



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, Dave Whitfield

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

Date: Tuesday, 26th September, 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Stone Cross, Rotary Way, Northallerton, DL6 2UU

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.

Recording is allowed at Council, committee and sub-committee meetings which are open to the public, please give due regard to the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at public meetings, a copy of which is available. Anyone wishing to record is asked to contact, prior to the start of the meeting, the Democratic Services Officer. We ask that any recording is clearly visible to anyone at the meeting and that it is non-disruptive.

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

Website: www.northyorks.gov.uk

NOTE: This Agenda was updated on 19th September 2023 to incorporate Agenda Item 8, which had been marked “To follow”

Business

1. **Welcome by the Chair**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd June 2023** (Pages 5 - 14)
4. **Declarations of Interest**
All Members are invited to declare at this point any interests they have in items appearing on this agenda, including the nature of those interests.
5. **Public Participation**
Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice to Patrick Duffy of Democratic and Scrutiny Services and supplied the text (contact details below) by midday on Thursday 21st September 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. **School Closures and Governance, Briefing - Assistant Director, Education and Skills, Assistant Director, Strategic Resources and Strategic Planning Manager** (Pages 15 - 52)
8. **Adult Learning and Skills Service - Assistant Director, Education and Skills and Shared Head of Adult Learning and Education and Skills** (Pages 53 - 66)
9. **Child Death Overview Panel, Annual Report, 2022/2023 - Chair of the Child Death Overview Panel** (Pages 67 - 74)
10. **Work Programme - Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer** (Pages 75 - 78)
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 - Friday 8th December 2023 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 Officer. Tel: 01609 534546 Or email Patrick.Duffy@northyorks.gov.uk
Website: www.northyorks.gov.uk

Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
(Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall
Northallerton

Monday, 18 September 2023

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North Yorkshire Council

Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 23rd June 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor Barbara Brodigan (Chair)

Councillors Alyson Baker, Bridget Fortune, Stephanie Duckett, George Jabbour (substituting for Councillor Tom Jones), Nathan Hull, David Jeffels, Cliff Lunn, John Mann, David Noland (substitute for Councillor Dave Whitfield), Heather Phillips (Vice-Chair), Kirsty Poskitt and John Ritchie.

Co-opted Members: Tom Cavell-Taylor (Parent Governor Representative), David Sharp (Voluntary Sector) and Ross Strachan (Secondary Teacher Representative)

In attendance: Councillor Annabel Wilkinson (Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills)

Present (joined remotely):

Councillor Janet Jefferson

Officers: Stuart Carlton, Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Service, Janet Crawford, Assistant Director, Inclusion, Clare Barrowman, Senior Education Adviser, Louise Wilson, Head of School Improvement and Patrick Duffy, Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

1. Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tom Jones, Mike Schofield, Dave Whitfield and Peter Wilkinson; Portfolio Holder, Councillor Janet Sanderson (Executive Member for Children and Families); and Co-opted Members Andrew Smith and David Watson.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2023

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4. Public Participation

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

5. Any Declarations of Interest

There were none.

6. Chair's Remarks

The Chair advised that she had attended the meeting of the Executive on 30th May 2023. She had noted the increased demand and support from the Children and Young People's Service Directorate. She recognised that this is a legacy of the Pandemic, coupled with current issues, such as the cost-of-living crisis and asked whether any other pressures had been identified.

She also asked how the service will be able to maintain its high performance, given current increased demand and in preparation for increased demand in the future, bearing in mind the need to achieve savings of over £5 million.

Councillor Janet Sanderson, the Executive Member for Children and Families, had advised that, as a result of the Pandemic, the service is still seeing issues in respect of social isolation and development of social skills. Also, an Inspection of North Yorkshire Police had found a 68% increase in the number of *front door* contacts.

The Corporate Director had added that a close eye is kept on caseloads to ensure that the service has the right capacity to deal with what is coming through *the front door*.

In response to a comment from a Member that Schools receive more resource when they have children in care, the Corporate Director advised that it is not necessarily children in care – but children *not in our care*.

The Chair referred to the officer presentations on the Agenda for today's meeting. She asked officers to assume that these had been read by Members and to strive to limit their presentations to 15 minutes, so as to allow time for questions from Members.

7. Young People's Champion Annual Report

Considered -

A report by Councillor Alyson Baker, which summarised her work as Young People's Champion in the last year.

