, it would be helpful for any learning from this scrutiny to be shared more widely.

#### **14. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

14.1. The suggestions reflect engagement with parents and carers and will, we feel, help as we continue to develop and improve the situation for parents and carers of children with SEND in Scarborough and Whitby.

14.2 Any learning from this scrutiny can be applied to other parts of the county.

#### **15. RECOMMENDATION**

15.1. That the suggestions set out in Section 7 of the report be endorsed for onward consideration by Scarborough and Whitby ACC and the Executive in the new year.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

We would like to thank the parents, carers, charities, providers, governors and others who contributed to the engagement process (in writing; in person or by completing the survey); and Janet Crawford, Assistant Director, Inclusion, for her professional input.

#### Authors

Councillor Liz Colling, Chair of the Task and Finish Group  
Councillor David Jeffels  
Councillor Janet Jefferson  
Councillor Heather Phillips  
Councillor John Ritchie

29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

#### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference of the Task and Finish Group  
Appendix 2 – Information Pack issued to the Task and Finish Group

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS** relied upon in the preparation of this report – None.

NOTE: Members are invited to contact the author(s) in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

### SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP – SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) PROVISION IN THE SCARBOROUGH AND WHITBY AREA

#### 1. Purpose of the Task and Finish Group

To review specific aspects of SEND provision in the Scarborough and Whitby Area and to produce a report on its findings.

**NOTE:** Whilst it is intended that the review will cover the Scarborough and Whitby Constituency Area and will welcome examples of good practice in both places, it is expected that the main focus will be on Scarborough.

#### 2. Scope

The Task and Finish Group will examine the following questions:-

- a) How are parents/carers of children and young people with SEND being supported in their children's education? (essentially, their "journey")  
and, following the engagement process referred to in paragraph 3, below...
- b) Are there any areas where more could do done to improve access to information, advice and support for families in the Scarborough and Whitby area?
- c) Are there any recommendations for action as a result of this process?

**NOTE:** Members are aware that SEND provision is working well for many families and will be interested to hear examples of this as well.

#### 3. How it will go about this

Members will familiarise themselves with background information/key documents on SEND, which will be provided by the Children and Young People's Service Directorate.

Input will be received from parents/carers on their lived experience, as part of an evidence gathering day, to be held in Scarborough and via the results of a questionnaire.

This input will be mapped against current provision.

#### 4. Ensuring confidentiality

Evidence will be anonymised - to comply with GDPR - and consent forms completed.

#### 5. Membership

A small group of Members from the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CFOSC) and Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee (ACC):

- Councillor Liz Colling - Chair of Scarborough and Whitby ACC (who will Chair the Task and Finish Group)
- Councillor David Jeffels - a Member of CFOSC and Scarborough and Whitby ACC
- Councillor Heather Phillips - Vice-Chair of CFOSC and a Member of Scarborough and Whitby ACC
- Councillor Janet Jefferson - Vice-Chair of Scarborough and Whitby ACC and a Member of CFOSC
- Councillor John Ritchie - a Member of CFOSC and Scarborough and Whitby ACC (and the person who proposed the Task and Finish Group)

## Officer Support

This will primarily be provided by:-

- Janet Crawford, Assistant Director, Inclusion
- Patrick Duffy, Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer

## 6. Outcome

The outcome will be the production of a report to feed into the SEND Strategy document, providing Members with greater knowledge of the situation in Scarborough and Whitby which will, in turn, help inform policy.

## 7. Target timescales and reporting arrangements

No.	Activity	Timescale
1	Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee approve Terms of Reference for Task and Finish Group	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2023
2	Background Information Pack issued to Members of Task and Finish Group	Mid-July 2023
3	Questionnaire for parents/carers drawn up and circulated	September 2023
4	Questionnaire responses analysed and summarised for Task and Finish Group	October 2023
5	Task and Finish Group hear in person from parents/carers	October 2023
6	Draft report produced and shared, for comment, with the Task and Finish Group and appropriate officers in the Children and Young People's Service Directorate	November 2023
7	Amended draft report considered by:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee</li> <li>• Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> It was subsequently agreed that it would be more appropriate for the report to be considered by Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee <u>before</u> Scarborough and Whitby ACC</p> <p>The ACC is now expected to consider this at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024</p>	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2023 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
8	Finalised report considered by Executive <p><b>NOTE:</b> This date will be moved back so that it is after both of the above Committees have met</p>	9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024





**TASK AND FINISH GROUP ON SEND PROVISION IN THE  
SCARBOROUGH AND WHITBY AREA**

**INFORMATION PACK FOR MEMBERS  
OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP:**

**Councillor Liz Colling (Chair)**  
**Councillor David Jeffels**  
**Councillor Janet Jefferson**  
**Councillor Heather Phillips**  
**Councillor John Ritchie**

## LINK TO DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

NO.	TITLE
1	<a href="#">SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)</a>
2	<a href="#">Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Improvement Plan (publishing.service.gov.uk)</a>
3	<a href="#">SEND Local Offer   North Yorkshire Council</a>
4	<a href="#">Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy 2023-2026 (northyorks.gov.uk)</a>
5	<a href="#">SEND Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)   North Yorkshire Council</a>
6	<a href="#">SWR Schools and settings handbook 0.docx (live.com)</a>

### **Context**

The following information has been prepared in accordance with the Terms of Reference for this group agreed at Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023.

The scope of this Task and Finish Group is to examine the following questions:-

- a) How are parents/carers of children and young people with SEND being supported in their children's education? (Essentially, their "journey") and, following the engagement process ...
- b) Are there any areas where more could do done to improve access to information, advice and support for families in the Scarborough and Whitby area?
- c) Are there any recommendations for action as a result of this process?

The initial step of this process was to prepare an information pack for members to familiarise themselves with background information/key documents on SEND, which will be provided by the Children and Young People's Service Directorate.

## 1. Background Information: National

There are a number of key national drivers that have shaped approaches to SEND. These include:

### 1.1 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice 2015

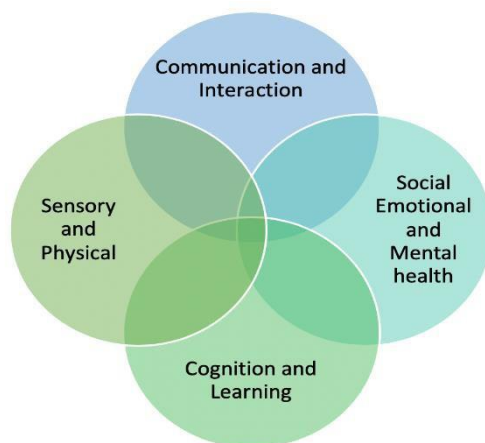
The Code of Practice (CoP) provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations and applies to England. It relates to children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabled children and young people, and identifies duties and responsibilities for Local Authorities, Health Organisations, as well as Early Years settings, schools and Colleges.

The CoP 2014 shifted the SEND landscape. Amongst other things it extended the age range of provision to meet SEND up to 25 years if required, and put children, young people (cyp) and their families at the heart of decision making.

Special educational needs is a term used to refer to children and young people who have a learning difficulty\*. This means that they have either:

- a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age;
- or a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in schools/education settings within the area of the local education authority

Within the Code of Practice difficulties in learning\* can relate to any, some, or all of the following areas.

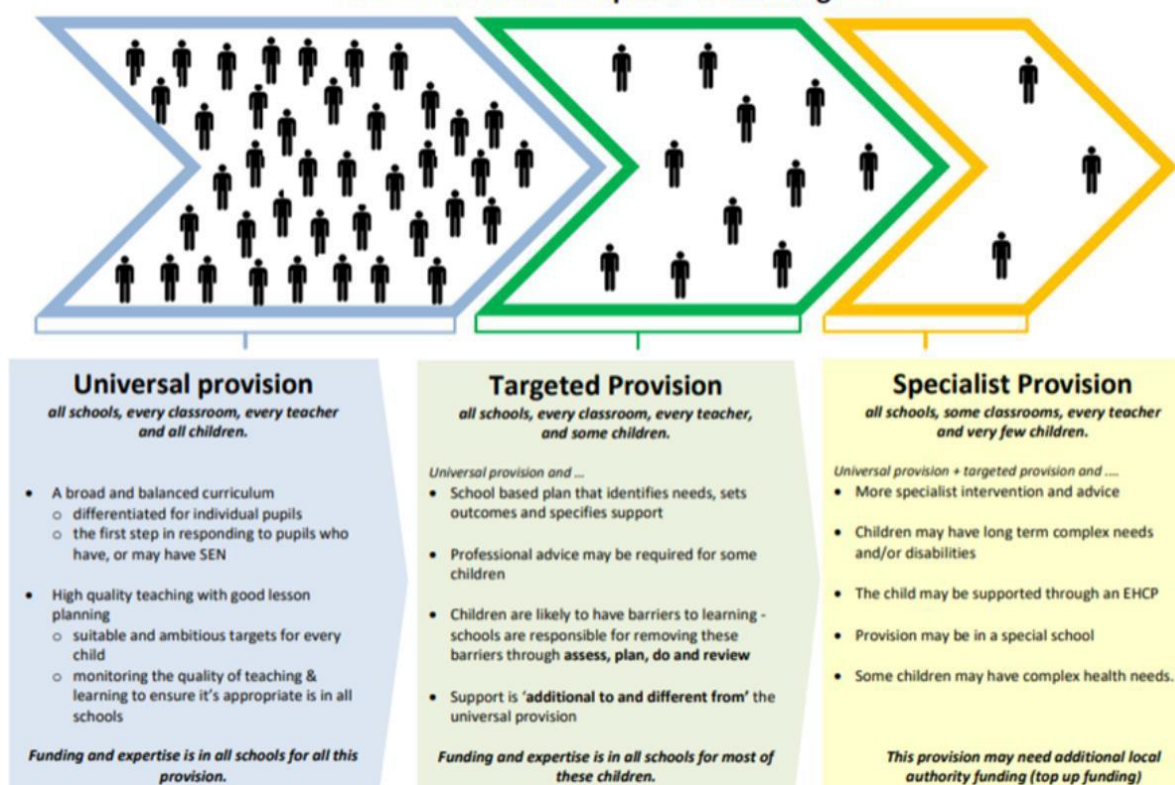


Many children and young people have needs in several areas and although the term 'primary need' is often used it can only give a general headline. In identifying and meeting need all areas should be taken into account with consideration of each individual child/young person's strengths, areas of difficulty and support requirements.

As part of their professional standards all teachers in all schools/settings are expected to have a clear understanding of the needs of all pupils, including those with special educational needs

The CoP is built on the idea of a graduated response with most children having their needs identified and met as early as possible in the system:

## SEN: A Graduated Response to meeting need



### Principles:

Some of the key principles which underpin the CoP are:

- A focus on inclusive practice and removing barriers to learning
- As part of its commitments under articles 7 and 24 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UK Government committed to inclusive education of disabled children and young people and the progressive removal of barriers to learning and participation in mainstream education.
- The Children and Families Act 2014 secures the general presumption in law of mainstream education in relation to decisions about where children and young people with SEN should be educated and the Equality Act 2010 provides protection from discrimination for disabled people.
- All children and young people are entitled to an appropriate education, one that is appropriate to their needs, promotes high standards and the fulfilment of potential. This should enable them to achieve their best, become confident individuals living fulfilling lives, and make a successful transition into adulthood
- Every school is required to identify and address the SEN of the pupils that they support. Mainstream schools **must**:

- Use their best endeavours to make sure that a child with SEN gets the support they need, this means doing everything they can to meet children and young people's SEN
- Ensure that children and young people with SEN engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEN
- Designate a teacher to be responsible for co-ordinating SEN provision (SENCO)
- Inform parents when they are making special educational provision for a child

- Prepare an SEN information report and their arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps being taken to prevent disabled children from being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to enable access to the school for disabled children and their accessibility plan showing how they plan to improve access progressively over time
- Local Authorities' have a range of duties including:
  - Having regard to the views, wishes and feelings of cyp and their parents/carers
  - Offer advice and information directly to children and young people
  - Together with health services, to make joint commissioning arrangements about the education, health and care provision of children and young people
  - Keep education and care provision under review
  - To include in the Local Offer provision which will help children and young people prepare for adulthood and independent living
  - To consider the need for EHC needs assessments, prepare EHC plans where needed, and maintain and review them, including the duty to ensure that all reviews of EHC plans from Year 9 (age 13-14) onwards include a focus on preparing for adulthood

## 1.2 SEND and Alternative provision (AP) improvement plan

In 2019 the DfE committed to undertake a review of SEND. The outputs of this review were published in a Green paper in 2022. Consultation responses were published in the SEND and AP Improvement Plan in March 23. Central to this was a desire to promote an inclusive society and promote parent/carer confidence in the mainstream offer.

Its aspirations were set out with a view of testing detailed plans over the next 2-3 years. Key points include:

- Delivering for children and families
- Establish a new national SEND and alternative provision system with the mission to:
  - fulfil children's potential
  - children and young people with SEND enjoying their childhood, achieving good outcomes and being well prepared for adulthood and employment;
  - build parents' trust
  - Provide financial sustainability:
- **The right support, in the right place, at the right time**

## 1.3 Funding

SEND funding aligns with this graduated approach.

All schools receive funding delegated to them through the National Funding Formula. It is in place to support CYP at SEN Support and schools should use it to plan their provision. Schools have the age weighted pupil allocation, plus notional funding of £6,000 to spend on SEND support if needed before High Needs Block (HNB) funding can be accessed.

HNB Funding in mainstream schools is Statutory funding allocated in line with special educational provision in an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Its allocation is reviewed at least annually as part of the statutory annual review of an EHCP

HNB funding is also used in Special Schools to fund the provision outlined within a child's EHCP. It is statutory funding and must be used to support the individual child

Some children have EHCPs specifying attendance at a college, an independent school, or exceptionally for some provision that is 'education other than at school' (EOTAS). This is also funded through the HNB.

One of the key elements of the SEND reforms relates to ensuring that the HNB nationally and locally is sustainable and offers value for money. This is within the context of the majority of Local authorities experiencing deficits with their HNB. Over 20 LA's with the most significant deficit have worked with the DfE to develop sustainability plans as part of the Safety Valve programme. A further 55 LA's are part of the Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme aimed at securing a sustainable approach to the HNB. North Yorkshire is part of the DBV programme and is in the early stages of this (Wave 3).

## **2. North Yorkshire**

In North Yorkshire all of our Early Years settings, Schools and Colleges have clear duties outlined in the Code of Practice. The Local Authority and Health partners also have clear direct duties. The LA also has an indirect role with education providers and partners across the area to support others in meeting their legal duties.

The information, advice, supports and services that are available across the County, including the Scarborough and Whitby area, follow a graduated approach, supporting the principle of right amount and type of support at the right time. Some of the key areas are outlined below, this is not an exhaustive list:

### **2.1 Local Offer:**

All Local Authorities are required to have a Local Offer. In North Yorkshire the Local Offer website provides useful advice and information for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families. It also provides information for professionals. It is intended to help families, individuals, groups and organisations find information, enabling more choice and control over what support is right.

### **2.2 SEND Strategy**

In the Spring of 2023 North Yorkshire Executive agreed the new, co-produced SEND Strategy 2023- 26. This was agreed by colleagues in Health in May 2023.

The Vision: North Yorkshire's ambition for children and young people is set out in "Being Young in North Yorkshire 2021-2024" as: "All children and young people are safe, happy, healthy and able to achieve in North Yorkshire". The vision for children and young people with SEND is no different. The SEND Strategy underpins the activity across North Yorkshire and the journey of children, young people and their families.

The ambitions for children and young people with SEND in North Yorkshire are:

- They have the best opportunities so that they achieve the best outcomes
- They are able to attend a school or provision close to home, where they can make friends and develop their place within their local community
- They have good social, emotional and physical health and are fully prepared for a fulfilling adult life
- They develop independence and high aspirations are a focus for all throughout their entire educational journey

- They are able to have their needs identified early and met at whatever period in their lives needs arise
- Partners share a collective responsibility for providing high quality support that builds confidence and supports smooth transitions
- Young people move confidently into adulthood where they feel equipped to thrive and enjoy life

### **2.3 Supports available to children and young people across North Yorkshire, including Scarborough and Whitby:**

All schools and settings must have in place their own arrangements for meeting the needs of cyp with SEND as outlined within the CoP and Equality Act. In addition the Local Authority offers advice, assessment, consultation, intervention, provision and training as part of the graduated response. This is available across the whole of North Yorkshire including Scarborough and Whitby.

- North Yorkshire Special Educational Needs and Disability Advice, Information and Support (SENDIASS) is available to cyp and their families. They offer independent advice and support including:
  - information, advice and support for children and young person with SEND from early years to post-16, transition planning and education and learning
  - advice and support about statutory assessments, including annual reviews
  - will listen to views and concerns and supporting to find confidence to express your views
  - work with individuals to explore options, your rights and responsibilities
  - help to prepare for meetings including direct discrimination or special educational needs appeals
  - support to resolve disagreements between parents, carers, young people, schools, the local authority or health
  - help with forms, letters and reports
  - signposts to various services and organisations, locally and nationally
  - information, advice and support about exclusions and other concerns within education setting
- Locality Hubs: there are 4 Locality Hubs in North Yorkshire including one for the Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale area. The core activity of the Hubs enable:
  - Schools and settings to be more able to identify and meet the needs of cyp with SEND
  - Schools/settings to be more confident in including cyp with SEND
  - Parents/carers to gain a better understanding of their child and have confidence that their needs will be met
  - Increased participation and achievement for cyp with SEND
  - Schools and settings to build their own expertise through wider workforce development leading to better outcomes for all
- Locality Boards: There are five Locality Boards in North Yorkshire. These are partnership arrangements between education providers and the Local Authority and take collective responsibility for maximising outcomes for children and young people and embedding a strong culture of inclusion. Funding is available to the Locality Boards from the HNB. They use data from their area to identify local needs and put plans in place for early identification and support in every setting. These plans were reviewed annually



The funded priority areas identified by Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale (SWR) Locality Board for 22/23 included:

- Early identification of pupils with SEND: To use the SNAP programme in 75 Primary schools and 12 Secondary Schools, Widgeo, funded training opportunities in the areas of sensory differences, handwriting, and de-escalation
- Improving outcomes in early years through the Early Excellence programme
- To lower the rate of exclusions taking place within Primary and secondary schools using mentoring for Y6/Y7 Pupils, for SEND pupils most at risk of exclusion, poor attendance or adverse childhood experiences (ACE's) in Y6. Mental Health Practitioner shared across the Whitby partnership of schools, play therapy, and the Nurturing Schools programme
- Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and the SEND Casework Team  
For a small group of cyp there may be a need to have more specialist and frequent support which requires an Education Health and Care needs assessment, which might then lead to an EHCP. This work in North Yorkshire is co-ordinated by the SEND Casework Team. They are also responsible for the ongoing monitoring and review of EHCPs although the annual review meeting is typically undertaken by the schools or education setting.

Children with EHCPs have their needs met in mainstream and more specialist settings. The aim of North Yorkshire SEND Strategy is for education provision to be as local as possible.

In addition to mainstream schools children and young people in North Yorkshire may have their needs met in other settings including:

- Targeted Mainstream Provision (TMP) where children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities can make progress within a mainstream environment with access to enhanced support. At the moment North Yorkshire has 10 TMPs, 3 more are about to open and there are several other schools actively working with the Local Authority. In Whitby there are currently 3 TMPs, there are none at present in Scarborough.
- Special Schools – there are 3 Special schools in Scarborough. Springhead catering for cyp with a wide range of SEND needs aged 2-19, Woodlands which also caters for cyp with a wide range of needs aged 2-16, and Brompton Hall School catering for children with a primary need in the area of social, emotional and mental health aged 7-16.

## **2.4 SEND funding in North Yorkshire**

As reported in Schools Forum March 2023 in North Yorkshire there is a projected accumulated deficit in the High Needs Budget as of 31st March 2023 of £10.0m and a projected in-year deficit in 2023- 24 of c.£3.0m which would result in an accumulated deficit as of 31st March 2024 of £13.0m. North Yorkshire's HNB settlement is in the lowest decile in the country.



### 3 National, North Yorkshire and Scarborough/Whitby Data

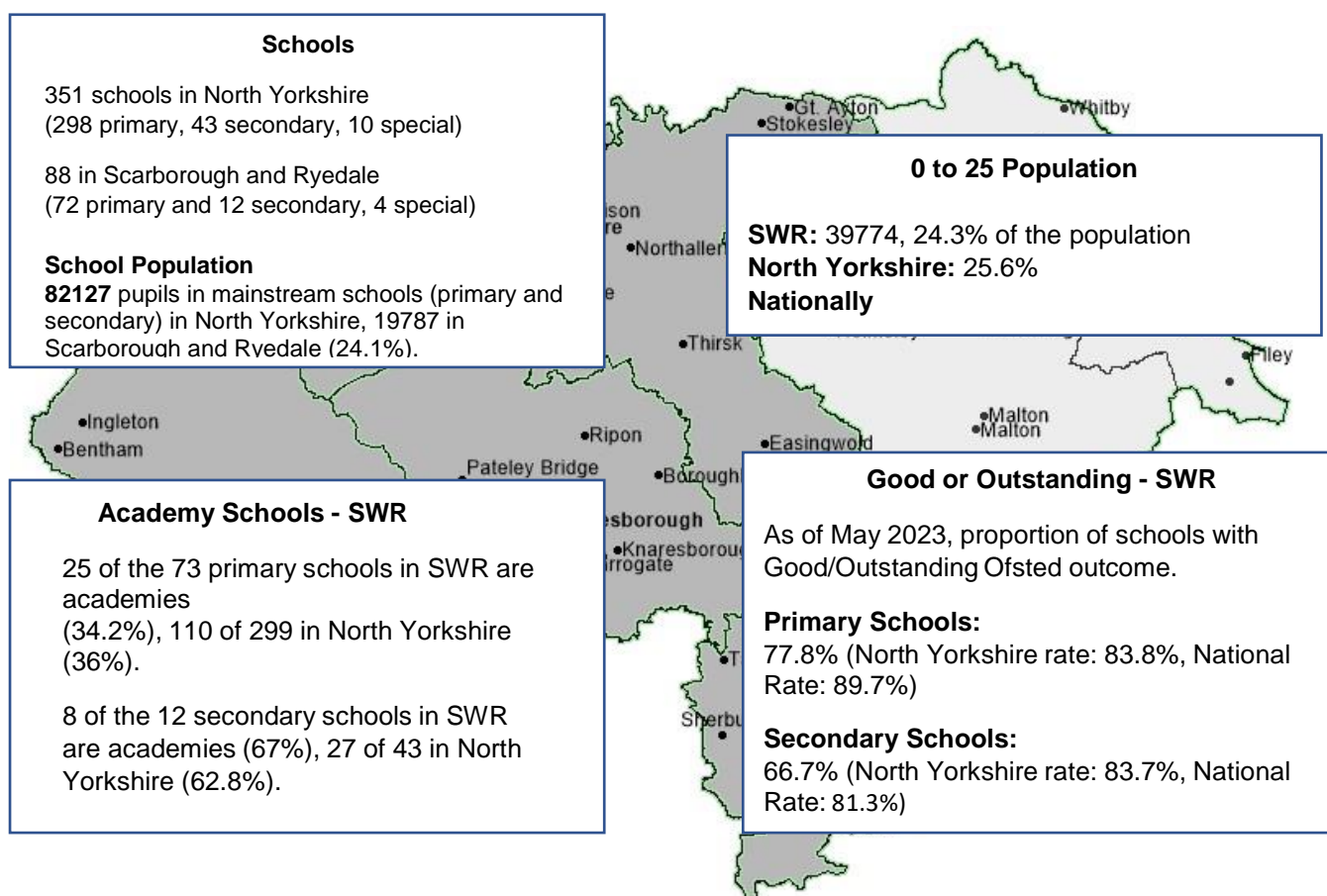
	National*	North Yorkshire*
% population with EHCP	2.9%	2.7%
% population with SEN support	13% (primary) 11.9% (secondary)	12.8% (primary) 11.6% (secondary)
% of population of cyp with EHCPs in special schools	32.5%	32.5%

\*SEN2 data published in June 23 for 2022

- In SWR the proportion of pupils with EHCPs is in line with the proportion of the population of the County.
- In SWR the proportion of pupils with EHCPs in special schools is consistent with the county data
- The most prevalent areas of primary need for SWR are autism, social emotional mental health, and moderate learning needs. This is consistent with data from across North Yorkshire.

(\*\* LA generated data for SWR June 23)

#### Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale (SWR) – June 2023 Locality Data



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# North Yorkshire Council Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## Children and Young People's Mental Health

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Dr Gill Kelly, Consultant in Public Health

Emma Lonsdale, Head of Public Health Children & Families

Lorna Galdas, Interim Head of Children and Young Peoples Commissioning, North Yorkshire ICB

Zoe Davis, Service Manager, Compass Phoenix

Dianne Chew, Service Manager, Central & Emotional Health and Resilience, Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust

Simone Wilkinson, Group Manager – Early Help East, North Yorkshire Council

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# The ask

- The impact of social isolation and disruption to education on children and young people's mental health (particularly around the on-going legacy/effect of pandemic isolation and disruption)
- The level of that impact – is it primarily low level anxiety, or more profound?
- An update on demand pressures and unmet need

# How to answer

## **The impact of disruption on mental health and level of that impact**

- Growing Up in North Yorkshire survey
- North Yorkshire Youth
- Youth councils
- Flying High
- Healthy Schools events
- Other engagement
- National research

## **Service pressures and unmet need**

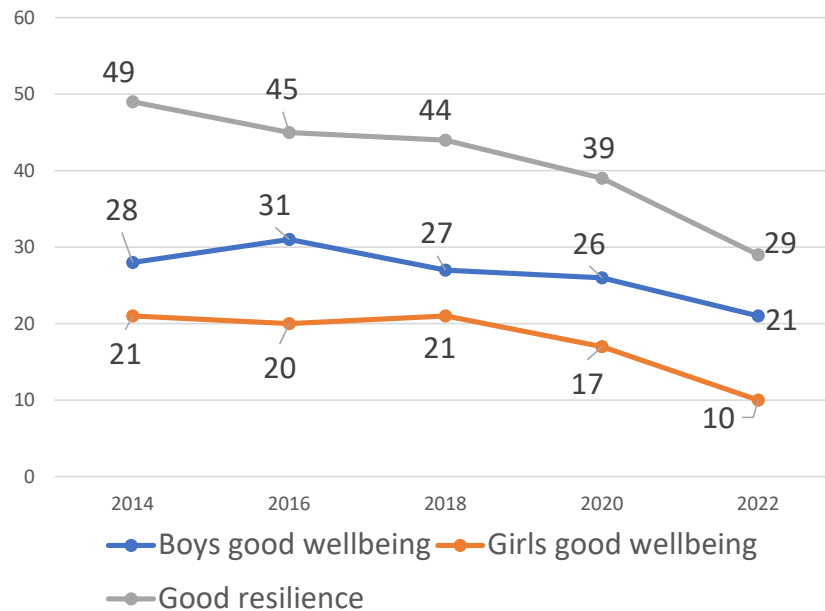
- Whole system analysis
- Multi-agency workshops in our priority development
- Performance reviews of individual components



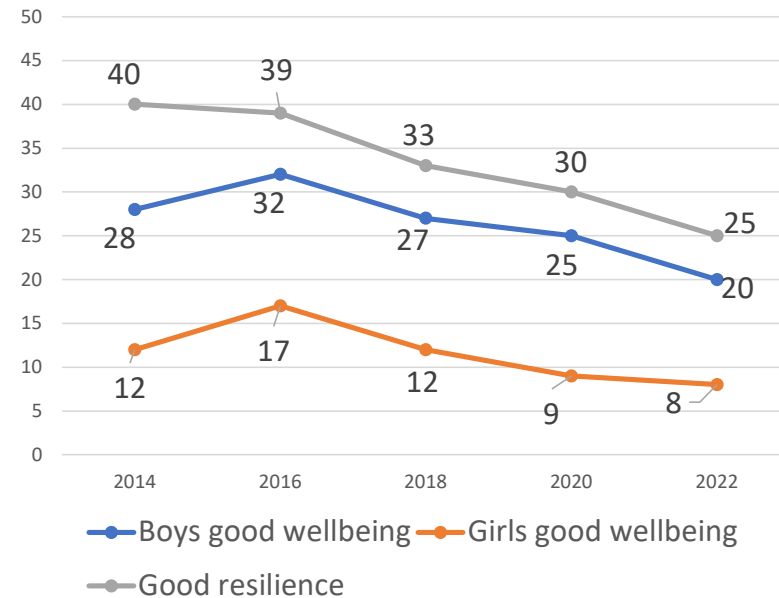
# But wellbeing and resilience has been deteriorating for longer...

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Year 8 % of pupils with high wellbeing and resilience scores



Year 10 % of pupils with high wellbeing and resilience scores



# Other reasons

*"A lack of opportunities and activities for girls whose families have less money could drive them towards their phones and social media, creating even stronger unrealistic expectations in their heads."* (Thomas, WHO)

Page 40  
*The pressures on young people start really early - to do well at school, to look good, have the right things etc. Sometimes it feels overwhelming."* (Claudia, 14, WHO)

*"The societal pressure (mainly coming from social media and the internet) for girls to fit a certain beauty standard is unlike most expectations that boys face when growing up."* (Thomas, WHO))

62% of secondary school girls worry about their appearance vs 24% of boys (GUNY '22)

11% of secondary school pupils feel pressure from social media often or all of the time

From Year 6 onwards between 1 in 4 and 1 in 5 have been shown something online to upset them and 10% have been bullied online (GUNY '22)

*"We are really worried about growing out of our school uniforms. We won't be able to afford new stuff, they are so expensive. We will be getting second hand uniforms. Just feel really embarrassed in second hand stuff which then stresses me out."*

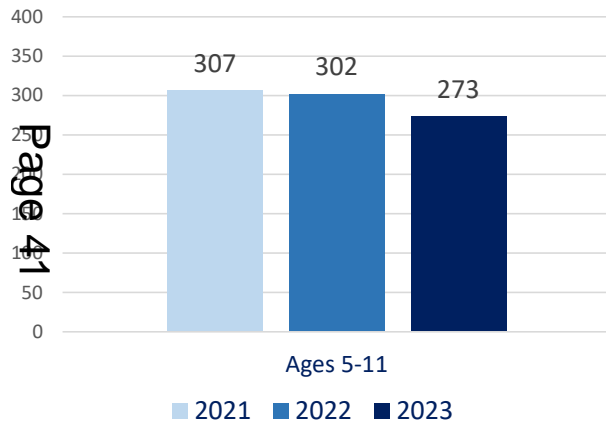
*"One of my friends has got holes in her school shoes but she knows her mum hasn't got any money so she's not even telling her they are broken because she doesn't want her to worry."*

17% of secondary school pupils worry about money often or all of the time (GUNY '22)

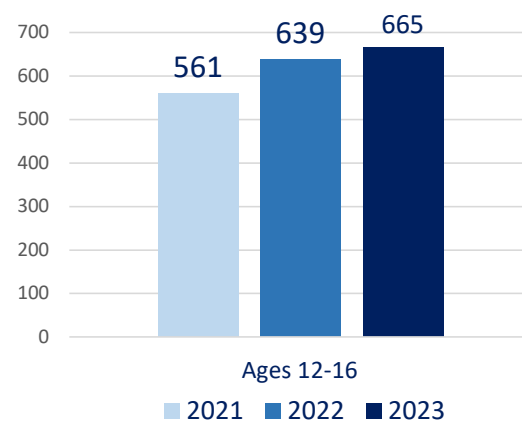


# Children and young people not in school

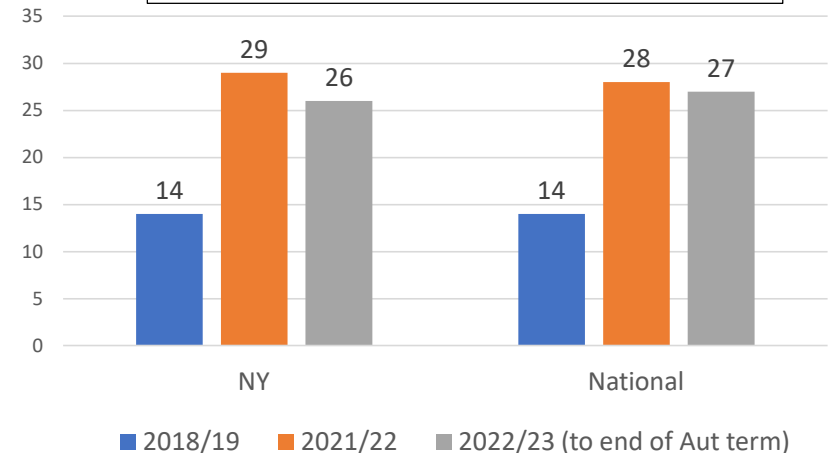
Primary school EHE at end of academic year 22/23



Secondary school EHE at end of academic year 22/23



Persistent absence levels (%) in secondary schools



- The commonest reason for children being electively home educated is anxiety and stress, in both primary and secondary age groups
- At the extreme end, over a third of the Year 8 (ages 12-13) pupils had deliberately harmed themselves or thought about taking their own lives in the year prior to the survey. Nearly half of them did not tell anyone.

# Demand pressures and unmet need

# Understand the system: SEMH Group Vision and Priorities

Our message to children and young people:

It's ok to feel  
Don't be alone

As a partnership we are committed to our children and young people being:

Healthy, happy, safe and achieving in life

For our children and young people, we aspire to ensure:

You are able to cope with everything life throws at you  
You know that it is normal to feel different emotions in response to different experiences  
You feel it's ok to have worries and you have people around who can help and support you

As a partnership we have a Vision for our social, emotional and mental health system:

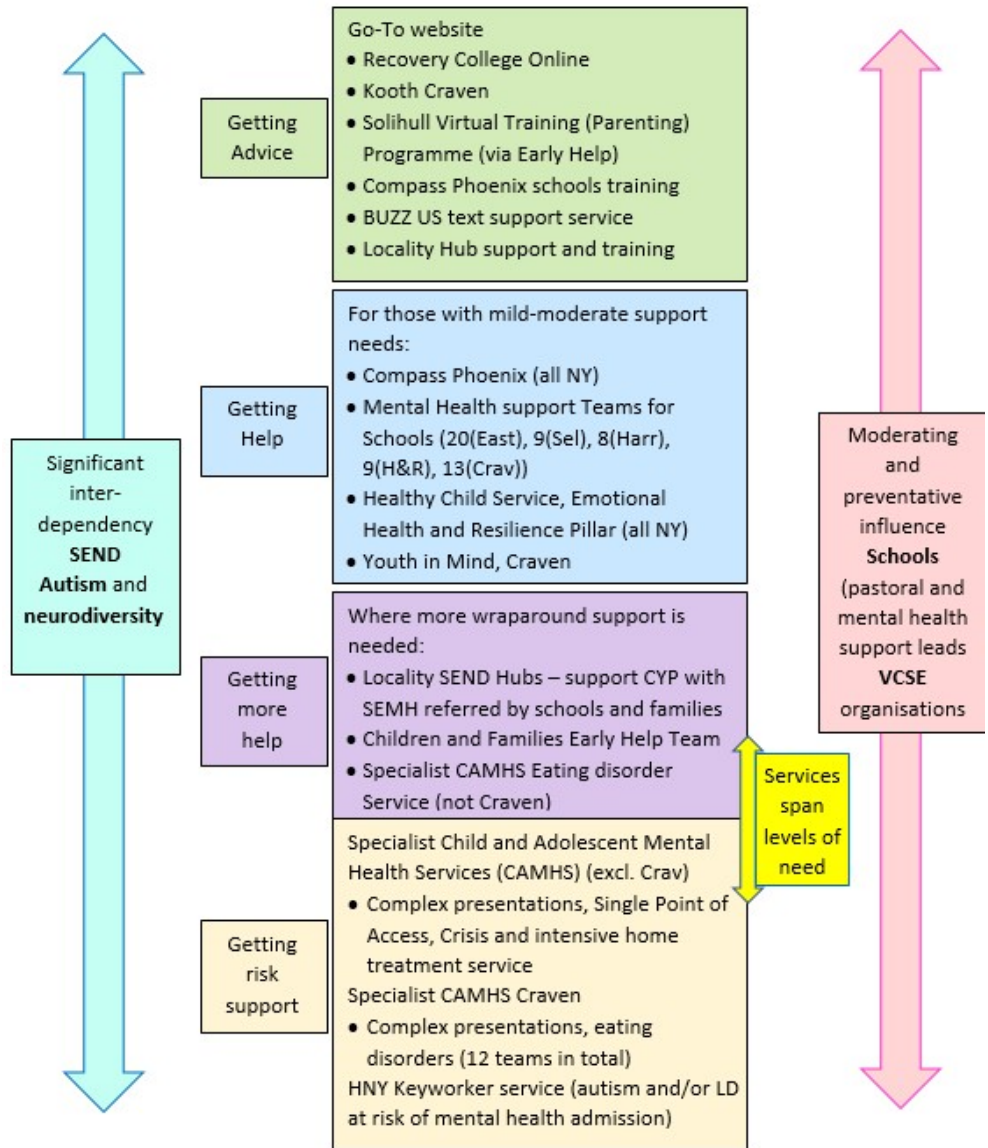
Children and young people get the right support and advice from the right part of the system at the right time.  
The system has sufficient capacity to cope.  
All parts of the system are connected and communicate effectively with each other.  
As professionals, we help a child or young person's personal relationships support them in times of need.

1. To ensure a single, connected system at both strategic and provider levels
2. To use data, insight and knowledge to inform all parts of the system
3. To ensure there is focus on prevention, resilience building and advice
4. We will concentrate on identifiable, vulnerable groups of children and young people
5. We will identify and respond to the areas with greatest system pressures and/or need

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# How the local system fits within the iThrive model

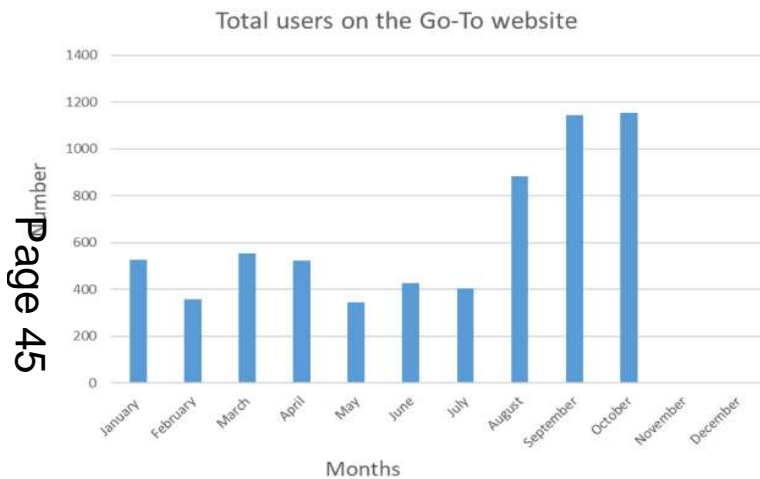
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# Getting Advice

## The Go-To website



Large increase in numbers accessing the site in the last few months

Main pages accessed, other than homepage: feeling low or extremely sad

## Kooth, Craven

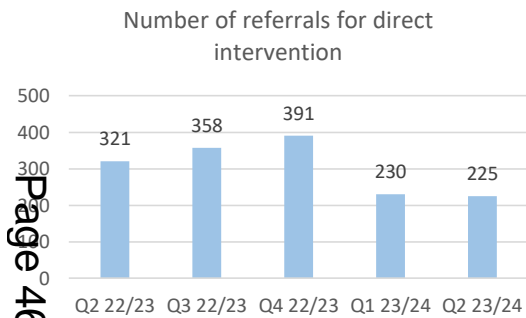
- Online wellbeing service for Bradford and Craven including councillors and wellbeing practitioners
- New registrations reduced this year
- Main reasons for accessing:
  - Self-harm (32%)
  - Anxiety/stress (29%)
  - Friendships (26%)
  - Suicidal thoughts (24%)
- Progress tools show significant progress in users

## Compass Phoenix

- Offering consultation and training to schools
- Schools' feedback highlighted concerns around anxiety, stress and managing challenging behaviour
- Developing a webinar around challenging behaviour

# Getting help

## Compass Phoenix



- Commonest reasons for intervention: anxiety (47%) and low mood (18%)
- Main ages = 13/14, but increasing numbers in primary schools
- Improvement in waiting times for all children, with lowest waits for group interventions and Lumi-Nova
- 85% rated the service as good or excellent

## Healthy Child Service: Emotional Health and Resilience Pillar

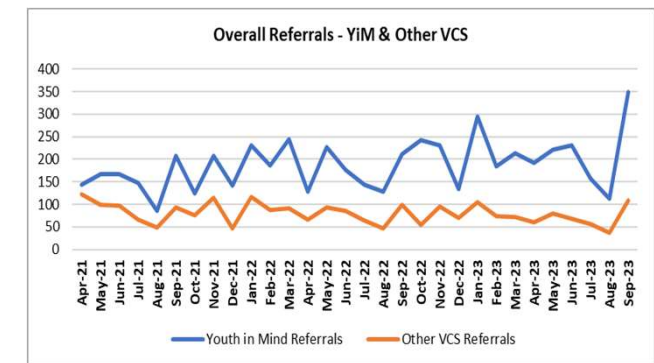
- Mild to moderate needs
- Q2: 178 referrals
- Average age = 10.5
- Screening within 5 days, but waits for intervention:

	Q1	Q2
Central	15 wks	13 wks
East	17 wks	17 wks
West	17 wks	14 wks

- All young people's validated scoring improved by the end of interventions

## Youth in Mind, Craven

- Mild to moderate needs



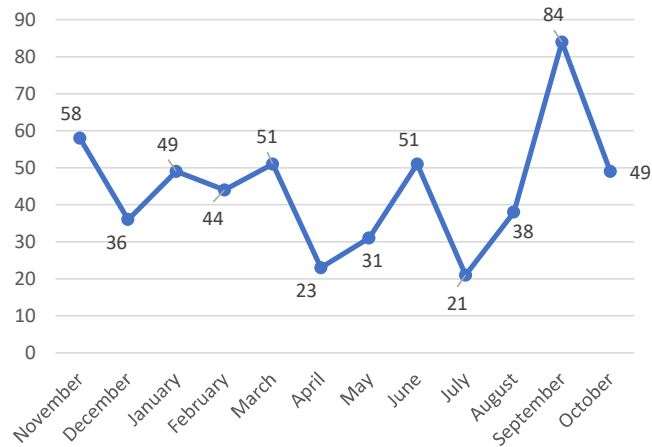
- Overall increase in referrals, but significant increase since the pandemic
- Main age group 11-15
- Sept 23 wait just over a week for an initial assessment, then just under 5 weeks from referral to second contact