Councillor Baker highlighted that she was aware from her visit to The Barn, in Tadcaster, that unaccompanied asylum seekers, who were working on an ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) online course, were using equipment that was a little tired. She hopes that some re-purposed IT equipment can be diverted to this use. She also hopes to visit Beverley Park soon.

Councillor Annabel Wilkinson, Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills advised that a major reboot programme in respect of the provision of re-purposed IT equipment had commenced and that further information could be provided by Julie Bunn, Head of Virtual School.

Councillor Stephanie Duckett said that, in her area, there is a hardship fund that people in need can apply to. This might be something to look at.

Councillor Kirsty Poskett felt that the key issue is to know our Schools and for parents to know that they can approach Schools if they require IT equipment.

Councillor Bridget Fortune felt that Schools need to arrange a discrete handover of IT kit, so that no child is embarrassed.

The Corporate Director said that his Directorate will ensure that this is handled methodically and sensitively. There is a cost to Schools but they are being encouraged to participate, as it is an important thing to do.

NOTED.

8. Early Years Update

Considered –

A presentation by Stuart Carlton, Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Services.

The Corporate Director advised that Helen Smith, Early Years Strategy Manager, could not be here today. He would therefore take Members through the presentation.

The key elements of the presentation, which is available [here](#), outlined:-

- The Grow and Learn Initiative
- Early Years Strategy/Transformation Work
- Support for families from Ukraine with early years children
- Safeguarding
- Information on the number of providers, broken down by category

The Corporate Director highlighted a number of points, including the following:-

- Calls to the Families Information Centre now go through the Customer Service Centre. This has built in greater resilience.
- The provision of early education and childcare is a statutory duty.
- The Grow and Learn initiative, piloted in Craven, involves greater partnership working around Integrated Reviews for two-year olds and includes closer working between the Library Service and Early Years. Reading to children is such an important part of their development.
- North Yorkshire is one of six areas who have worked with the Behavioural Insights Team and Nesta to see whether behavioural insights can be used to increase the number of families accessing the offer for two-year olds. Work continues to analyse take up and look for ways to further improve access and take up.
- The take up of funding for two-year olds in North Yorkshire is 85%. This is pleasing, as the figure nationally is 72%.
- North Yorkshire is one of the authorities which is part of Dingley's Promise. This is funded by Comic Relief and aims to increase early identification of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) through training early years practitioners.
- There is a range of support in place to support families from Ukraine with early years children.

- Dedicated Early Years Safeguarding Masterclasses have been held during Autumn 2022 and Spring 2023, in response to feedback from the Sector. These have been received positively.
- North Yorkshire has seen a 3% decrease in Providers. Given the economic situation, this figure has held up well.
- Just 8 of the 156 Providers inspected by OFSTED from January 2022 to May 2023 were adjudged *Inadequate*. As of 1st June 2023, that figure is down to 3.
- 97 Providers have registered with the Healthy Early Years Award. Public Health Inequalities funding has been secured to introduce an Active Start Physical Activity Project in North Yorkshire.
- The Department for Education is consulting on changes that would allow one member of staff to look after five two-year-old children - rather than four. This should assist Providers. There is also a proposal to introduce more supervision for children whilst eating.
- The Spring Budget Announcement includes the roll out of an extended childcare offer. The Directorate will work with Providers to make sure they have sufficient support to implement the measures.

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

- How many Practitioners have registered for training?
400 so far. We would expect to see an increase in early identification because of this.
- What assistance does the Directorate make available for Providers who are deemed to be Inadequate by OFSTED?
The responsibility lies with Providers, but advice and guidance are available. This is supportive, rather than directive.
- How we go about engaging with parents, some of whom may not realise they/their children require assistance?
The training is geared to enable Practitioners to support parents to seek help where this is required.
- In terms of outcomes, will the afore-mentioned training assist Practitioners to have difficult conversations?
Yes, in that if Practitioners feel more confident, they can have those conversations earlier and on a more structured basis. We are seeing this happening.
- There has been a growth in Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) – what are the implications of this?
We can help the majority of children through SEND, rather than EHCP. Children could come through the system earlier and better. We will keep an eye on this to see if there is any increase in Plans.

- Are there staffing problems with extended childcare and can we encourage the community to help?