# Getting help

## Mental health support teams in NY schools excl. Craven

- 5 teams, incl 2 in Scarborough
- Cover 46 schools and colleges

Direct 1:1 Intervention



- Reasons for referral:
  - Selby, Ham, Rich, Harr = 73-80% anxiety/panic
  - Scarb, Rye = 52% anxiety, 28% low mood

## Mental health support teams in Bradford and Craven

- 1 team in Craven
- Cover 12 schools and 1 college
- October 2022 – September 2023: 171 children and young people treated for their mental health and wellbeing

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# Getting more help

## SEND Locality Hubs

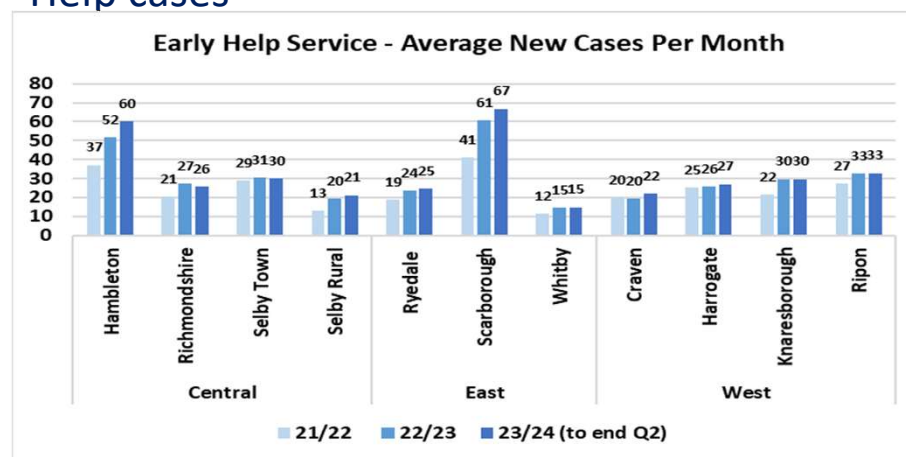
- Range of specialist support from highly qualified staff who support families, schools and a range of organisations to help children with SEND
- Each child has individual, clearly defined outcomes to be achieved as part of the specialist service caseload, which are shared with the child's school and family
- Q4 21/22 – Q4 22/23: 18% increase in referrals
- 1573 children supported across a range of specialist services
- During Q4 22/23, 98% of outcomes partially or fully achieved

## Locality Boards

5 Locality Boards serve all North Yorkshire schools, funding priorities according to local need e.g. Nurture

## Early Help

- April-Sept 2023: 19% increase in new Early Help cases



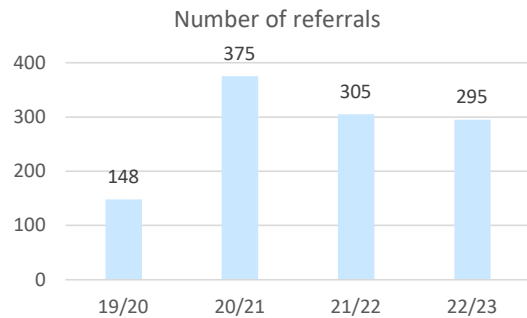
- Likely more than half cases have an element of SEMH, autism or ADHD
- Social prescriber supports young people who are seen by Compass Phoenix and/or Specialist CAMHS



# Getting more help risk support

## Eating Disorders Service, TEWV, excl. Craven

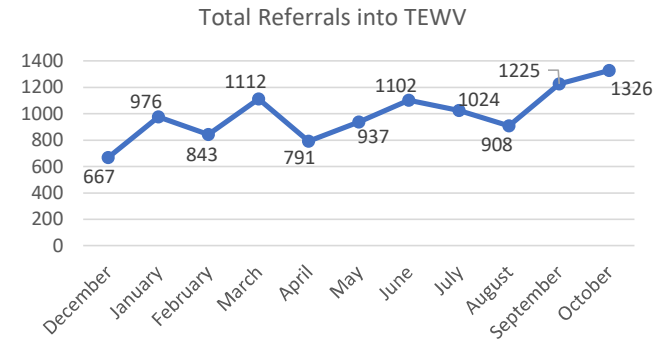
- Waiting times are around 9-15 months



- New intensive support team started Jan 23:
  - 50% reduction in critical admissions
  - 18.5% reduction in re-admissions in 6 months

## Single Point of Access into Specialist CAMHS (TEWV) (Excl. Craven)

- NB referral figures include City of York:



- Crisis referrals are similar to last year
- Community assessment waits (exl. ADHD):
  - Northallerton, Harr = 2-3 weeks
  - Scarb = 5-6 weeks
  - Selby = 8-10 weeks

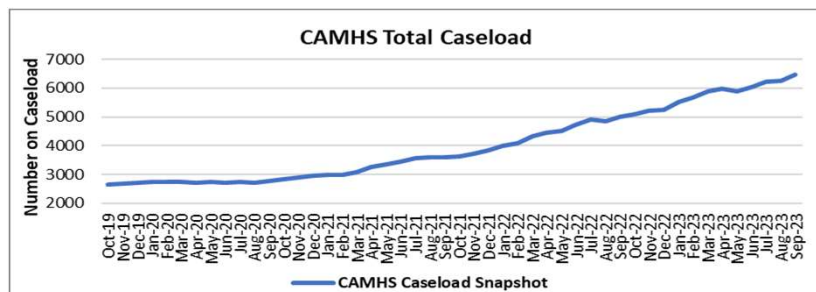
# Getting more help

# risk support

## Specialist CAMHS, Craven

- Large caseload increase (incl. Bradford and eating disorders and neurodiversity)

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- Nearly 83% of children and young people were waiting less than 18 weeks from referral to starting treatment in September 2023
- There is a directory of support services and “safe and well” checks whilst waiting



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# Autism

## Craven

- Provider BDCFT
- Data includes all neurodiversity
- Waiting list = 132 children (May 23)
- A new child added to the waiting list from May 23 could wait around 38 months
- Diagnosis made in over 80%

## Scarborough/Whitby/Ryedale

- Provider ABL
- Capacity 20 referrals/month
- Demand 27 referrals/month
- Waiting list = 114 children (Sept 23)
- Average assessment wait = 44 weeks (Sept 23)
- Autism diagnosis made in 71-81% (Jan-Sept 23)

## Harrogate/Ham&Rich

- Provider HDFT
- Capacity 40 referrals/month
- Demand 80 referrals/month
- Waiting list = 1044 children (Sept 23)
- Ave assessment wait = 58 wks
- Autism diagnosis made in 92-100% (Jan-Sept 23)
- New referral system with triage to offer support earlier

- NB new all-age autism strategy consultation currently live

# Schools

Multiple different programmes of work across our North Yorkshire schools, providing support and and promoting wellbeing. Most secondary schools have a Mental Health Lead and all education settings offer pastoral support.

## Healthy Schools Awards Programme

- Over 80% of primary schools signed up and working towards awards
- Online event, March had 2,000 pupils
- RHS Harlow Carr in June
- East Barnby Outdoor Learning Centre November 27<sup>th</sup>

*"Make sure everyone has someone to play with - if we see someone on their own, we ask them to join in"*

*"Teachers take time to talk to you when you're sad."*

*"We have well-being brain breaks."*

## My Happy Mind

- Currently in 12 primary schools in Scarborough (+ 4 pending)
- 80% of staff are now having 1-3 conversations about children's wellbeing each week
- 93% of teachers said that Happy Breathing benefited their class:



# Final points

## What more would make a difference?

- Increased capacity in all parts of the system
- More wellbeing programmes in schools and communities
- Support for staff in non-clinical organisations

## Further work within our priorities

- Single connected system
  - Mental health transformation project
- Data, insight and knowledge
  - SEND data dashboard
- Focus on prevention and resilience
  - Thriving mapping group in Selby
- Concentrate on vulnerable groups
  - Emotionally based school avoidance
  - Transitions to adult services
- Identify and respond to system pressures
  - Attachment and trauma awareness in schools
  - Emerging eating disorders
  - Anglo-American project for wellbeing

# Conclusion

- Children are amazing!
- Our whole population has shifted to be less resilient, with poorer wellbeing – how big a shift is open for debate...
- Our job, therefore, is to focus on prevention, resilience, wellbeing, providing extra support as needed
- Workforce are amazing! Dedicated and professional, going above and beyond

**North Yorkshire Council**  
**Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**Children and Young People's Mental Health**  
**December 2023**

Dr Gill Kelly  
Consultant in Public Health  
North Yorkshire Council

## **Contributors**

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Mel Woodcock, General Manager, North Yorkshire, York & Selby CAMHS & LD Services, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

A massive thank you to everyone who contributed data, information and/or feedback.



## Introduction

It has been nearly 2 years since the last presentation around children and young people's mental health to the Scrutiny Board in North Yorkshire. In that time, there have been several developments in our region, and, post-pandemic, there is significant interest in the mental health and wellbeing of the whole population at a national level. Barely a day goes by without another statistic decrying the health of the nation, in particular, mental health. Children's wellbeing in particular, has received welcome royal attention, highlighting the issues further. But how much does North Yorkshire reflect the national picture? Has the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people deteriorated to a significant extent post-pandemic and if so, are there any signs of recovery?

We are extremely fortunate that in North Yorkshire we have a wealth of information from listening to what our children and young people tell us, and an extremely well-connected social, emotional and mental health system. Therefore, we can answer these questions using information from the Growing Up in North Yorkshire survey (GUNY), where we can compare current results with those of surveys done every 2 years for the last decade. We have an excellent engagement team within North Yorkshire Council, liaising with multiple groups of young people, including our 4 youth councils, and our groups specifically for young people with Special Educational Needs. We also have an ever expanding Healthy Schools Award Scheme, now reaching over 80% of primary schools in the region with over 2,000 children participating in the March online event, including a live cookathon, as well as two celebration events this year in RHS Harlow Carr in June and East Barnby Outdoor Learning Centre in November. Wellbeing is a significant theme at these events, with November's children actively discussing what it means to be a Wellbeing Warrior. So we do not just have the facts and figures of our commissioned services to draw upon, but multiple sources of children's own opinions to add a richness to this data.

Additionally, the World Health Organisation has just published its national report on the health behaviour of secondary school aged children in England, similar to the GUNY. <sup>1</sup>

Using all these tools at our disposal, we can answer the three points which the Scrutiny Board have asked us to consider:

- The impact of social isolation and disruption to education on children and young people's mental health (particularly around the on-going legacy/effect of pandemic isolation and disruption)
- The level of that impact – is it primarily low level anxiety, or more profound?
- An update on demand pressures and unmet need

Of course, we will not be able to answer these points with complete certainty – the impact of lockdowns, in relation to other social changes in recent years, is still being assessed, and it may be that there will never be a definite conclusion drawn on the issue, but we can take what our young people are telling us and draw our own conclusions.

## How do different factors impact on children's mental health and wellbeing?

When examining the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in North Yorkshire, we need to consider any factors contributing to the change in the patterns we are seeing in our populations. We know that children and young people's brain development and ultimately wellbeing are best served by consistency in both their relationships and living environment. The safety

inherent in routine and stability, along with their basic needs being met, allows them then to develop good social and thinking skills through relationships with trusted adults. Children and young people experiencing stressful events are usually able to deal with that stress with the help of the basic stability in their lives and those adults. However, when stressful occurrences are continuous, are extreme and/or are compounded by multiple other events, the body's ways of dealing with this, namely the release of stress hormones, begin to have longer term consequences and even change the way in which the brain is activated. The fight, flight or freeze response to stress becomes far greater, with the more considered, thinking pathways less influential, so high levels of stress hormones then become the new normal for the body, adversely affected mental wellbeing and behaviour.

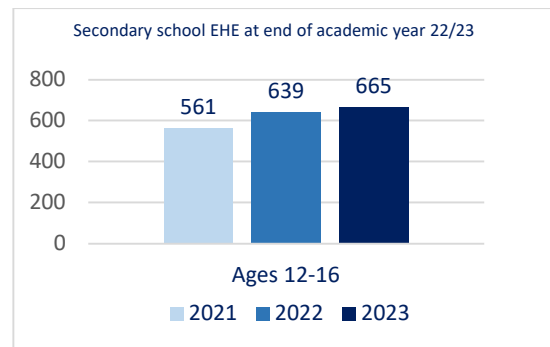
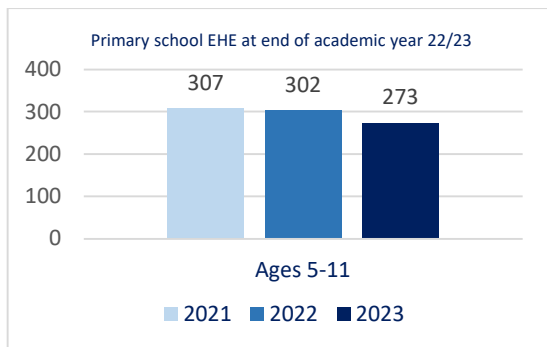
There can be no doubt about the disruptive and stressful influence of COVID-19 lockdowns, where children were isolated from their peers, removed from their daily routines and surrounded, within their families, by adults who were also often disrupted and uncertain. However, what is less certain is just how much impact this had, when compared with the other uncertainties and stresses in their lives, namely the increasing cost of living and the relentlessness of social media. Young people now are growing up in a completely different environment to those just one generation ago; the iPhone came onto the market in 2007, so anyone under the age of 16 has never known a world without instant, mobile information. Facebook launched in 2004 heralding an ever greater clamour of connectivity. There is evidence from our figures that wellbeing and worries were deteriorating even prior to the instability of lockdowns and these factors may have played a part.

Therefore, we can look at trends and listen to our young people in order to define not just the challenges, but how we can tackle them.

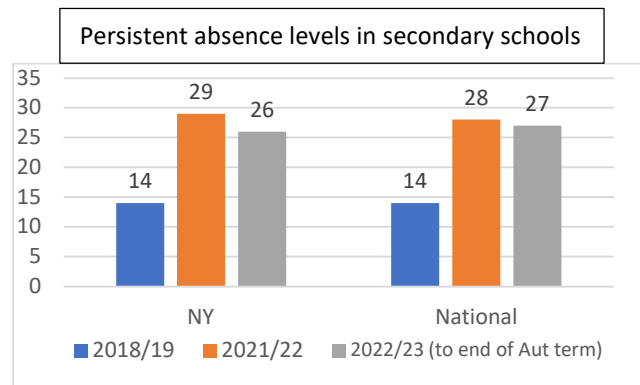
What should also be taken into consideration is the sheer gargantuan size of the factors and system which impact upon wellbeing. As well as NHS provided mental health services, the interdependencies include family, peer-support, autism services, family-orientated social work and early help, school support (official and unofficial), sports and social clubs, voluntary organisations and the advice and support that can be obtained online, again both official and unofficial. Therefore, in order to determine the level of unmet need and demand pressures, we need to consider all parts of the system and all influences therein.

## The impact of social isolation and disruption to education on children and young people’s mental health and the level of that impact

The first thing to note is that after lockdowns, not all young people returned to school. The levels of persistent absence and those being electively home educated remain stubbornly high. We are starting to see a reduction in the numbers of primary school children being electively home educated, but secondary-aged pupils continue to rise, albeit at a slower rate. The commonest reason for young people being electively home educated is "stress and anxiety" accounting for 42% of those of secondary school age.



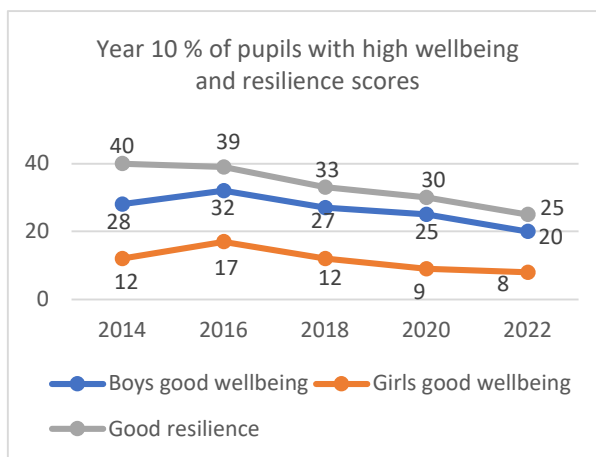
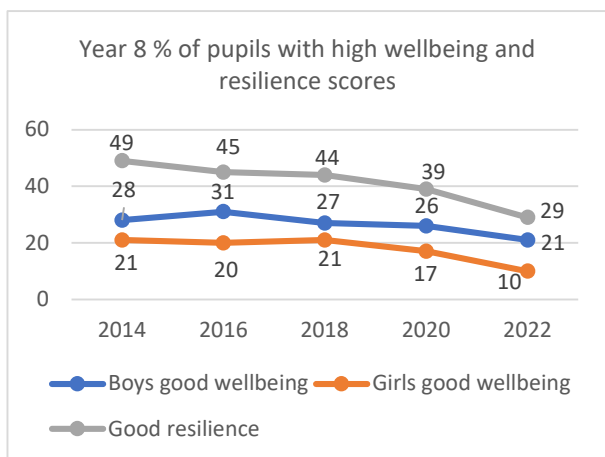
The levels of persistent absence, defined as those young people attending less than 90% of their school week, follow the national trend. There is some variability across North Yorkshire for all these statistics, but overall, around one in four pupils is missing at least half a day per week, amounting to a considerable amount of school time lost over the course of 3 terms.



There are various thoughts on the reasons behind these patterns, including being due to young people's anxiety at being back in a social and changeable environment. It may also be the case that for some families it has become logistically easier for children to stay at home more when parents/carers are working from home.

So what are children telling us makes them happy? Unsurprisingly, no matter the age of the young person, the answer is family, friends, outdoor spaces, having leisure activities and their pets. Is it any wonder, therefore, that when confined to their houses, with limited contact with the outdoors (particularly for those with limited personal outdoor space), and limited and unreliable contact with friends, that their mental health and wellbeing should suffer?





In secondary schools, whilst the drop in resilience is significant, we can see that it was occurring long before lockdowns, although in Year 8 pupils, the reduction from 2020 to 2022 was the same as in the prior 6 years. Therefore, young people are generally far less able to deal with the stresses and strains of life than a decade ago. When it comes to wellbeing, boys fare better than girls.

Within Year 10 pupils, the GUNY described how good wellbeing scores could be adversely affected by lower socio-economic status, being LGB (but not transgender), being a young carer and being in a single-parent family. However, a higher proportion of very low wellbeing scores were found in almost all minority groups, with the exception of ethnicity.

High resilience scores were adversely affected by ethnicity, religion, lower socio-economic status, being LGB and being in a single-parent family. And again, lower resilience scores were found in almost all minority groups, but this time with the exceptions being minority religion, or armed forces families.

Reasons for these changes are perhaps explained in the World Health Organisation's report:

*"A lack of opportunities and activities for girls whose families have less money could drive them towards their phones and social media, creating even stronger unrealistic expectations in their heads."* (Thomas)

*"The pressures on young people start really early - to do well at school, to look good, have the right things etc. Sometimes it feels overwhelming."* (Claudia, 14)

*"The societal pressure (mainly coming from social media and the internet) for girls to fit a certain beauty standard is unlike most expectations that boys face when growing up."* (Thomas)

This last quote in particular, resonates with what young people are telling us in North Yorkshire; whilst nearly a quarter of both boys and girls in year 2 (aged 5-6) worry about how they look, there are marked gender differences in this worry by the time they are in year 6 (aged 10-11), with still only a quarter of boys, versus 44% of girls worrying about their looks. And by the time they are in secondary school, 62% of girls now worry about their appearance, compared with still only a quarter of boys. Another major worry in secondary school is exams and tests.

At the more extreme end of the wellbeing scale are those young people who have thought about harming themselves or even taking their own lives. Over a third of the Year 8 (ages 12-13) pupils had deliberately harmed themselves or thought about taking their own lives in the year prior to the survey. Nearly half of them did not tell anyone.

With the timings of these patterns, it would be highly likely that the pandemic and lockdowns have significantly contributed to the deterioration in mental health and wellbeing. However, it is also likely that other factors are at play, as there is evidence that wellbeing and resilience were deteriorating prior to the pandemic. The quotes above from the recent study mention social media; our young people in secondary school tell us that 11% of them worry about feeling pressure from social media often, or all of the time. From Year 6 onwards, between 1 in 4 and 1 in 5 have experienced someone writing or showing them things to upset them online. Around 1 in 10 have been bullied online. Therefore, whilst the internet and social media have been a useful tool in keeping young people connected, particularly over lockdowns, they have also been a source of hurtful behaviour too, which can continue long after the school day has ended.

*"I get lots of messages from friends all through the night. I think not sleeping is a big issue." Max, 14*

Another factor which has come out of engagement in the last couple of years is around family finances. Our young people have been telling us:

"We are really worried about growing out of our school uniforms. We won't be able to afford new stuff, they are so expensive. We will be getting second-hand uniforms. Just feel really embarrassed in second-hand stuff which then stresses me out."

"One of my friends has got holes in her school shoes but she knows her mum hasn't got any money so she's not even telling her they are broken because she doesn't want her to worry."

17% of our secondary school pupils in the GUNY worry about money often or all of the time.

There will be other contributors too, but these are the main issues that are likely behind the deterioration in young people's mental health. It is important to realise however, that the majority of our young people are well, healthy and happy. But what we have seen in the last few years is a gradual reduction in overall wellbeing and resilience in almost everyone. Those who previously would have weathered the storm, now seek advice. Those who would have sought advice are now seeking help. And those who could have managed with some support are needing far greater levels of support for longer periods of time with far greater complexity. The whole population has shifted in the wrong direction, the extent of which is debatable, with the result being that every aspect of the mental health and wellbeing system is feeling the strain.

Therefore, what are we doing to counteract this shift?

## Demand pressures and unmet need

Within North Yorkshire, we have a large and well-attended Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Strategic Group consisting of representatives of all parts of the mental health system. We have adopted the iThrive model which we continue to embed at all levels.

We have also recently refreshed our Terms of Reference, which are still a work in progress as we are listening to and taking feedback from various young people's groups. We have revised our Vision in response.

Our message to children and young people:

**It's ok to feel  
Don't be alone**

As a partnership we are committed to our children and young people being:

**Healthy, happy, safe and achieving in life**

For our children and young people, we aspire to ensure:

**You are able to cope with everything life throws at you**  
**You know that it is normal to feel different emotions in response to different experiences**  
**You feel it's ok to have worries and you have people around who can help and support you**

As a partnership we have a Vision for our social, emotional and mental health system:

**Children and young people get the right support and advice from the right part of the system at the right time.**  
**The system has sufficient capacity to cope.**  
**All parts of the system are connected and communicate effectively with each other.**  
**As professionals, we help a child or young person's personal relationships support them in times of need.**

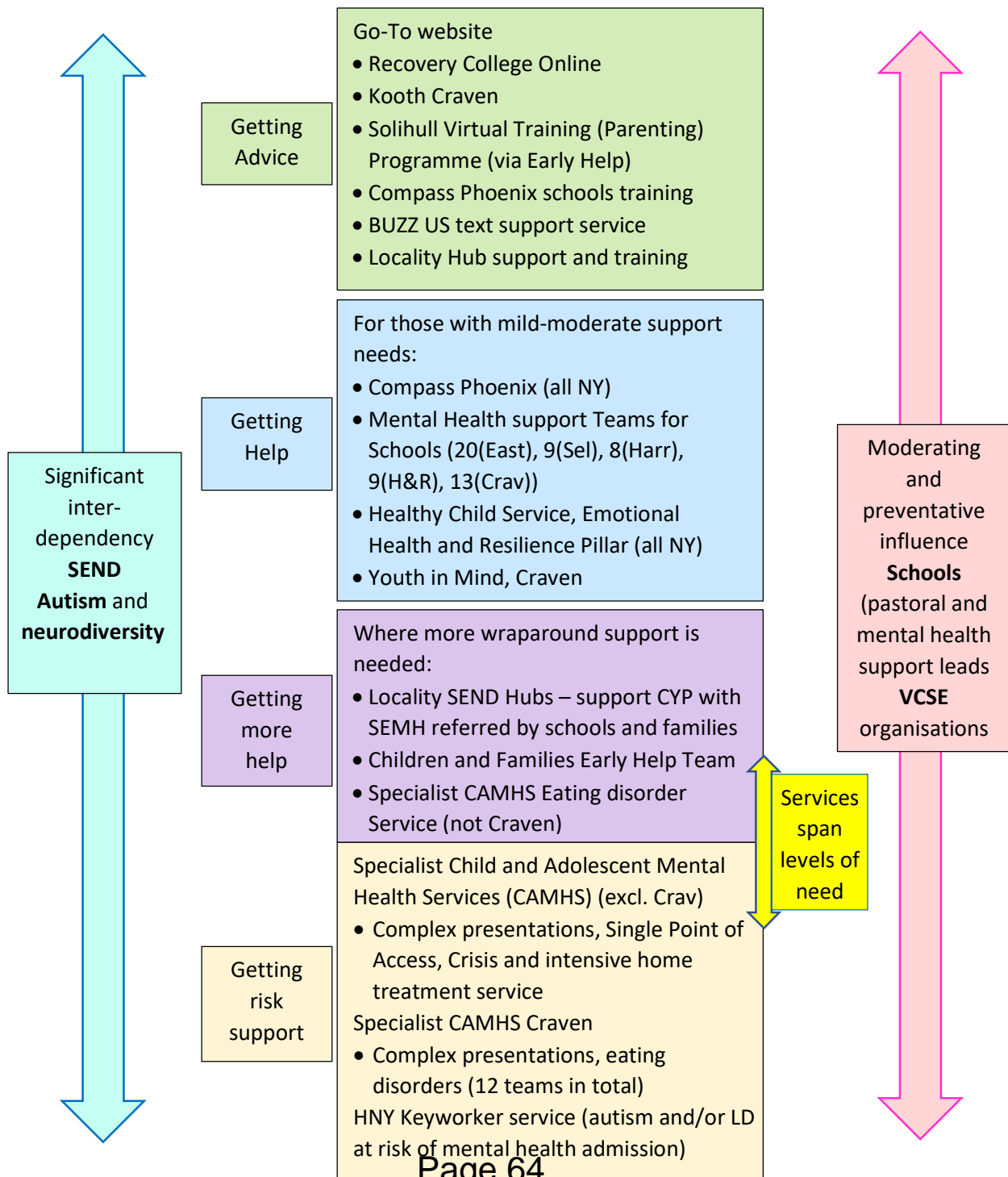




The SEMH Strategic Group has then been forming our strategic priorities, looking at what work is already underway to achieve these priorities and therefore what gaps may exist. The current priorities are:

1. To ensure a single, connected system at both strategic and provider levels
2. To use data, insight and knowledge to inform all parts of the system
3. To ensure there is focus on prevention, resilience building and advice
4. We will concentrate on identifiable, vulnerable groups of children and young people
5. We will identify and respond to the areas with greatest system pressures and/or need

It is then useful to map our system in terms of the iThrive model:



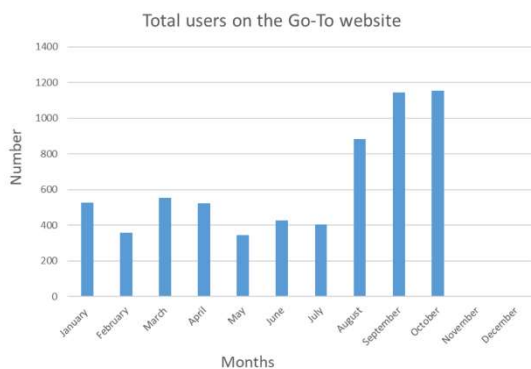


We then can examine the points in this system where pressures are greatest and look at the interdependencies which are contributing to those pressure points. For example, the anxiety created by delays in autism diagnosis, or lack of post-diagnostic support, can then lead to a young person also being referred for mental health support, but the mental health problem is actually secondary to another part of the system.

## Current service data

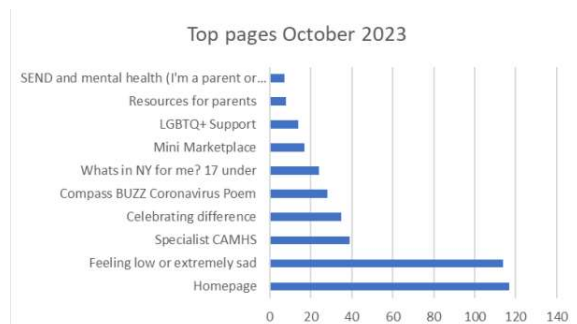
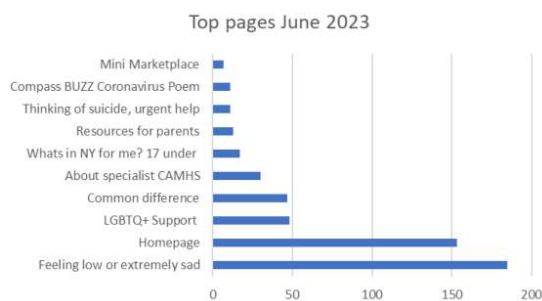
### The Go-To website

This is a resource coproduced with young people, with resources aimed at young people as well as professionals, parents and carers. There is an "Exit button" to link anyone quickly back to the home page if anything upsets them. This website is monitored and updated by North Yorkshire ICB Place on a regular basis.



There has been an increase in the numbers accessing the Go-To website in the last few months, due to a number of possibilities, including more awareness of the site (there are now QR codes on Children and Families letters to parents), the new school year, exam results etc.

The main pages accessed, other than the home page are around feeling low or extremely sad. This has remained consistent over the last few months.



### Kooth, Craven

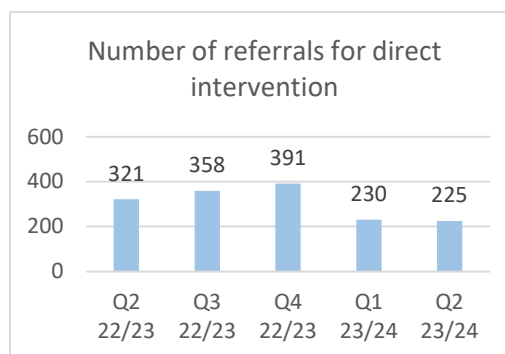
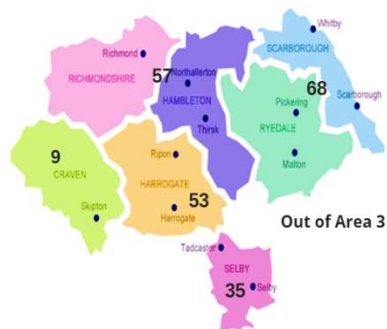
This is the online mental health and emotional wellbeing service for CYP aged 10-18 for Bradford and Craven. It provides a safe, anonymous online emotional wellbeing community, with resources, discussion forums and access to chat sessions with qualified counsellors and emotional wellbeing practitioners.

For Bradford and Craven, new registrations have been considerably lower on average during the last year to September 2023 in comparison to the same period in the previous year. Specific to Craven, there were 193 new registrations between April 22 and September 23, asking about self-harm (31.6%), anxiety/stress (28.9%), friendships (26.3%) and suicidal thoughts (23.7%).

Young people set personal goals with tools to measure progress. The average goal movement of those using Kooth in Craven was 5.9+ (with 3+ constituting significant progress).

## Compass Phoenix

Compass Phoenix sees children and young people with mild to moderate mental health needs. There has been a reduction in the number of referrals since April 2023. The majority of referrals in Quarter 2 came from Scarborough and Ryedale.



The commonest reason for referral was anxiety (47%), with a further 18% for low mood. The age of referral peaks around 13/14, but more primary school aged children are being referred.

In response to system demand, the service was altered earlier in 2023; some young people are suitable for group work, some need 1-2-1 interventions and some use Lumi-Nova, a National Institute for Health and Care Excellence-recommended, digital therapeutic game for 7-12 year olds with mild to moderate anxiety. There is also BUZZ-US, a text messaging service allowing young people to contact professionals about their mental health; the most common topic in Quarter 2 was anxiety/panic attacks.

Since the changes were made, there has been a substantial increase in the numbers of young people having their first interventional contact within 4 weeks and the numbers waiting to be seen have reduced substantially.

Month	Referrals with 1+ contact recorded	Referrals with 1+ contact within four weeks	Percentage
April 2023	590	25	4.4%
May 2023	325	110	34.5%
June 2023	135	90	64.7%
July 2023	105	85	81.7%
August 2023	Data not yet available		
September 2023			

The vast majority starting group work do so within 4 weeks. Waits are still expected for those needed 1-2-1 intervention, with just over a third seen in under 3 months and the rest waiting longer.

284 young people were discharged from Compass Phoenix in Quarter 2, 2023/24, two thirds of whom were planned discharges. The majority of unplanned were those young people who were either in group work or using the online game, where children can finish using it if they feel they have what they need. Compass Phoenix are developing a parent pack for families to use prior to treatment so they know what to expect and how to get the best out of their time with the service.

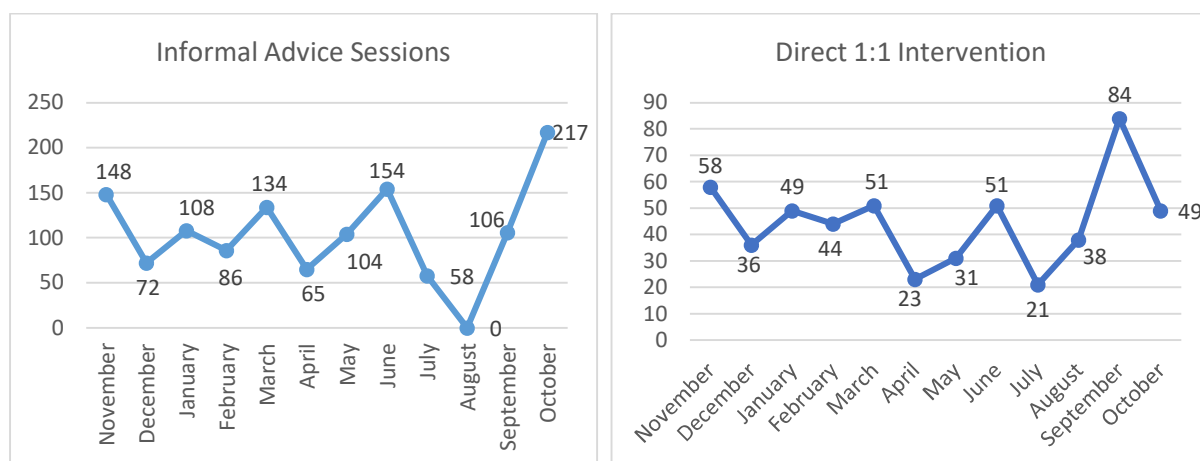
When young people were asked how they would rate the service provided by Compass Phoenix, 85% responded "good" or "excellent."

Compass Phoenix also provide professional consultations to schools around specific children. Plus they host webinars for schools to train staff, with feedback from schools highlighting the main needs

being anxiety, stress and managing challenging behaviour. Compass Phoenix are developing a new training package on managing behaviour.

### Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) in schools – provided by Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) (excl. Craven)

These are teams of mental wellbeing professionals, working in schools to promote a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing. They provide advice to school staff and interventions to young people with mild to moderate issues. There are 5 teams in North Yorkshire (excl Craven), including 2 teams in Scarborough. They cover 46 schools and colleges across all age groups.



There are fewer interactions in July and August, with the 6 week holiday period, but need for both informal advice and interventions then spikes as children return to school.

In Selby, Hambleton and Richmondshire and Harrogate, between 73% and 80% of referrals are due to anxiety/panic attacks, with low mood/depression being the second commonest reason. In Scarborough and Ryedale, 52% of referrals are due to anxiety, with 28% low mood/depression.

### Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) in schools in Craven

The Craven MHST was established in February 2020. The CYP population coverage by the MHST in Craven is 10,639. The team is based in 12 schools and 1 college in Craven.

The team engages schools with the whole school approach, supporting school audits, training sessions, signposting, developing safe spaces for reflective discussions and supporting the early identification of need.

In 2023 (to date) 423 school staff and 2,526 young people have received training on supporting mental health and wellbeing.



From October 2022 to September 2023, 171 children and young people received treatment for their mental health and wellbeing from the MHST located in Craven.

## Healthy Child Service: Emotional, Health and Resilience Pillar

The Healthy Child Service (0-19 service) also covers those with mild to moderate mental health needs across all of North Yorkshire.

There were 178 referrals in Quarter 2 2023/24, the majority of which were for managing emotions and anxiety. The average age of referral was 10.5, so a little younger than Compass Phoenix. Whilst screening is always completed within 5 days, there is then a wait for intervention, similar to that of Compass Phoenix:

	Q1	Q2
Central	15 wks	13 wks
East	17 wks	17 wks
West	17 wks	14 wks

The Family Health Practitioners are currently supporting 154 young people, with a further 49 receiving support from the Children's Wellbeing Practitioners.

Using validated scoring tools, all children showed an improved scoring at the end of their support period.

## Youth in Mind, Craven

Youth in Mind (YiM) is an integrated, community based, early intervention mental health service for CYP in Bradford and Craven. YiM is a partnership of 9 providers delivering a range of dynamic services to CYP with social, emotional, mental health issues. A number of services work across the whole area, whereas others are focused on a particular geography. Within Craven:

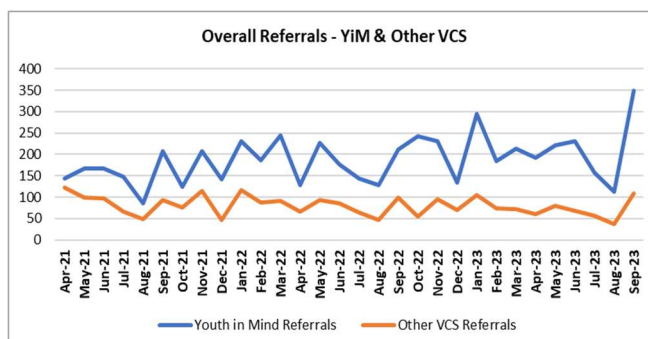
- SELFA – support young people with SEND
- Barnardo's WRAP – self-care focussed 10 week Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP)
- Hospital Buddies – Wellbeing Workers support young people on children's wards and in Emergency Departments with issues including anxiety around an operation, long-term health diagnosis and mental health crisis.

Referrals fluctuate with school holidays (NB these figures include Bradford):

There is an overall increase in referrals shown, but providers report a significant increase in referrals since the pandemic, which is not reflected in this chart.

The main age group is 11-15.

Waits in September 2023 were just over a week for an initial assessment, then just under five weeks from referral to second contact.



In addition to YiM, there are numerous other VCS CYP wellbeing providers, as well as Compass Phoenix (just Craven).

## **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Locality Hubs**

SEND hubs consist of a range of specialist support and provision delivered by highly qualified and experienced staff who support families, schools, Early Years settings and post 16 providers to effectively and holistically meet the needs of children and young people who have SEND.

Each child being referred to a SEND hub will have individual clearly defined outcomes to be achieved as part of the specialist service caseload, expected outcomes which are shared with the child's school and family. The list of expected outcomes will vary considerably depending on the specialist service but they can include improved educational attainment or outcomes relating to physical therapy.

From Quarter 4 2021/22 to the same period in 2022/23, there has been an 18% increase in referrals. The current caseload is 1,573 individual children supported across a range of specialist services. A significant amount of Hub activity relates supporting wellbeing and mental health of pupils.

During Q4 of 2022/23, 98% of all outcomes were either fully achieved or partially achieved. This is the same outcomes rate as the same period last year.

In addition to this core referral offer to schools and early years settings, the Hubs also undertake a range of other functions to support attendance in school.

## **Locality Boards**

All schools and education settings in North Yorkshire have access to support through one of 5 Locality Boards. Each of the Boards is led by a School/education leader and agrees funded priorities based on the needs of the community. Many of the projects focus on wellbeing and resilience for example the development of Nurture groups in schools, and supported transition for vulnerable pupils.

## Early Help

Whilst the Early Help team do not, strictly speaking, cover mental health, strains on families, due to waits in other services then impact on the Early Help service. There is currently a snapshot underway looking at how many of their October 2023 referrals also factored social, emotional and mental health, autism or ADHD, but it is likely over half.

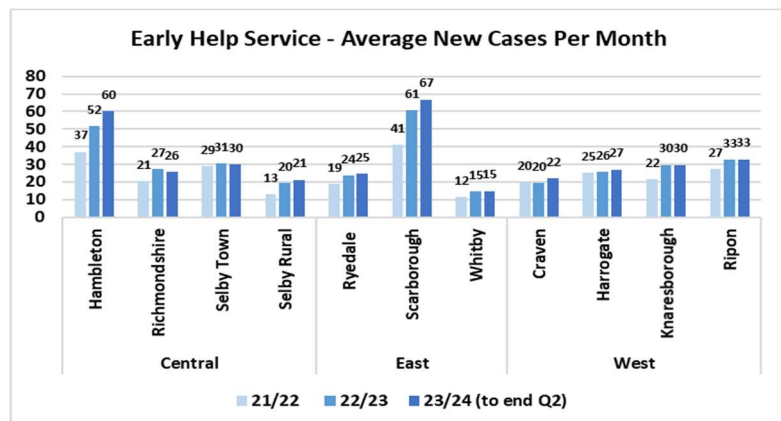
The 6 months to September 2023 have seen a total of 2,188 new Early Help cases. This represents a 19% increase compared with the same period in 2022/23.

Almost every team has seen demand grow year on year over the last 2 years, with Hambleton and Scarborough seeing the greatest increase in average new cases per month:

The service is predicting demand to remain high for at least another 18 months.