Any increase in an area of work is considered as part of the Workforce Plan. We are hopeful that capacity can be built up as part of the workforce profile.

- Often boys with autism are identified with Special Educational Needs sooner than girls because, for example, they may be more disruptive.
- The energy crisis is hitting libraries, so it is important to support them. Councillor Baker mentioned, at this stage, that 13–24-year-olds are being encouraged to help children aged 4-11, by reading to them in Libraries.
- We hear about a lack of funding, so how is it that there was a budget underspend of £423,000?

Sometimes the money that is passported out to providers does not match what comes back. As a result of COVID-19, £1.5 million was allocated to allow the market to settle. The resource sits in a reserve. We do not allow it to build too much, but it is ring-fenced for use in an emergency.

- Is there a risk that, due to resource issues, Schools will have difficulty linking up with Providers to ensure wraparound care, from September 2025, for School age children (part of the roll out of the extended childcare offer)?

The resource for this should remain separate, which will help Schools.

NOTED.

9. Growing up in North Yorkshire Survey 2022

Considered:-

A presentation by Louise Wilson, Head of School Improvement and Clare Barrowman, Senior Education Adviser. The presentation covered:-

- Key findings
- Trends/changes over time
- How the results of the Survey have been used

A summary of the points made is set out below but the full presentation can be viewed [here](#)

- Since the Survey was introduced in 2006, it has been undertaken bi-annually, with good engagement from Schools. Some 15,460 responses were received from target groups and, in total, there were 17,000 responses.
- A great benefit of the Survey being held every two years is that it enables trends to be identified.
- A number of priorities have been identified from the responses to the 2022 Survey. These include prioritising children and young people's resilience and emotional wellbeing and continuing to respond to online risks.

- There are emerging concerns around body image and vaping. For example, regarding the former, there has been an increase in the number of pupils who say they are unlikely to eat or drink to improve their body image.
- No change in the percentage of pupils who feel happy and safe at home.
- Bullying has increased slightly (21% to 22%), but there has been a decrease in the percentage of pupils who feel that Schools do not take the issue seriously enough. This has been highlighted to Schools. A key reason respondents felt they were being picked on was because of the way they look – this links into healthy eating and body image.
- Sexual harassment was a new question for 2020. In 2022 9% of pupils responded that they have experienced sexual harassment at school (5% in 2020) and 13% of pupils (up from 8% in 2020) responded that they have witnessed sexual harassment at school.
- Pupils were also asked the reason why they might not tell an adult in school if they were being picked on/bullied/sexually harassed. Among Secondary School pupils, these reasons included *No-one does anything/won't be taken seriously/staff won't do anything/school doesn't care/no point*, and *Didn't want to be known as a snitch*.
- Professionals who work with children and young people are aware of the increasing safeguarding concerns we have for pupils in the online world.
- Pupils worry about a range of matters and this is more pronounced among girls.
- The level of resilience is reducing among pupils - both at Primary and Secondary level - and there are an increasing number of pupils with a low wellbeing score. At Secondary level, for example, the percentage of pupils with a high or maximum score, based on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale, has reduced from 21% in 2018 to 15% in 2022.

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

- There has been an excellent response to the Survey, which has credibility and contains useful information for Members - but is it the case that locality data will no longer be collected?

No. Locality data will continue to be gathered. We use the information to work with Schools on issues. The Survey is funded with Health and the Police, as these partners also glean useful information from it.

- Data at a North Yorkshire level is reliable but can be erratic at a granular level.
- The dangers of vaping are not fully appreciated – it is seen by some as a good alternative to smoking.

Yes, partners are seeing a big increase in vaping and are working together to address this. Young people are being targeted with alcohol and fruit flavoured vapes.

- Resources are tight for Schools and the number of wellbeing incidents is putting pressure on Schools.

We recognise wellbeing concerns. The School Improvement Team work with Local Authority Schools to support them, particularly in exploring contextual

safeguarding risks. Work is still required to address wider concerns and, as part of our enhanced offer to Schools on the PHSE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) curriculum and the wider safeguarding curriculum.

- It is possible that some respondents may have said things that are exaggerated.

There are a range of systems in place to look for anomalies. We have worked closely with Schools to implement the Survey properly and support them.

- This is a fantastic report, but are Public Health messages around vaping being disseminated quickly enough?