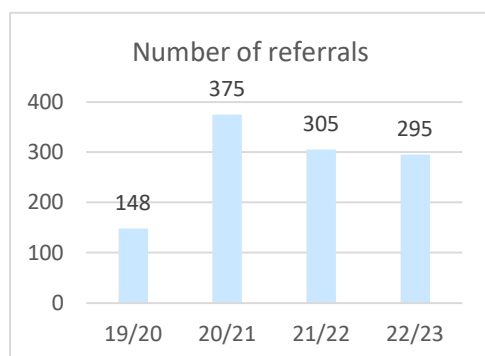
More specific to mental health, Early

Help have a social prescriber, funded for year, supporting children & young people aged 9-18 (or up to 25 (SEND)) who are being seen by Compass Phoenix and/or specialist CAMHS, with mild to moderate mental health needs. The worker links with the voluntary and community sector across Scarborough, helping young people access organisations which can support them best.



## Eating disorders service (TEWV) (excl. Craven)

A county-wide team including psychologist, family therapists, psychiatrists, nursing, dietetics and social workers see young people with significant eating disorders.



Although referral numbers are reducing, they are still double the pre-pandemic levels.

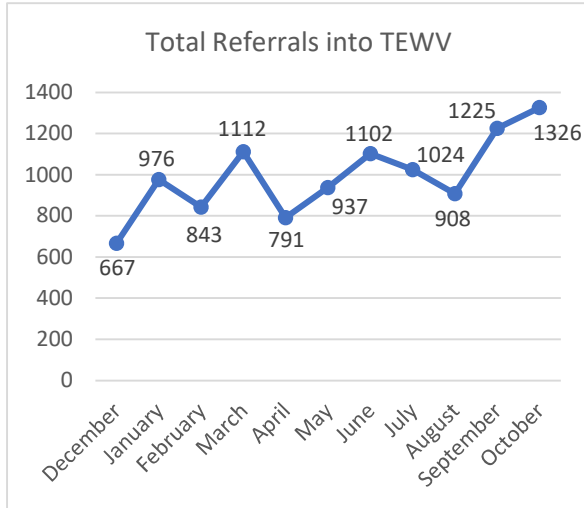
Waiting time standards for urgent (7 days) and routine (28 days) referrals have been met for the last 6 months.

Average time in treatment for the community ED service varies between 9-15 months depending on complexity of the case.

A new Intensive Support Team (IST) commenced Jan 2023, created in response to families requiring more intensive support in the community. This has reduced paediatric re-admissions by 18.5% in 6 months. There has also been a 50% reduction in Tier 4 admissions (the most critical). The Team has supported 20 families with 282 clinical and therapeutic interventions.

**Single Point of Access (SPA) into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) (TEWV)**  
(excl. Craven)

This covers North Yorkshire and York, and Selby. They manage all referrals into TEWV, triaging and determining whether the referrals are appropriate for specialist mental health services.



NB figures here are inclusive of York.

Referrals continue to rise, with the occasional dip coinciding with school holidays.

There are a significant number of referrals that are not suitable for specialist CAMHS services; education for those referring re alternatives, has been identified as a specific need.

The waiting time for an initial, non-urgent assessment through the SPA is currently 3-4 weeks.

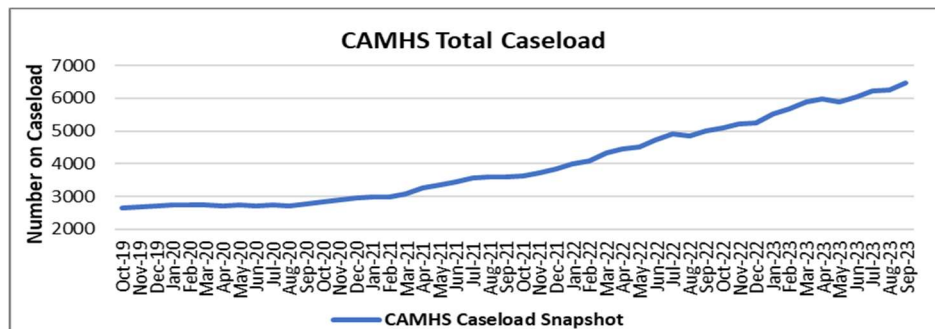
Waiting times for Initial Assessments in specialist community teams for Northallerton and Harrogate area 2-3 weeks, Scarborough 5-6 weeks and Selby 8-10 weeks. (NB these figures do not include assessments for ADHD or autism).

**Specialist CAMHS, Craven**

There has been a significant increase in referrals and caseload numbers since pre-pandemic.

Note that these figures include neurodiversity assessments and

eating disorders, which make up a substantial proportion of the referrals, and they also include Bradford, not just Craven.



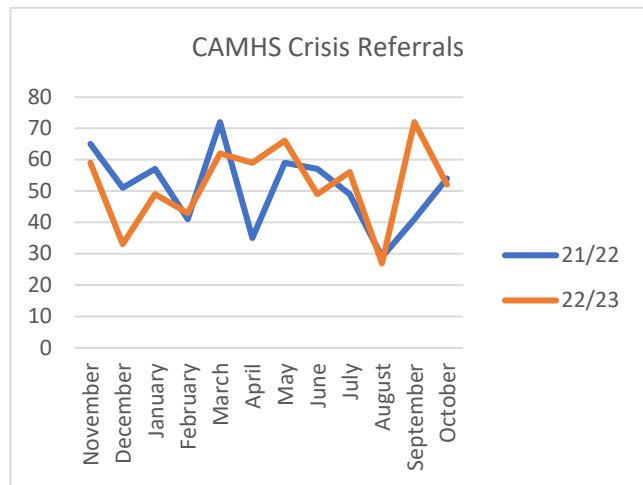
The average wait time from referral to assessment in September 2023 was 11 weeks, 15.5 weeks from assessment to treatment and 22.9 weeks from referral to treatment.

Excluding neurodiversity and eating disorders, nearly 83% of children and young people were waiting less than 18 weeks from referral to commencement of treatment in September 2023. However, whilst waiting, there is a Directory of Children and Young People's Mental Wellbeing Services, as well as voluntary service staff undertaking "safe and well checks" with those waiting.

**Crisis Team (TEWV) (excl. Craven)**

This County-wide team covers all of North Yorkshire and York (excl. Craven). The Team offers 24 hour support to young people who present in mental health crisis, with the majority of work taking place in either Emergency Departments, or in the young person's home. The Team also support young people detained under Section 136 where they have been deemed a risk to themselves or others and have been taken to a designated place of safety. Follow-up is offered where needed and they also support other teams, when those are more appropriate to the young person's needs.

In October 23, there were 26 crisis presentations specific to North Yorkshire, with only 2 breaching the 4 hour Emergency Department waiting target. (NB the figures in the graph include York).



Numbers of those being referred to the Crisis Team have remained roughly similar to last year.



## Interdependent and allied areas

### Autism and neurodiversity

We know that a significant percentage of our young people diagnosed with autism, or other form of neurodiversity, will experience mental health challenges; national data tells us that over 80% of people with autism, but without a learning disability, have mental health difficulties. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge that struggles to obtain either a diagnosis of autism, or the support required, depending on need, can create significant anxiety and stress. Strains within the system of autism diagnosis and support and impact on our mental health and wellbeing system.

Currently, in North Yorkshire, we have 3 different providers of autism assessments (Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust (BDFT), A Better Life (ABL) and Harrogate District Foundation NHS Trust (HDFT)), each with slightly different pathways around diagnosis. Whilst capacity within our assessment services has remained roughly static, referrals for assessment have increased.

Craven	Scarborough/Whitby/Ryedale	Harrogate/Ham&Rich
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provider BDFT</li><li>• Data includes all neurodiversity</li><li>• Waiting list = 132 children (May 23)</li><li>• A new child added to the waiting list from May 23 could wait around 38 months</li><li>• Diagnosis made in over 80%</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provider ABL</li><li>• Capacity 20 referrals/month</li><li>• Demand 27 referrals/month</li><li>• Waiting list = 114 children (Sept 23)</li><li>• Average assessment wait = 44 weeks (Sept 23)</li><li>• Autism diagnosis made in 71-81% (Jan-Sept 23)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provider HDFT</li><li>• Capacity 40 referrals/month</li><li>• Demand 80 referrals/month</li><li>• Waiting list = 1044 children (Sept 23)</li><li>• Ave assessment wait = 58 wks</li><li>• Autism diagnosis made in 92-100% (Jan-Sept 23)</li><li>• New referral system with triage to offer support earlier</li></ul>

HDFT's new pathway where referrals are triaged by a multi-disciplinary team, including a paediatrician and Early Help, appears to be working well. Preliminary feedback is positive, but whether this impacts on waiting times and the mental health of those involved will be monitored.

The new all-age Autism Strategy consultation was launched on 27th November.

### Schools

Schools have a huge role to play in the mental health and wellbeing of young people, even though this role may be less data driven. There are multiple different programmes of work across our North Yorkshire schools around this issue, providing support and promoting wellbeing. Most secondary schools have a Mental Health Lead and all education settings offer pastoral support.

In the last year alone, the **Health Schools Award Programme** has held an online event attended by over 2,000 pupils across the region, as well as 2 celebration events, RHS Harlow Carr in June, and East Barnby Outdoor Learning Centre on 27th November. We specifically asked pupils at the East Barnby event what their schools were doing to support their mental wellbeing:

*"Make sure everyone has someone to play with - if we see someone on their own, we ask them to join in."*

*"Well-being champions in Year 5 - they have weekly meetings and training."*

*"Teachers take time to talk to you when you're sad."*

*"We have well-being brain breaks."*

The children also noted the importance of physical activity and outdoor walks to help their mental health.

We are also using some ICB Health Inequalities funding to embed **My Happy Mind** in Scarborough primary schools, where they learn about emotions, relationships and even some neuroanatomy!

Initial feedback:

80% of staff are now having 1-3 conversations about children's mental wellbeing each week.

93% of teachers said that Happy Breathing benefited their class:



A class of children, parents and teachers all Happy Breathing!



12 Primary schools are taking part (+ 4 pending), as well as a local nursery.

### What more would make a difference?

- An increase in capacity throughout every part of the system, including around physical health in children and young people, where delays in identifying and dealing with problems can adversely affect their mental health.
- More wellbeing programmes in schools and communities, focussing on prevention, e.g. My Happy Mind in primary schools, with capacity within schools to embed and enact the principles.
- Support for staff providing mental health support in non-clinical settings.

## Further specific work around our priorities

1. To ensure a single, connected system at both strategic and provider levels
  - Mental health transformation project, due to recruit to a project team in the next few months
2. To use data, insight and knowledge to inform all parts of the system
  - SEND data dashboard, focussing on early identification of young people with SEND at risk of admission to mental health units
3. To ensure there is focus on prevention, resilience building and advice
  - Thriving group, mapping groups for young people in the Selby area
4. We will concentrate on identifiable, vulnerable groups of children and young people
  - Emotionally based school avoidance, working with parents and carers
  - Transitions work into adult services
5. We will identify and respond to the areas with greatest system pressures and/or need
  - Emerging eating disorders
  - Anglo-American project around older children's mild to moderate needs in Scarborough
  - Attachment and trauma awareness project in schools

## Conclusions

There are multiple factors which have affected the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people over the last few years. Within North Yorkshire, we have a connected and diverse social, emotional and mental health system, working to a common purpose and set of priorities, where goals are clear and gaps can be identified.

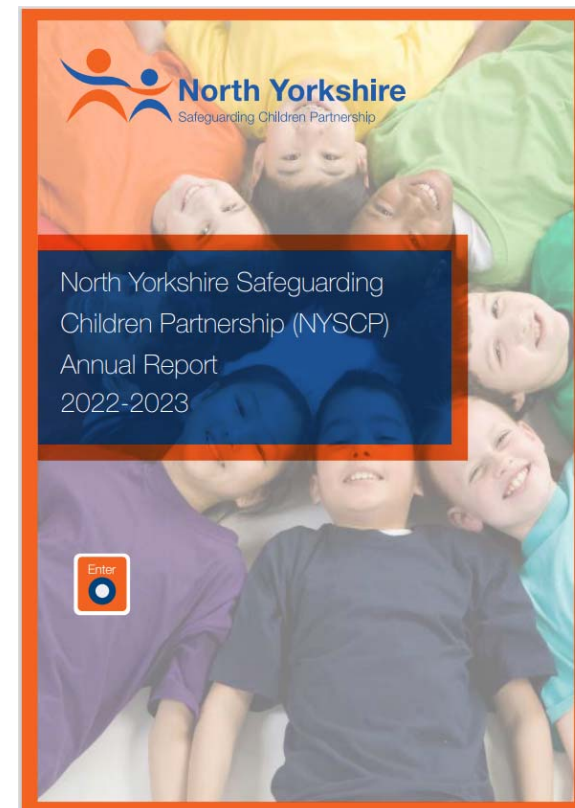
The entirety of the system is colossal, but we appreciate the inter-dependencies and where system pressure affect many of the other linked parts. There is a huge amount of work and innovation happening within that system to respond to pressures and identify areas of specific need. External pressures, including demands on capacity and tight budgets continue to present ongoing challenges. But throughout all of this, we need to remember that our children do not need "fixing" – they need to be supported to be "healthy, happy, safe and achieving in life."

## References

1. Health behaviour in school-aged children: World Health Organisation Collaborative Cross-National Study (HBSC) [2022 FULL REPORT final 21.11.23-1.pdf \(hbscengland.org\)](#)

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# North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022-2023





**Heather Pearson**  
Independent  
Scrutineer



**Scott Bisset**  
Assistant Chief  
Constable,  
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Police



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



**Michelle Carrington**  
Executive Director of  
Quality and Nursing,  
Humber and  
North Yorkshire  
Integrated Care Board



# Being Young in North Yorkshire

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Strategy for children and young people living in North Yorkshire

Theme One

## A safe life

- Protected from harm
- Live in safe communities
- Supported by family networks

Theme Two

## A happy family life

- Families are empowered to be resilient
- School years are happy
- Community support networks help families thrive

Theme Three

## A healthy life

- Promote health and wellbeing through positive choices
- Improve social, emotional and mental health
- Reduce health inequalities

Theme Four

## Achieving in life

- Ensure children are 'school ready'
- Raise achievement levels for all
- Create environments where children have aspirations for their future



# Theme One: A Safe Life

- The MAST (Multi-Agency Screening Team) received a total of 27,707 of contacts over 22/23, an increase of 24% on the previous year.
  - Contacts received from Police accounted for a significant proportion of this increase with 46% more contacts being received than the previous year.
  - More young people have received support from our Early Help services with a 28% increase in new cases this year (4038).
- 1,409 referrals to Children's Social Care were recorded in Q4 2022/23, the highest in the last seven years and 26% higher the same time last year. For the full year there were 4,990 referrals to Children's Social Care, 13% more (558) than in 2021/22
- More children are accessing help at an earlier stage with fewer children requiring Child Protection Plans. The end of the year saw 375 Child Protection Plans (CPP), a reduction of 65 compared to last year.
  - Of those, only 4% of new Child Protection Plans were within a year of a previous Child Protection Plan.
  - The rate of repeat referrals across 2022/23 was 17.0% %, which remains statistically significantly lower than the national average of 22.4%.
  - The number of children in care at the end of 2022/23 was 454, which is higher than the previous period last year (427) but recognises that Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) cared for by the Local Authority has risen.. The number of UASC children has doubled over the last two years to 42 at the end of 2022/23 and will continue to increase.
  - 60% of pupils who go online say they know how to keep themselves safe on the Internet. Nonetheless, 21% say they have friends online that they don't know in real life.
  - 21% of year six pupils told us that they had been bullied at or near school in the last 12 months.





# Theme Two: A Happy Life

- The [Growing Up in North Yorkshire Survey](#) was undertaken to seek a detailed understanding of what daily life is like for children across the age ranges within North Yorkshire.
- The SEMH i-Thrive model identified 80% of North Yorkshire's young people are thriving most of the time.
- 41% of pupils reported that they think their school deals with bullying well.
- 58% of pupils responded that they found school lessons about keeping safe online 'quite' or 'very' useful.
- 57% of pupils responded that they are asked for their opinions about what they learn in school; 41% said their opinions make a difference.
- 45% of pupils found their lessons about emotional health and wellbeing 'quite' or 'very' useful.
- Two-year-old funding take up that supports families on the lowest incomes remains higher than the national average of 74% in North Yorkshire with 86% Autumn 2022 and 82% for Spring 2023.



# Theme Three: A Healthy Life

- Over the year, there has been 28,309 attendances at Accident & Emergency Departments for children as a result of injury. This has been 6% higher than the previous year, however, may be influenced by an increasing confidence in attendance following the post COVID recovery.
- However, fewer young people have required inpatient admission as a result of injury, with 966 admissions, 17% fewer than in 21/22.
- Similarly, fewer children have required admission as a result of substance misuse. For 22/23 there were 148 admission which was 93 fewer than 2021/22.
- 69% of young people aged 10/11 responded that they had found school lessons about healthy eating 'quite' or 'very' useful'.
- 85% of 10 – 11-year-olds said they felt they knew enough about how their body changes as they get older.
- Face to face attendance at Yor-Sexual-Health clinics have seen a reduction this year, however there has been an increased online support offer making it easier for young people to access at any day/time [www.yorsexualhealth.org.uk](http://www.yorsexualhealth.org.uk).
- Year eight and year 10 pupils who do five or more hours of physical activity in a typical week in school (9% in 2020 vs. 15% in 2022) or out of school (35% in 2020 vs. 45% in 2022) has increased.
- There has been an increase in children visiting a dentist with 53% of children in 2022 having been to a dentist in the last year compared to 42% in 2020.



# Theme Four: Achieving in Life

- We know during the COVID lockdown that there was an increase in children Electively Home Educated. As part of the post lockdown recovery we have continued to see a number of children EHE. At the end of the 2022/23 academic year there were 1,022 children in EHE, which is an increase of 103 (11%) on the previous year.
- We also know that for some young people, returning to school has been challenging. During the 2022/23 academic year 2,055 children were excluded from secondary schools for a total of 5,835 fixed term suspensions and 33 children were permanently excluded from their school. Fixed term suspensions of children in primary schools has also increased. Multi-Agency audit work for 23/24 will undertake a deep dive focussing on school exclusions which will identify key themes and learning for the partnership.  
60% of pupils said they are happy being at school 'most of the time' since COVID and lockdown, while 13% said they aren't happy
- 86% of pupils think it is important to go to school regularly
- 33% of boys and 43% of girls in Year 10 said they want to continue in full-time education at the end of their course
- 66% of Year 10 pupils did homework on the evening before the survey. 20% reported they did more than an hour.
- Continued development of our innovative offer to care leavers in North Yorkshire to ensure they have someone to turn to if they need any help or advice or simply to tell someone what they have achieved at any age, even when they are no longer receiving regular support. Over 22/23, we received over 100 requests for this service both individuals asking for advice and sharing achievements throughout the year.



# Achievements in 2022/2023

A Safe Life	A Happy Family Life	A Heathy Life	Achieving in Life
Awareness raising campaigns	Review of SEMH pathway – promotion of i-Thrive model	North Yorkshire Rise	Strengthened support and information around Elective Home Education
ICON – Babies Cry, You can cope	Promotion of The Go-To website	North Yorkshire Packed Lunch Guidance	NYSCP Early Years safeguarding masterclasses
Resources for online safety	‘Growing Healthy’ team	Healthy Start Scheme	Above national average for young people being in education, employment or training.
Domestic abuse training	Suicide and Suicidal Ideation Pathway	Drink Drug Hub	Dingley’s Promise – free online training for early years workers.
NYSCP joint masterclass in response to “Child Protection in England” document		Oral Hygiene training	97% of all private, voluntary and independent early years provision – Good or Outstanding



# NYSCP Partnership Achievement Awards

- NYSCP showcasing the multi-agency work between the 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.



# NYSCP Partnership Achievement Awards Winners

- North Yorkshire Together
  - Supporting young people through the Covid pandemic to keep happy and healthy at home.
- Dr Jonathan Grimbley
  - Named doctor for safeguarding – recognised for going above and beyond in his role.
- Child Death Overview Panel
  - Great multi agency partnership working to prevent future child deaths.
- Polly Newell & Sandra Cooper
  - Specialist Safeguarding Nurses – for leading a detailed investigation into children presenting at emergency departments.
- Dr Joy Shacklock
  - Named GP for Child and adult safeguarding – for setting up a safeguarding team for Primary Care.
- Sergeant Ben Hallewell
  - Constant leader and support for delivery of Prevent Statutory Duty.
- Julia Precious
  - Outreach worker for Sexual Health Team – for high quality partnership working.
- Mary Windsor
  - Children's Social Worker – for going over and above to ensure children are safe.



# Child Safeguarding Practice Review group

- NYC 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 2022/23	3
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 2022/2023 by partners for consideration	4
Of the 4 cases notified to SPRG 2022/2023 for consideration, which have been reviewed locally for learning	4





# Practice Development Subgroup

The Practice Development subgroup seeks to assure and contribute to the development of child safeguarding practice. This is achieved by providing professional challenge and requesting assurance from partner agencies in respect of safeguarding children practice.

During 2022/2023 the subgroup has:

- Continued to raise awareness of the Threshold Guide and Early Help Strategy
- Continued to raise awareness of the Day Night Sleep Right safe sleep campaign
- Planned and delivered Safeguarding Week 2023 activity
- Received feedback from frontline practice to support strategic developments
- Worked with the School Improvement Service, North Yorkshire Council and schools to develop the termly Designated Safeguarding Leads Network Webinars and the delivery of a Designated Safeguarding Leads Conference

## Priorities for 23/24

- Seek to develop the way feedback from frontline practice shapes the work of the subgroup
- Consider how the NYSCP Website can be developed to support the broader focus on the BYINY Priorities





# Learning Improvement Subgroup

The Learning and Improvement Subgroup seeks to identify, report and act upon any examples of local, regional, and national learning through the Learning and Improvement Framework.

During 2022/23 the Learning and Improvement Subgroup has:

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

## Section 11 Audit

Following completion of the Audit the following work has been completed:

- Managing allegations against staff and people in a position of trust podcast.
- Development of a voluntary sector self assessment audit tool, similar to the S11 tool used withing non-statutory organisations.
- Development of a Safeguarding Training Directory
- Awareness raising campaigns and calendar of activities in conjunction with North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board and North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership



# Multi-Agency Safeguarding Thematic Deep Dive Audits

## 2022 – 2023 Deep Dive Audits

1. Multi-Agency Responses to Referrals on the Grounds of Neglect
2. Multi-Agency Responses to Child Exploitation
3. Multi-Agency Responses to Domestic Abuse

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

## Priorities for 2023 - 2024

- Multi-Agency Responses to children and young people suspended or excluded from school
- Multi-Agency Responses to unborn babies.



# Working with Schools

## School Safeguarding Audit

- Bi-annual audit of safeguarding arrangements in primary and secondary education.
- Seeks assurances of the level of safeguarding arrangements
- Identifies areas for training and improvement
- Learning shared via 7 Point Briefing

## Designated Safeguarding Leads Conference

- 225 delegates attended from across North Yorkshire
- Key note speakers and workshops on wide variety of safeguarding themes
- 98% feedback they had learnt new skills they could apply in the workplace
- 92% reported the conference had met expectations.



# Multi Agency Child Exploitation

During 2022/2023 the Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and Contextual safeguarding (CS) arrangements have focussed on our priorities outlined in our [Multi Agency \(MACE\) and Contextual Safeguarding Strategy \(2020/2023\)](#).

Priority 1: Enable partners and communities to work together to protect children and young people.	Priority 2: Focus on Prevention and engagement of children, young people, parents, and carers.
Development of Be Aware knowledge Hub – received over 30000 views	Collaboration and consultation with young people and parents/carers to develop resources and content for Be Aware
Training and learning through masterclasses and Designated Safeguarding Lead conference	Mind of My Own App
Local and national awareness raising campaigns	Hand in Hand delivery to young people and schools
E-bulletin takeover	Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship Service

# Multi Agency Child Exploitation

**Priority 3: Strengthen multi-agency work in response to children and young people identified as at risk and the targeting and disruption of those who pose a risk of harm and locations of concern.**

**Priority 4: Utilise research, innovation, and quality assurance to strengthen practice.**

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Continued focus of sharing of partnership intelligence

Cross partnership data set

Perpetrator on a Page

Focus on quality assurance

Transitional safeguarding

MACE face to face development sessions

Resources and awareness raising in community spaces



# Multi Agency Training and Learning

## Masterclasses

- Parental Conflict
- Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy
- Working with men
- Working with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children
- Ukrainian families as refugees – challenges and opportunities
- Drink Dug Hub

....and many more – all available on our YouTube Channel

## YouTube Channel:

Over 150 subscribers

Over 5.5K views of channel content

614 hours of watch time



# Safeguarding Week 2022

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 in June.

- 53 sessions held over 5 days (increase of 20 from 2021)
- 3,572 registered attendees (increase of 1,000 from 2021)
- 99% felt the sessions were a good learning opportunity
- Most popular topics:
  - Homelessness, substance misuse and mental health.
  - Suicide Prevention and mental health
  - Support for young people impacted by domestic abuse

A wide variety of training from lots of organisations

Awareness raising weeks like this give us more opportunity to focus

Virtual sessions create more opportunities for staff to attend

I cant wait till next year! So many learning opportunities!





# Engagement and social media

## NYSCP E-Bulletin

- Monthly free email to partners to key safeguarding updates
- Subscription 1,925
- Topics covered:
  - Be Aware Knowledge Hub and exploitation
  - NYSCP partnership awards
  - Domestic abuse
  - Online Safety

## Website & Social Media

- NYSCP website
  - 153,665 website sessions
  - 114,092 website users
  - 266,011 webs pages viewed
- Social Media
  - Promoted use of social media as a communication method to engage partners
  - Steady increase of Twitter followers
  - Varying number of Twitter impressions





# Voice of the Child

- Capturing the voice of the child within the work partners do is paramount.
- Audit activity seeks assurance on how professionals are seeking and speaking to children.
- Growing Up in North Yorkshire Survey
  - 17,000 children and young people shared perceptions and experiences of life in North Yorkshire.
- The Youth Commission
  - Enables young people, aged between 10 and 25, to inform, support and challenge the work of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. Comprising of up to 35 young people, they are a diverse group who broadly reflect the make-up of the local population, including those who may have direct experience of the police and the criminal justice system.



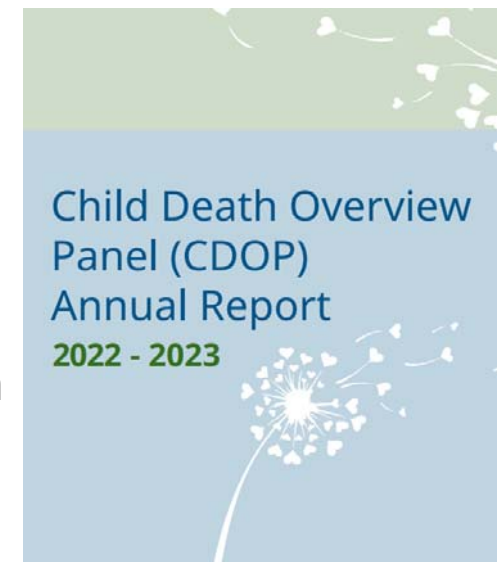
# Child Death Review Process

- 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 2022/2023



# Financial Position and Priorities for 2023-24

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

Organisation	Contribution (£)	Percentage of Budget
North Yorkshire Council	151,600	49%
Integrated Care Board	91,344	30%
North Yorkshire Police	44,633	15%
City of York Partnership (Child Death Contribution)	16,693	5%
HM Prison and Probation Service	2,727	1%

- **Strengthening the role of education in the Partnership**
- **Children and Young People’s Emotional and Mental Health**
- **Promote positives of online engagement whilst minimising the risk children and young people face online**



# Any questions?





**North Yorkshire**

Safeguarding Children Partnership

North Yorkshire Safeguarding  
Children Partnership (NYSCP)  
Annual Report  
2022-2023

Enter

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# Statutory Safeguarding Partner Statements

We are delighted to present the North Yorkshire Children’s Safeguarding Partnership Board Annual Report. This report is a testament to our unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our children and young people in North Yorkshire.

In a world where our children face evolving challenges and uncertainties, our role as the safeguarding partnership is more crucial than ever.

This report is more than a compilation of statistics and achievements; it is a reflection of our collective determination and the incredible work carried out by the board, its partners, and the communities we serve. It offers a comprehensive overview of our activities, successes, and the challenges we’ve encountered, as well as our plans for the future.

Throughout this report, you will find insights into the collaborative efforts that have enabled us to create a safer and more nurturing environment for children and young people in our county.

This report also highlights the voices of those at the heart of our work - the children, young people, and families themselves. We firmly believe that their perspectives are invaluable in shaping our strategies and actions.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.



**Stuart Carlton**  
Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services, North Yorkshire Council



**Michelle Carrington**  
Executive Director of Quality and Nursing, Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

This year has seen a major change in the structure of our NHS with the transition from CCGs to Integrated Care Boards (ICB). In line with statutory guidance, the Humber and North Yorkshire ICB has provided a clear directive to ensure retention of safeguarding expertise ‘at place’. The Designated Professionals for North Yorkshire have been able to continue to provide effective systems leadership to health care providers and ongoing support to partnership working across North Yorkshire.

It is recognised that the move to ICBs offers increased opportunities to share good practice, reduce duplication and learn from the experience of other partnerships across a wide footprint. This work continues to evolve and will be supported by the establishment of the Humber and North Yorkshire ICB Safeguarding Committee during 2023-24.

As ever, it is expected there is more change and challenge ahead with the anticipated revisions of statutory guidance and new practice developments following the Review undertaken by Josh McAllister<sup>3</sup>. The Designated Professionals will continue to build on strong partnership relationships to respond to these challenges to further strengthen safeguarding and children in care practice across North Yorkshire.

<sup>3</sup> MacAlister J. ‘The Independent Review of Children’s Social Care (May 2022) Accessible at: [www.gov.uk/government/groups/independent-review-of-childrens-social-care](http://www.gov.uk/government/groups/independent-review-of-childrens-social-care)



North Yorkshire Police are incredibly proud of the work of the North Yorkshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership. Although our responsibilities are statutory, improving our services to children, families and carers relies on a culture of strong collaboration and relationship building at all levels. Over the past year North Yorkshire Police has recognised the need to improve its approach to safeguarding children and young people. We have worked extensively with our partners and invested significantly to better meet our responsibilities. The early impact of this investment can already be seen in this report, for example the increase in the numbers and quality of referrals, and it remains critically important that the Police works in lockstep with our partners to continually improve our services together and respond proactively to proposed changes to Working Together guidance. This annual report is a testament to all those professionals from across the different agencies who strive to keep children and young people safe and it is right their work is recognised. The Achievement Awards highlighted in this annual report reflect this ongoing work and I am incredibly proud of Sergeant Ben Hallewell who has worked to reduce the risk of people becoming involved in extremism and crime.

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**Scott Bisset**  
Assistant Chief Constable,  
North Yorkshire Police

# Independent Scrutiny Statement

The role of Independent Scrutineer is outlined in the Children and Families Act 2017, and guidance is contained within Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. A key aspect of the role is:

“ to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. This independent scrutiny will be part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorates’ single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections ”

The decision on how best to implement this at a local level is the responsibility of the three statutory partners and partners should ensure that the scrutiny is objective, acts as a constructive critical friend and promotes reflection to drive continuous improvement. It is the responsibility of the Independent Scrutineer to consider how effective the arrangements work for children and families, together with practitioners, and, how the safeguarding partners are providing strong leadership. The local Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) should set out the plans for scrutiny and reviews of the arrangements.

During January 2023 I was appointed as Executive Chair and Independent Scrutineer for the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP). As such this is the first Annual Report in this role, for North Yorkshire, that I have contributed to.

Prior to my appointment, Dr Maggie Atkinson fulfilled the role, supporting the three statutory partners in developing the new arrangements under Working

Together 2018, and, supported the partnership through the challenges of responding to the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic. I would like to thank Maggie on behalf of the partners for undertaking the role and the work she has driven through her tenure.

Looking back over the 12-month reporting period there has been much to focus the partnership. Throughout 2022/23 the national rising cost of living has presented a significant challenge for families. North Yorkshire has provided a wide variety of support schemes delivered by public and voluntary organisations to help support families. In July 2022 the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) transitioned to form the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and this has led to changes in structure and leadership. There have also been changes in the safeguarding leadership within the Police. Change can often present opportunity and I have observed the forming of new, positive and strong strategic relationships at Executive level.

This Annual Report sets out the work that has been undertaken during the reporting period. It outlines the Being Young in North Yorkshire (BYINY) strategy, highlights the priorities and the work undertaken in relation to the priorities and the response to emerging issues. The report outlines the recognition of good practice as well as responding to emerging need and areas for development. The report concludes with the priorities that have been set for 2023 to 2024, these being:

- Strengthening the role of education in the partnership
- Children and Young People’s Emotional and Mental Health
- Promote positives of Online Engagement whilst minimising the risk children and young people face online



I look forward to undertaking both elements of the role I perform in the year ahead and seek to support NYSCP to fulfil the obligations outlined in statute and reflected in Working Together 2018. I will be able to report on the strengths and developments of the partnership more fully in the annual report for 2023/24.

In conclusion, I would like to recognise that the achievements contained within this report are the result of the continued high level of service and support delivered by individuals, teams and organisations across North Yorkshire who display relentless energy and drive to continue to safeguard children and young people in North Yorkshire. Thank you.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Pearson'.

**Heather Pearson**  
Independent Scrutineer  
and Chair for NYSCP

# What is North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership?

Everyone in North Yorkshire shares a commitment to and responsibility for the safeguarding of children. This 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 Council (NYC), the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (formerly the Clinical Commissioning Group or CCG) and North Yorkshire Police (NYP).

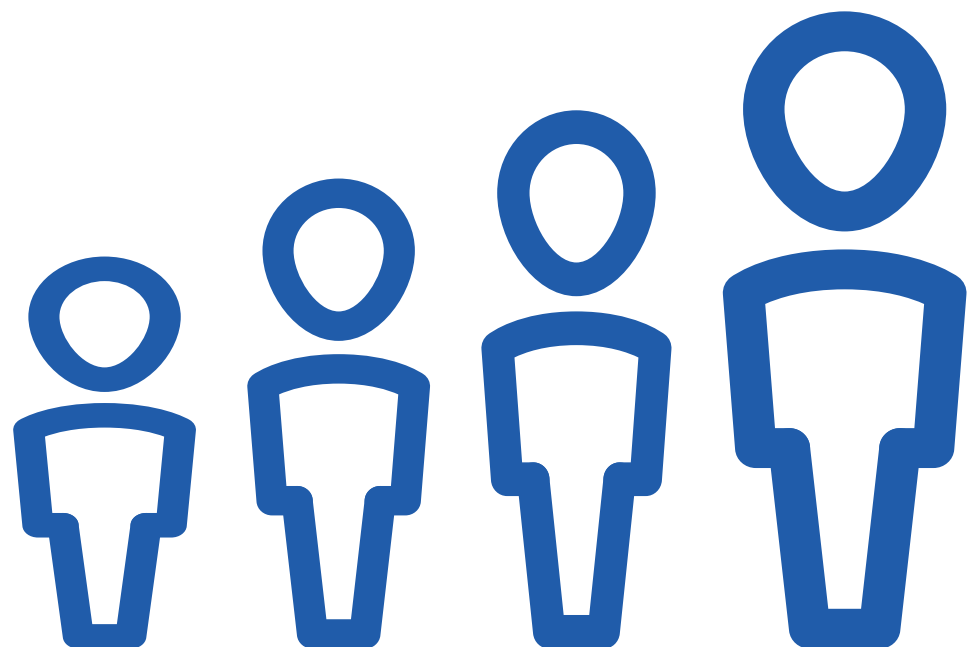
Further information about the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements in North Yorkshire is available from our [website](#).



# Demographics of North Yorkshire

North Yorkshire is the largest geographical county in England covering an area of approximately 3,103 square miles. Although the county is large, it is sparsely populated with a population of 680,847 equating to 77 people per square km. Of those, 113,816 are under 18, based on the latest population estimates taken mid-2021. Across the total population 60% are of working age, 15% are under the age of 16 and 25% of the population are over the age of 65. The life expectancy for someone born today in North Yorkshire is 84 years for females and 80 years of age for males, higher than the national England average of 81 years for females and 79 for males. The life expectancy for someone born in North Yorkshire has risen by 3 years over the past decade, from a life expectancy of 80 years to a life expectancy of 82 years. In England as a whole, life expectancies have risen by 3 years.<sup>3</sup>

The total population of school children is 83,182 and 95.3% of young people aged between 16-17 are in education, employment or training. 84.5% of North Yorkshire primary schools are graded as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted compared to 89.8% nationally. 83.7% of secondary schools in North Yorkshire are Good or Outstanding with 81.4% being the national average.



<sup>3</sup> North Yorkshire Demographics | Age, Ethnicity, Religion, Wellbeing (varbes.com)

# Being Young in North Yorkshire (BYINY)

Being Young in North Yorkshire 2021-2024 is the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Strategy for children and young people living in North Yorkshire. As a partnership, we recognise the diversity across North Yorkshire and how important it is to harness this when agreeing our delivery plans.

Our children and young people are our future, we want them to thrive in North Yorkshire and achieve the best possible outcomes they can.

This 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 for children and young people having:

## Theme One A safe life

- Protected from harm
- Live in safe communities
- Supported by family networks

## Theme Two A happy family life

- Families are empowered to be resilient
- School years are happy
- Community support networks help families thrive

## Theme Three A healthy life

- Promote health and wellbeing through positive choices
- Improve social, emotional and mental health
- Reduce health inequalities

## Theme Four Achieving in Life

- Ensure children are 'school ready'
- Raise achievement levels for all
- Create environments where children have aspirations for their future

# 2022 / 2023 Achievements

Key areas of progress against our four themes

## Theme One

### A safe life

# 1

- The MAST (Multi-Agency Screening Team) received a total of 27,707 of contacts over 22/23, an increase of 24% on the previous year.
- Contacts received from Police accounted for a significant proportion of this increase with 46% more contacts being received than the previous year.
- More young people have received support from our Early Help services with a 28% increase in new cases this year (4038).
- 1,409 referrals to Children's Social Care were recorded in Q4 2022/23, the highest in the last seven years and 26% higher the same time last year. For the full year there were 4,990 referrals to Children's Social Care, 13% more (558) than in 2021/22
- More children are accessing help at an earlier stage with fewer children requiring Child Protection Plans. The end of the year saw 375 Child Protection Plans (CPP), a reduction of 65 compared to last year.
- Of those, only 4% of new Child Protection Plans were within a year of a previous Child Protection Plan.
- The rate of repeat referrals across 2022/23 was 17.0% %, which remains statistically significantly lower than the national average of 22.4%.
- The number of children in care at the end of 2022/23 was 454, which is higher than the previous period last year (427) but recognises that Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) cared for by the Local Authority has risen. The number of UASC children has doubled over the last two years to 42 at the end of 2022/23 and will continue to increase.
- 60% of pupils who go online say they know how to keep themselves safe on the Internet<sup>3</sup>. Nonetheless, 21% say they have friends online that they don't know in real life.
- 21% of year six pupils told us that they had been bullied at or near school in the last 12 months.

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<sup>3</sup> [NYork2022summary \(healthyschoolsnorthyorks.org\)](https://www.healthyschoolsnorthyorks.org)

## Achievements in 22/23

- Jointly with the **North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board**, we have supported and delivered a range of awareness raising campaigns across topics such as National Stalking Awareness Week, Honour Based Violence, Child Abuse, Internet Safety, Child Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation and Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence. Our calendar of activity for the year can be viewed [here](#).
- The **ICON - Babies Cry, You Can Cope** programme supports parents and carers to manage normal infant crying and to prevent abusive head trauma injuries to babies caused by shaking, also referred to as 'shaken baby syndrome'. ICON is an evidenced-based programme designed to help parents and carers understand the normal crying pattern of young infants and to help them develop successful

copied mechanisms to deal with this. Work within health and partner agencies has been undertaken to ensure the ICON message is consistently shared with parents and carers. We have found consistent evidence in audits and reviews that shows the ICON message is being shared with parents in line with agreed procedures in North Yorkshire. Following the publication of the **Child Protection in England** report published May 22, partners from NYSCP collaborated to produce a partnership response to the report, reflecting on the recommendations through a North Yorkshire lens. The learning was then collated onto a [webpage on the NYSCP website](#).

- NYSCP have developed a range of resources to support parents and carers in understanding online safety including resources around:
  - **Games, consoles, smart devices and how to keep your child safe**
  - **Online Safety**
  - **Reporting online images of my child**
- We have facilitated the training of a CEOP Education Ambassador to support the sharing of specialist training and resources for frontline professionals, parents/carers and children and young people.
- The Schools Designated Safeguarding Leads Conference in October 22 welcomed keynote speakers from the Marie Collins Foundation and E-Safety Ltd focussing on technology assisted child abuse, delivered to over 200 schools.
- We have worked collaboratively with the Marie Collins Foundation to promote **Click Path to Protection** training to frontline professionals and managers across North Yorkshire, ensuring professionals are equipped with the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of children harmed by technology assisted abuse and exploitation.
- NYSCP delivered a Safeguarding Masterclass on Parental Conflict in April 22 to over 32 delegates and to a further 15 utilising the **NYSCP YouTube Channel**.
- Jointly commissioned through North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council, a range of training sessions have been delivered around **Domestic Abuse**, led by **IDAS**.
- North Yorkshire Children and Families and Foxstones Training and Learning delivered a training event to over 50 senior strategic leaders across North Yorkshire, focussing on parental conflict and the impact on children and young people.
- In November 2022, we promoted the **'NotMyChild'** campaign following a 15-year-old girl from North Yorkshire who tragically lost her life after taking two MDMA bombs. This campaign was supported the young girl's Mum Kerry and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to encourage parents and carer givers to have early and positive conversations about drugs and other substances with their children.
- ICON will be further explored as part of Thematic Review currently being undertaken by the Designated Nurses on behalf of NYSCP
- NYSCP safeguarding masterclass delivered to professionals across to share the learning following the national review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson as part of safeguarding week in 2023 **NYSCP (safeguardingchildren.co.uk)**
- A commitment was given by NYSCP in March 23 regarding greater awareness raising around parental conflict across our partnership over the coming year 2023/24.





## Theme Two

# A happy family life

# 2

- The [Growing Up in North Yorkshire Survey](#) was undertaken to seek a detailed understanding of what daily life is like for children across the age ranges within North Yorkshire.
- The SEMH i-Thrive model identified 80% of North Yorkshire's young people are thriving most of the time.
- 41% of pupils reported that they think their school deals with bullying well.
- 58% of pupils responded that they found school lessons about keeping safe online 'quite' or 'very' useful.
- 57% of pupils responded that they are asked for their opinions about what they learn in school; 41% said their opinions make a difference.
- 45% of pupils found their lessons about emotional health and wellbeing 'quite' or 'very' useful.
- Two-year-old funding take up that supports families on the lowest incomes remains higher than the national average of 74% in North Yorkshire with 86% Autumn 2022 and 82% for Spring 2023.

## Achievements in 22/23

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- The partnership aim was to improve the emotional wellbeing and resilience in all children and young people. It is recognised that children will not be happy all of the time and it is important for children to identify and understand difficult thoughts, feelings and emotions. At times in all our lives, we will experience challenges however, what is important is that children and young people know where to get support and when this should be accessed.
- We have reviewed our Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) pathways, monitored through the SEMH Strategic Board. This review is underpinned by the i-Thrive Model which aims to promote children and young people's access to the right support at the right time. Children and young people have co-produced [posters and leaflets](#) which have been distributed to schools to support this work.
  - Continued promotion of The Go-To website ([www.thegoto.org.uk](http://www.thegoto.org.uk)) resulting in increased website users and delivery of a "Let's Talk" session with Parent/Carer Voice which has developed a targeted communications package to promote The Go To. This can be viewed [here](#).
  - Establishment of the 'Growing Healthy' team to offer support to children and young people around anxiety, exam stress, low mood, anger, managing emotions, emerging and disordered eating and self-esteem. This support is delivered by Emotional Resilience Nurses, Children's Well-being Practitioners (CWPs) and Family Health Practitioners.
  - Support delivered through the Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) in schools has begun with a successful bid for funding to support the launch of a Mental Health Support Team in Scarborough.
  - NYSCP have strengthened the training and awareness available as part of the [Self-Harm and Suicidal Ideation Pathway](#) available to professionals around self-harm and suicide. The range of different courses including [Head First](#), [Mental Health First Aid Training](#), [Safe Talk](#), [Zero Suicide Alliance](#), [Psychological First Aid](#) can be accessed [here](#).

## Theme Three

# A healthy life

# 3

- Over the year, there has been 28,309 attendances at Accident & Emergency Departments for children as a result of injury. This has been 6% higher than the previous year, however, may be influenced by an increasing confidence in attendance following the post COVID recovery.
- However, fewer young people have required inpatient admission as a result of injury, with 966 admissions, 17% fewer than in 21/22.
- Similarly, fewer children have required admission as a result of substance misuse. For 22/23 there were 148 admission which was 93 fewer than 2021/22.
- 69% of young people aged 10/11 responded that they had found school lessons about healthy eating 'quite' or 'very' useful'.
- 85% of 10 - 11-year-olds said they felt they knew enough about how their body changes as they get older.
- Face to face attendance at Yor-Sexual-Health clinics have seen a reduction this year, however there has been an increased online support offer making it easier for young people to access at any day/time [www.yorsexualhealth.org.uk](http://www.yorsexualhealth.org.uk).
- Year eight and year 10 pupils who do five or more hours of physical activity in a typical week in school (9% in 2020 vs. 15% in 2022) or out of school (35% in 2020 vs. 45% in 2022) has increased.
- There has been an increase in children visiting a dentist with 53% of children in 2022 having been to a dentist in the last year compared to 42% in 2020.

## Achievements in 22/23

- A survey has been undertaken to inform our Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) work including Emerging Eating Disorders, the promotion and development of The Go-To website and development of resources for example the [marketplace](#).
- Supporting young people with problematic substance use, [North Yorkshire Rise](#) have been able to ensure they receive timely and effective support to reduce harm, meeting national targets to ensure treatment within 21 days of referral. Further investment has also supported the recruitment of a new young person's practitioner in Scarborough. The service reached their 22/23 target and by the end of Q4, had supported 135 young people.
- Promotion of the [North Yorkshire Packed Lunch Guidance](#) to professionals across North Yorkshire as well as continued promotion of the Healthy Start scheme across our education providers.
- Development of [Drink Drug Hub](#) with specific resources for young people to raise awareness and knowledge around substances and their effects as well as key harm reduction messages including advice around vaping and psychoactive substances.
- A new offer is now available to support the dental needs of children in care as well as [training for professionals, e-learning packages](#) for those working with all children and young people as well as free oral hygiene training arranged and promoted across the early years sector.
- NYSCP have also developed a multi-agency standard operating procedure for the management of young people awaiting availability of suitable CAMHS Inpatient Services. This can be viewed [here](#).
- Health inequalities funding has also been secured in partnership with Public Health to develop an Active Start physical development programme for 0- 4-year-old children.



## Theme Four

# Achieving in Life

# 4

- We know during the COVID lockdown that there was an increase in children Electively Home Educated. As part of the post lockdown recovery we have continued to see a number of children EHE. At the end of the 2022/23 academic year there were 1,022 children in EHE, which is an increase of 103 (11%) on the previous year.
- We also know that for some young people, returning to school has been challenging. During the 2022/23 academic year 2,055 children were excluded from secondary schools for a total of 5,835 fixed term suspensions and 33 children were permanently excluded from their school. Fixed term suspensions of children in primary schools has also increased. Multi-Agency audit work for 23/24 will undertake a deep dive focussing on school exclusions which will identify key themes and learning for the partnership.
- 60% of pupils said they are happy being at school 'most of the time' since COVID and lockdown, while 13% said they aren't happy
- 86% of pupils think it is important to go to school regularly
- 33% of boys and 43% of girls in Year 10 said they want to continue in full-time education at the end of their course
- 66% of Year 10 pupils did homework on the evening before the survey. 20% reported they did more than an hour.
- Continued development of our innovative offer to care leavers in North Yorkshire to ensure they have someone to turn to if they need any help or advice or simply to tell someone what they have achieved at any age, even when they are no longer receiving regular support. Over 22/23, we received over 100 requests for this service both individuals asking for advice and sharing achievements throughout the year.

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## Achievements in 22/23

- We have strengthened the support and information around Elective Home Education through **One Minute Guides** and through information that is given to parents considering **Electively Home Educating** their child supported by a team of 4 Elective Home Education Advisors whom parents/carers or professionals can contact if they have any queries. This is continually monitored through our NYSCP sub-groups to ensure children and young people continue to receive every opportunity to succeed in life.
- This year NYSCP have hosted specific evening early years safeguarding masterclasses for those working across the early years sector, supporting professionals to keep up to date with key safeguarding issues and partnership working at a time that works best for them.
- Young people in North Yorkshire continue to perform above the national average in terms of being in employment, education or training when they leave care.
- We have implemented Dingley's Promise, free online training to all our early years workforce to upskill them working with children and specifically with those who have delayed development and/or SEND.
- As at the 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 23, 97% of all our private, voluntary and independent early years provision in North Yorkshire is graded as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.
- Furthermore, 70.3% of children at end of year Reception achieve a good level of development which is 3% more than national average of 67%.

# NYSCP Partnership Achievement Awards

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

*Working in the field of safeguarding children and children in care practice can be both highly rewarding and exceptionally demanding. Above all else, the recipients of these awards have demonstrated one common goal, to keep the children and young people of North Yorkshire safe and able to thrive. These awards provide an opportunity for the Strategic Partners to say a very big 'thank you!' to the recipients for their exceptional work*

The Partnership Achievement Awards are given to individuals or groups working or volunteering with children and young people. Awards have been presented to the following professionals and teams over 2022/2023:



North Yorkshire Together - A partnership of three voluntary sector organisations - Rural Arts, North Yorkshire Youth and North Yorkshire Sport, who are committed to improving the lives of North Yorkshire residents. At the start of the covid pandemic they pooled resources to support young people to keep healthy and happy at home via creativity, physical activity and wellbeing resources.



Sergeant Ben Hallewell from North Yorkshire Police who is a constant leader and supporter within the delivery of the Prevent statutory duty. Sergeant Hallewell's ability to constructively challenge practice has led to young people being engaged with prevent and diverted them from criminal processes and custodial sentences.

Dr Jonathan Grimbley, Named Doctor for Safeguarding children at South Tees Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, who was recognised by his colleagues as going above and beyond in his role and exemplifies the best characteristics of a named doctor.

The Child Death Overview Panel for North Yorkshire and City of York who always show a great example of multi-agency partnership working to prevent future deaths where possible. Their work has received a number of requests to share good practice with external professionals.

Dr Joy Shacklock, Named GP for Child and Adult Safeguarding for North Yorkshire, who was part of setting up the safeguarding team for Primary care within North Yorkshire and was instrumental in its success. Dr Shacklock is always an excellent advocate and ambassador for safeguarding.



Julia Precious, is an Outreach Nurse within Sexual Health team, who was recognised for her high quality work and working with partner agencies to facilitate and develop knowledge of her team's role.

Mary Windsor is a Children's Social Worker, within Children and Families service at North Yorkshire Council. Mary was recognised for the support she provides to schools and families and always going over and above to ensure children are safe.

Polly Newell and Sandra Cooper are Specialist Safeguarding Nurses within York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust. They were recognised as having led a detailed investigation into children and young people presenting within emergency departments, from this they were able to clearly identify gaps in service provision and opportunities for multi-agency working which has led to new safeguarding and clinical processes within the Trust.

NYSCP is looking for nominations for future achievement awards. More information about how you can nominate individuals, teams or services can be found at [www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/partnership-award](http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/partnership-award).



# Child Safeguarding Practice Review Group

North Yorkshire Council is duty-bound to notify the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (CSPRP) and by extension the Department for Education and OFSTED, if it knows or suspects a child has died or been seriously harmed and abuse or 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.

Number of notifications made to the CSPRP in 2022/2023	3
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 2022/2023 by partners for consideration	4
Of the 5 cases notified to SPRG 2022/2023 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 are presented 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. The feedback NYSCP have received from the National Panel have consistently feedback that our submission to them have been consistently recognised as being thorough and identifying appropriate learning.

# Practice Development Subgroup

The Practice Development subgroup seeks to assure and contribute to the development of child safeguarding practice. This is achieved by providing professional challenge and requesting assurance from partner agencies in respect of safeguarding children practice.

During 2022/2023 the subgroup has:

- Continued to raise awareness of the Threshold Guide and Early Help Strategy
- Continued to raise awareness of the Day Night Sleep Right safe sleep campaign
- Planned and delivered Safeguarding Week 2023 activity

Received feedback from frontline practice to support strategic developments  
Worked with the School Improvement Service, North Yorkshire Council and schools to develop the termly Designated Safeguarding Leads Network Webinars and the delivery of a Designated Safeguarding Leads Conference

## Priorities for 2023 - 2024

- Seek to develop the way feedback from frontline practice shapes the work of the subgroup
- 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](http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/procedures-practice-guidance-and-one-minute-guides)

# Learning Improvement Subgroup

The Learning and Improvement Subgroup seeks to identify, report and act upon any examples of local, regional, and national learning through the Learning and Improvement Framework.

During 2022/23 the Learning and Improvement Subgroup has:

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

## S11 audit

Following the completion of the 2020 - 2021 Section 11 and Governance Audit, which was carried out in partnership with the Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) across North Yorkshire and the City of York, a number of pieces of work have been delivered:

1. A managing allegations against staff and people in a position of trust [podcast](#).
2. NYSCP and the Safeguarding Adult Board have worked with partners in the voluntary sector to develop a self-assessment audit tool similar to the Section 11 and Governance Audit tool for use by within non-statutory organisation
3. Development of a Safeguarding Training Directory
4. Coordinated a range of awareness campaigns and calendar of activities across North Yorkshire in conjunction with the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board and North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership. Strengthening of the arrangements for reporting safeguarding concerns between NYSCP and Independent Schools.

## Working with Schools

### School Safeguarding Audit

Between December 22 and March 23, the NYSCP commenced its bi-annual 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. The audit responses are being analysed and the learning will be shared through a 7 point briefing with all schools and wider partners.

### Designated Safeguarding Leads Conference

In October 2022, NYSCP delivered a conference for Designated Safeguarding Leads across North Yorkshire which was attended by over 225 delegates from schools across North Yorkshire and focussed on:

- Technology Assisted Child Sexual Abuse (TACSA)
- What children and young people are doing online and the real risks and challenges that they face.
- Child Exploitation, Contextual Safeguarding and County Lines.
- Supporting Education Settings in Identifying those impacted by Hate Incidents and vulnerable to radicalisation.
- Safeguarding children from black and minoritised communities
- Virtual school: an introduction to the impact of trauma on education including attendance: See a child differently and you see a different child
- Poverty proofing

98% of attendees feedback that they felt they had learnt new skills and were able to apply what they had learnt to the workplace.

92% reported the conference met their expectations. Planning is now underway for a second conference in October 2023.

# Multi-agency Safeguarding Learning Themed Audits

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 2022/2023 we have undertaken three Learning Themed Audits:

1. Multi-Agency Responses to Referrals on the Grounds of Neglect
2. Multi-Agency Responses to Child Exploitation
3. Multi-Agency Responses to Domestic Abuse

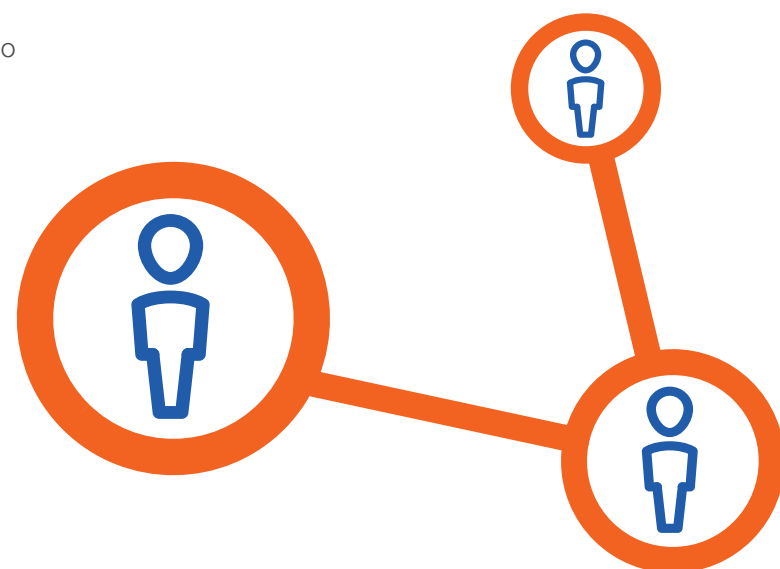
For more information about the learning from audits, visit our published 7-point briefings: [NYS CP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://www.nyscp.org.uk/safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

## Audit Priorities for 2023 / 2024

The Learning and Improvement Subgroup have identified the following Learning Theme Audits to be carried out in 2023-2024:

Multi-Agency Responses to Children and Young People who have been Excluded from School. This audit seeks to identify key themes surrounding the multi-agency responses to children and young people who have been suspended or excluded from school.

Multi-Agency Response to Unborn Babies. This audit will explore how potential safeguarding concerns are identified and assessed prior to birth and measure practice against the revised multi-agency practice guidance.



# Multi-agency Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

During 2022/2023 the Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and Contextual safeguarding (CS) arrangements have focussed on our priorities outlined in our [Multi Agency \(MACE\) and Contextual Safeguarding Strategy \(2020/2023\)](#).

It focusses on:

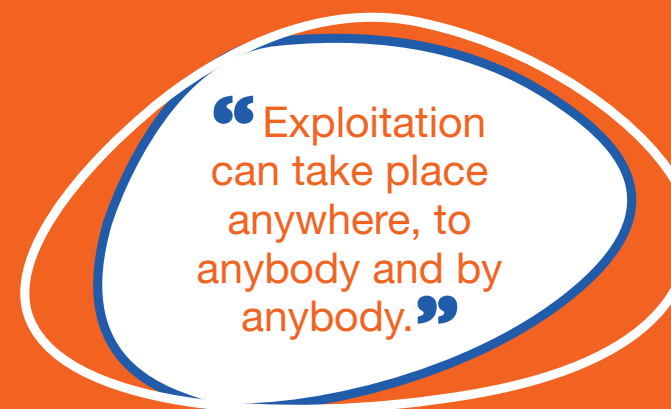
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) including County Lines
- Children missing from home (MFH)
- Harmful sexual behaviour
- Modern day slavery and human trafficking (MSHT)
- Online Child exploitation
- Wider contextual safeguarding.

**Priority 1: Enable partners and communities to work together to protect children and young people.**

### Achievements in 2022/2023

Development of our [Be Aware Knowledge Hub](#) which was relaunched in June 22. The hub is regularly updated to include key information pertinent to North Yorkshire as well as national and regional themes and trends. Consultation work with PSHE leads in schools has also enabled us to include a collection of age-appropriate lesson plans and additional resources for schools.

In 2022/2023, the BeAware site received nearly 30,000 views and received positive feedback from young people, partners and parents about its use.



*“Be Aware is a fantastic resource with vital information presented in an accessible way, tailored to different school stakeholders. It has been brilliant to signpost parents to Be Aware to raise the profile and enhance their understanding of an important local safeguarding matter and staff have found it an extremely valuable go-to resource for all areas of child exploitation.”*

NYS CP have strengthened the MACE arrangements this year through the recruitment of a Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding Officer who will support the work of MACE across North Yorkshire and act as an independent chair of our MACE Level 2 meetings as well as our [National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#) panel from Spring 2023.

- **Training and updates** in relation to child exploitation have been shared with partners through masterclasses, as well as delivery to Designated Safeguarding leads as part of the safeguarding conference.



- Hope for Justice training delivered to 90 multi-agency partners around modern slavery and the NRM across North Yorkshire and City of York.
- Promotion of national campaigns such as the **National Working Group** Child Exploitation Awareness Day and the **Children's Society #Lookcloser campaign**, via social media and through partnership briefing packs.
- NYSCP **E-Bulletin takeover**, delivering key messages and updates from partners around exploitation resulting in a significant increase in visits to the Be Aware site.

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North Yorkshire  
Safeguarding Children Partnership

**BeAware**  
of child exploitation  
in **North Yorkshire**

**A Hub for Everyone  
in North Yorkshire,  
so we can tackle Child  
Exploitation together.**

- Raise awareness
- Spot the signs
- Know where to go for help and advice
- How to share concerns

[www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/beaware](http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/beaware)  
Scan the QR code to find out more

## Priority 2: Focus on Prevention and engagement of children, young people, parents, and carers.

### Achievements in 2022/2023

Collaboration with parents, carers young people as well as partners such as PACE (Parents Against Child Exploitation), Youth council, the Youth Commission and Detached Youth work services to develop the Be Aware knowledge hub's young people and parents and carers section.

*“My children are aged 10 and 12 and a friend forwarded me the link to be Be Aware site. I had not seen it before, but I thought it was a great resource that would be useful to lots of groups. Some of the messages were very powerful and emotive....I think having this practical information available to everyone in an easy way to understand format is really important for safeguarding matters.”*

- Increased promotion of the use of the 'Mind of My own' app. The App is used by Children and Families Service and is a tool to capture the voices and experiences of children and young people.
- Supported the work of our partners in engaging in prevention work. This has included North Yorkshires Hand in Hand Service delivering 48 sessions in primary and secondary schools to 433 children and young people and PACE working with 58 families and delivering training to 2490 individuals who reported an 86% increased understanding of child exploitation.
- Development of the role of our Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship service continues to in providing advice to professionals, direct work with children and young people as well as advisory support within our NRM panels.

## Priority 3: Strengthen multi-agency work in response to children and young people identified as at risk and the targeting and disruption of those who pose a risk of harm and locations of concern.

### Achievements 2022/2023

- Continued focus around the use of the **Police Partnership information sharing form**.
- Strengthening of our arrangements around those who **pose a risk of by exploitation** towards young people, including the development of 'Perpetrator on a Page' created by Police and shared within our MACE Level 2 meetings outlining the risk posed by individuals or groups and outlines relevant intelligence collection plans.
- An ongoing strategic focus on the support for victims of exploitation as they move through periods of transition, particularly as they approach adulthood and turn 18 and may still be vulnerable to exploitation.
- Disseminating resources and awareness raising materials to **local business and communities** as well as through our Local Safeguarding Partnerships from our Be Aware knowledge hub to develop community links and increase awareness of warning signs and sharing information to tackle and disrupt exploitation.

## Priority 4: Utilise research, innovation, and quality assurance to strengthen practice.

- Development of cross partnership dataset that highlights themes, patterns and trends in our locality areas to drive understanding of the risk of exploitation and identify those children who may be at risk.
- Consistent focus on quality assurance through our MACE Strategic, Operational and Level 1 and 2 arrangements.
- Development of a series of MACE face to face development sessions for delivery in Summer 23, providing partners with an opportunity to come together, build partnership links and share good practice and innovation.

North Yorkshire  
Safeguarding Children Partnership

**Multi Agency  
Child Exploitation (MACE)  
and Contextual Safeguarding  
Strategy 2020/23**

Enter

# Multi-agency Training and Learning

Our masterclasses are recorded and can be viewed via our NYSCP YouTube Channel available from [www.youtube.com/@nyscp](https://www.youtube.com/@nyscp) 446 people booked on NYSCP Masterclasses for 2022-2023, with 380 delegates in attendance. Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 these recordings received over 1,614 views. Our masterclasses can all be viewed through our [website](#), which we have found is a really effective way of reaching wider partners and supporting them to facilitate their own learning at a time that works for them if they are not able to attend the live masterclass.

Parental conflict	Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (SUDI)	Working with Men Virtual Conference
Working with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children	Be Aware and Safeguarding Partnership Training	Day and Night Sleep Right
NYSCP Quickfire Updates	Responding to cases of domestic abuse and sexual abuse; safeguarding children from BME communities	Safer Recruitment and Domestic Violence
Ukrainian families as refugees - Challenges and Vulnerabilities	Fire Awareness and Cyber Crime	Early Years
Counter terrorism	Drink Drug Hub	Sexual Abuse Assessment Centre (SARC)

We have gained an additional 64 subscribers via our YouTube channel and received 5.5K views of channel content, accounting for 614 hours of watch time. Our most watched YouTube videos for 2022-2023 were:

1. Contextual Safeguarding Keynote by Dr Carlene Firmin with 636 views
2. The NYSCP Early Years Masterclass October 2022 with 436 views
3. NYSCP Thresholds Video V6 - with 432 views
4. Sudden Unexpected deaths in Infancy (SUDI) with 357 views
5. The NYSCP Be Aware Masterclass with 191 views

## Safeguarding Week 2022

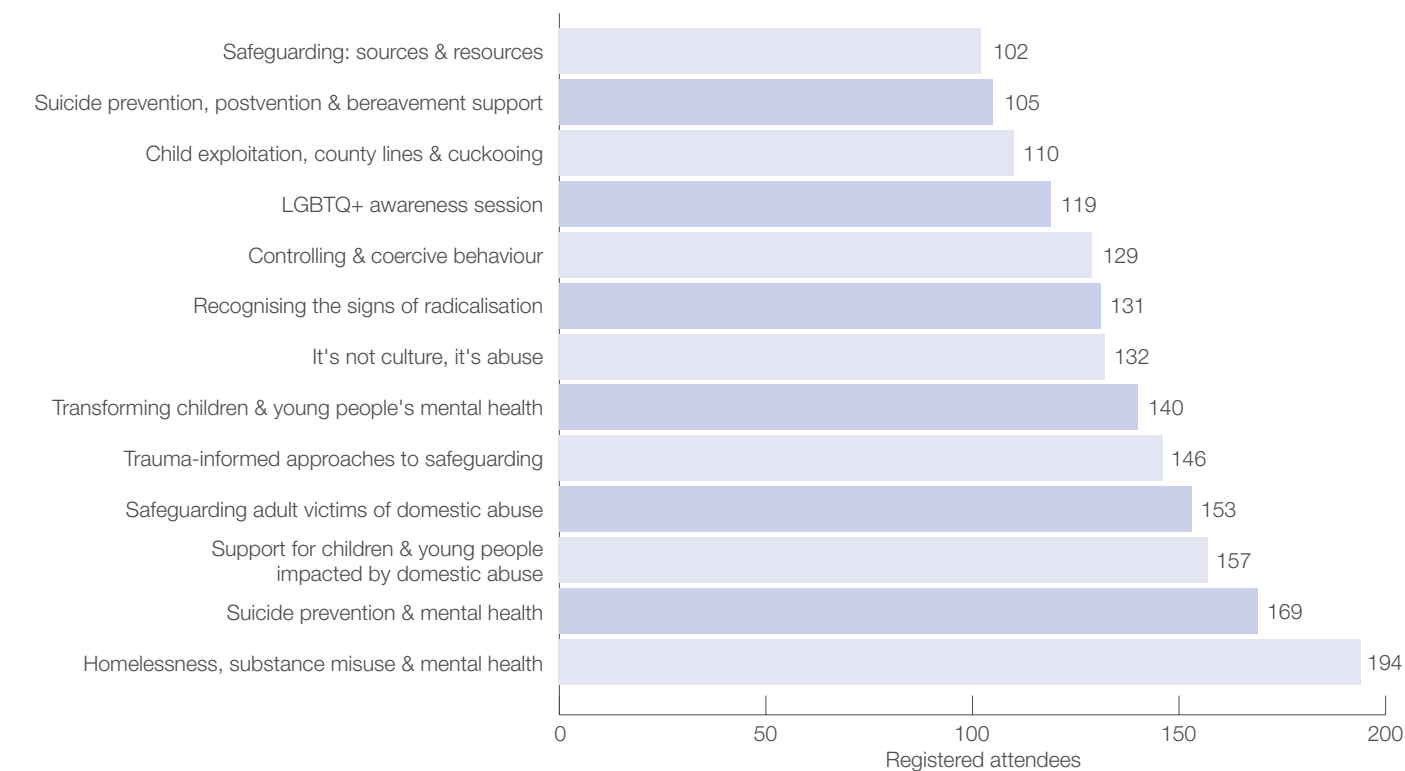
Safeguarding Week is the annual event supported by the NYSCP, NYSAB and NYCSP.

During the week partners across the County ran:

- 53 sessions held over 5 days (2 cancelled)
- 3,572 registered attendees



### Most popular topics for Safeguarding Week 2022



99% of all attendees reported they felt that the Safeguarding Week sessions they attended were a good learning opportunity. Feedback included:



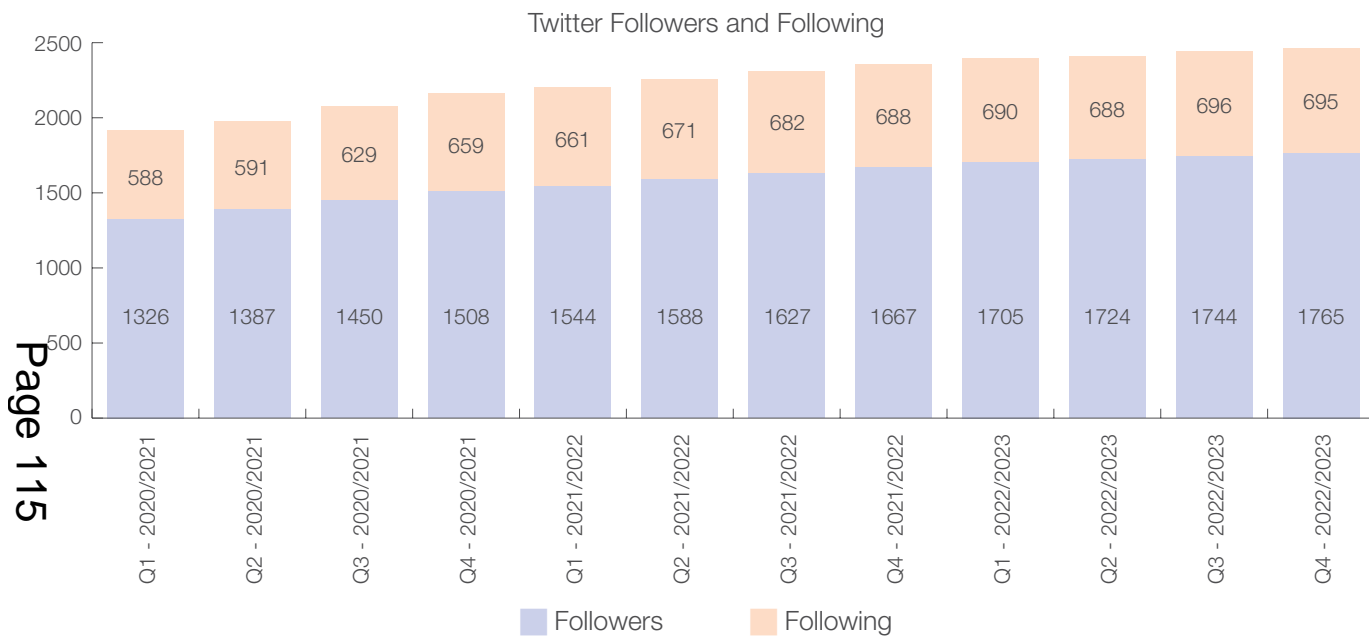
## NYSCP Website

Throughout the year, usage of the NYSCP website has continued to increase. Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 there were:

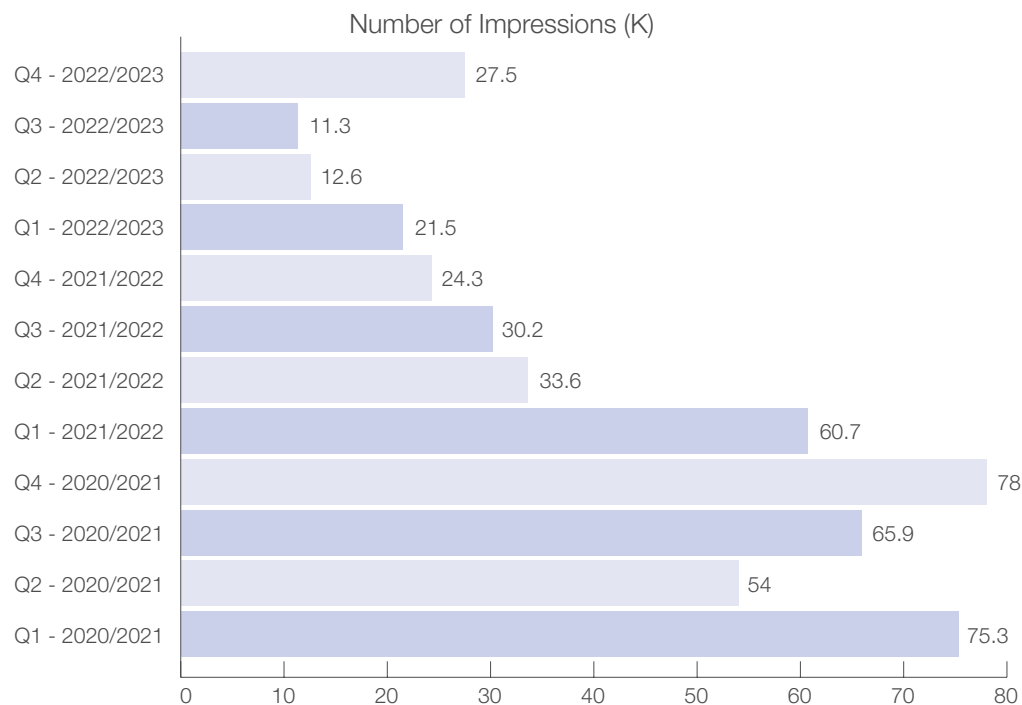
- 153,665 website sessions
- 114,092 website users
- 266,011 web pages viewed

## Social Media

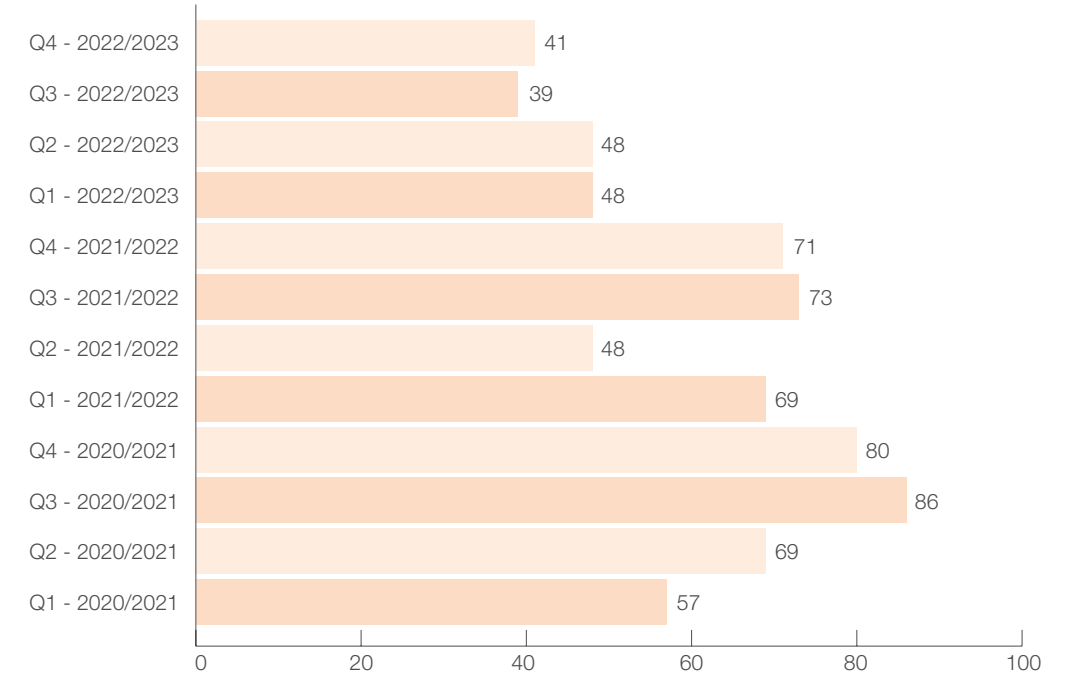
The NYSCP supports the use of social media as a communication method of engaging with professionals across North Yorkshire. The number of follows has continued to grow steadily over the last two years.



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Number of Tweets



The number of tweets varied across the year with a higher rate in the first few quarters due to greater usage during the pandemic. The number of impressions (i.e. times when the NYSCP has appeared on a user's twitter homepage) has varied significantly over the year. It is understood that throughout the Pandemic there was a high use of Twitter and other online resources; following the pandemic there has been decrease in visits to the NYSCP Twitter page.

## NYSCP E-bulletin

Our monthly free e-bulletin continues to grow with 1,925 people subscribed. The e-bulletin has covered a wide range of topics including:

- Promoting Safeguarding Week
- The NYSCP Be Aware Knowledge Hub
- Domestic abuse
- Working with men
- Online Safety
- Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy and ICON
- Dog Safety
- Campaigns
- The NYSCP Partnership Awards
- Training

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



# Child Death Review Process

Child Death Review partners, the Local Authorities and 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.

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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

## ‘Day or Night, Sleep Right’

Between 2017 and 2022, North Yorkshire Council (NYC) and City of York Council (COY) have had 10 babies who have died with a recorded cause of death

as SUDI. In March 2021 a paper was presented to NYSCP Executives highlighting the need for a partnership response to reducing the risks of SUDI, with a particular focus on supporting families with additional vulnerabilities. This paper was in response to findings from a report published by the Safeguarding Children Practice Review Panel in July 2020 and learning arising from a number of North Yorkshire and York cases where there had been the unexpected death of an infant in families with existing safeguarding vulnerabilities.

The partnerships agreed to adopt a “Prevent and Protect Model” of SUDI Risk Minimisation. This model was subsequently named the ‘*Day or Night, Sleep Right*’ campaign and aimed to look at SUDI risk minimisation through a safeguarding lens, focusing on supporting professionals from all relevant agencies to feel competent and confident to work with families to promote safe sleep practice. In addition to an extensive program of single agency training, multi-agency training is available to practitioners. A multiagency masterclass developed which was developed which has now had **446** views on the NYSCP YouTube channel and SUDI podcast has been listened to **76** times.

The *Day or Night, Sleep Right* work is ongoing with the aim of establishing safe sleep as a fundamental aspect of multiagency work with families with additional vulnerabilities.

The campaign has been recognised by researchers at Durham University (Durham Infancy and Sleep Centre) as one of very few multiagency SUDI risk minimisation programmes across the Country’.

**NYSCP ([safeguardingchildren.co.uk](http://safeguardingchildren.co.uk))**

# 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 doing all they can to be child focused and listen to the voices of our service users. This is an area the partnership are keen to develop and are seeking the views of children and young people around how they can be more included in our work to ensure our Youth Voice groups across North Yorkshire have a platform at our NYSCP Strategic group meeting.

## The Growing Up in North Yorkshire Survey

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.

This year the survey supported 17,000 children and young people participating and sharing their perceptions and experiences and the findings within the survey continue to provide all professionals who work with children and young people across North Yorkshire with key insights into their perceptions and experiences in order for us to achieve this strategic vision.

The data reinforces the need for us to continue to focus on supporting all our children and young people, including the most vulnerable, ensuring we all take collective responsibility for prioritising their health and wellbeing.

## The Youth Commission

The Youth Commission enables young people, aged between 10 and 25, to inform, support and challenge the work of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. Comprising of up to 35 young people, they are a diverse group who broadly reflect the make-up of the local population, including those who may have direct experience of the police and the criminal justice system.

Young people have provided some feedback about their involvement:

“I absolutely love it. It’s made me so much more confident in myself and I’m really interested in how we can help other people”

“I am improving my confidence and speaking skills whilst also helping people at the same time. I feel that I have life experience which may be valuable to share with others”



Day or night,  
Sleep right.

A safe sleep campaign for North Yorkshire and York  
[www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/sleepright](http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/sleepright)

North Yorkshire  
Safeguarding Children Partnership

City of York  
Safeguarding Children Partnership

# 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. It is recognised that the LSPs play a vital role responding to issues in the locality and over the coming year work will be completed to strengthen the role they play in communities.

# Financial Position

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

Organisation	Contribution (£)	Percentage of Budget
North Yorkshire Council	151,600	49%
Integrated Care Board	91,344	30%
North Yorkshire Police	44,633	15%
City of York Partnership (Child Death Contribution)	16,693	5%
HM Prison and Probation Service	2,727	1%

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# Priorities for 2023 - 2024

Within the NYSCP Strategic Group Meeting a review of the Being Young in North Yorkshire Strategic Action Plan was undertaken with progress updates shared by relevant agencies against the action plan. Upon review of the BYINY Strategy the following three areas were agreed to be the priority areas for 2023/2024:

## Strengthening the role of education in the Partnership

The NYSCP Executive recognises the important role education plays in the lives of children and young people. When considering potential changes to Working Together Legislation **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 - consultation document (education.gov.uk)** it is felt important for the Partnership to consider how the role of education can be strengthened in partnership working.

## Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Health

While considerable work has been undertaken by partners in this area, children and young people continue to report this as an area of concern so a focus will continue, to ensure children have access to the right support at the right time in respect of their emotional and mental wellbeing.

## Promote positives of online engagement whilst minimising the risk cyp face online

The internet is a valuable resource for children and young people to learn and share information and experiences. The social aspect of online interaction is deeply embedded children and young people's lives. While the use of the internet is a positive aspect in the lives of children and young people, it also opens them to various risks and vulnerabilities such as online bullying, grooming, exploitation, extremism and sexual abuse to name just a few.

# Contact details:

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

[www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk](http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

[www.twitter.com/nyscp1](https://www.twitter.com/nyscp1)

[nyscp@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:nyscp@northyorks.gov.uk)

## Authors:

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Unit

Hannah Ellingworth, Alison Brunton, Kirsty Tuley, Kathryn Morrison and Haydn Rees Jones

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2023/2024**

**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)**

<b>FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023 - COMMITTEE MEETING AT 10.00 A.M.</b>			
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DRAFT OUTLINE/COMMENT</b>	<b>METHOD</b>	<b>LEAD</b>
Report of the Task and Finish Group re SEND Provision in Scarborough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To consider the draft report</li> </ul>	Report	Assistant Director, Inclusion
Children's Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on demand pressures and unmet need</li> <li>The impact of social isolation and disruption to education on children and young people's mental health</li> <li>The level of that impact – is it primarily, say, low level anxiety - or more profound?</li> </ul>	Report and presentation	Public Health Consultant
North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership - Annual Report 2022/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary on the work of the Partnership between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023.</li> </ul>	Presentation	Corporate Director

**WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 - COMMITTEE MEETING AT 10.00 A.M.**

ITEM	DRAFT OUTLINE/COMMENT	METHOD	LEAD
<p>Schools Update (to include financial position, Children and Young People’s Service)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current picture, in terms of figures for all North Yorkshire Council Schools and Academies, including:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Performance and standards/Attainment results</li> <li>- Funding</li> <li>- Strategic planning</li> <li>- Attendance, admissions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Information on Local Authority Maintained Schools accumulated balances information and projected start budget information by School phase</li> <li>• Update on School funding arrangements for 2024/2025</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE: A good deal of the information in the above bullet points was covered in the report on School Closures and Governance, which was considered by the Committee at its September 2023 meeting. Therefore, a shortened presentation will be delivered</b></p>	<p>Report/Presentation</p>	<p>Jointly: Assistant Director, Education and Skills and Assistant Director, Strategic Resources</p>

February Items are continued overleaf/...



**WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 - COMMITTEE MEETING AT 10.00 A.M.**

ITEM	DRAFT OUTLINE/COMMENT	METHOD	LEAD
Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How well is the interface working between the Directorate and Health and Adult Services?</li> </ul>	Presentation	Jointly: Assistant Director, Inclusion and Assistant Director, Care and Support (HAS)
North Yorkshire Substance Use Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on progress</li> </ul>	Presentation	Director of Public Health
Healthy Child Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are the desired outcomes being achieved?</li> <li>Data on Breakfast Clubs provision</li> </ul>	Presentation	Director of Public Health
Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key messages from the past year</li> <li>Priorities for 2024</li> <li>This Item is for information</li> </ul>	Presentation	Director of Public Health

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**ITEMS FOR MID CYCLE BRIEFING**

DATE	POTENTIAL ITEM
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (in respect of the Committee meeting on 28 <sup>th</sup> February)	<p>Young Carers</p> <p>One Adoption Agency - Yorkshire and Humber - Annual Report</p>

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