The areas causing most concern are not sales in shops, necessarily, but the dangerous substances on the black market. We are working with partners on this, but it is a complex area and we need to get it right.

- Parents may, inadvertently, assist vaping by giving money to their children, which is sometimes used to purchase vapes.
- Secondary Schools see a drop-off in the number of girls who are confident in doing sport – less than half – whereas three-quarters of girls say they would like to do sport. Can we track this to ascertain if there is more confidence in particular areas and whether access is an issue?

The greater range of role models for girls should help encourage them.

- Other Authorities, who do not do such a Survey, may be missing out on useful information.

Indeed. Several Authorities who had stopped undertaking the Survey are now reintroducing it.

- Schools have tended to push children towards sports such as Netball and Hockey.
- Do pupils have access to bottles of water?

We are looking at solutions to ensure this is the case.

The Chair thanked Louise and Clare for such a thorough report and interesting presentation.

NOTED.

10. Scrutiny Task and Finish Group - Special Educational Needs and Disability in the Scarborough and Whitby Area

Considered –

A joint report by the Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Service and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) which advised the Committee of the establishment of this SEND Task and Finish Group and its proposed Terms of Reference.

Janet Crawford, Assistant Director, Inclusion, presented the report.

She highlighted that the review had the potential to be extremely wide-ranging. Therefore, Members who had met to consider the scope of the review felt that the focus needed to be quite tight.

A Pack of Information will be circulated to Members of the Task and Finish Group.

In terms of engagement with parents and carers, there are established Forums that can be drawn upon to ascertain the views of a range of voices so that the Task and Finish Group can understand the situation and make recommendations.

The timeline has been adjusted to ensure reasonable time for the work to be undertaken.

Councillor Heather Phillips suggested that it would be best if the Chair of this Committee was not a Member of the Task and Finish Group, so that she could remain independent of the discussion for when the findings of the Task and Finish Group are considered by the Committee. Councillor Phillips also felt that it would be more appropriate to keep the membership tight to the Scarborough area and for a Member representing a Scarborough Division to be on the Task and Finish Group, rather than the Chair, who does not represent that area.

The Chair responded that her independence would not be compromised and commented that the same point would apply to Councillor Phillips, in her role as Vice-Chair.

The Principal Democratic Services Scrutiny Officer suggested that Members might want to consider this aspect separately, at the Task and Finish Group.

A motion was proposed and seconded that the matter move to a vote and that was carried.

It was then further proposed and seconded that Councillor David Jeffels be a Member of the Task and Finish Group, rather than the Chair of this Committee.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

NOTE: Councillor Janet Jefferson was not permitted to vote as she was in attendance remotely.

Members of the Task and Finish Group who were present indicated that the Chair would be very welcome to attend any meetings as an observer.

Resolved –

That the Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group concerning SEND in the Scarborough and Whitby area be approved, with the exception that the Membership be amended by Councillor David Jeffels being on the Task and Finish Group, rather than the Chair of this Committee.

11. 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 highlighted the following:-

- Whilst the Work Programme is always open to change, the Committee has a good spread and range of items for consideration,

- There is a mix of items that have been previously considered, which officers are aware are important to Members and which they will be receiving updates on (such as Children's Mental Health) and items that the Committee has not considered before - County Lines, for example.
- The Agenda for the December 2023 meeting is looking overly full. Presentations from the Children and Young People's Service Directorate provide very helpful detail for Members, but that means the ideal is to keep the number of substantive items to two or three each meeting to allow time for questions from Members. The draft Agenda for the December meeting could be considered further at the next Mid Cycle Briefing.

Resolved –

That the Work Programme, as it stands, be noted and that further consideration be given to the draft Agenda for the December meeting at the next Mid Cycle Briefing.

12. Any other Items

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

13. Date of Next meeting

This would be held on Friday 1st September 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

NOTE: Following consultation, this date was subsequently changed to Tuesday 26th September 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

The meeting concluded at 12.20 p.m.

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**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
26 September 2023
School closures and Governance**

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A briefing on :

1. School closures, process, and academies
2. Are closures and a lack of Governors related?
3. Governor recruitment, training and retention

YPOSC
26 September 2023
School closures and Governance

Background

- Page 16
- Education landscape
 - Vulnerable schools and closures
 - Educational challenges for small schools
 - Financial aspects for small schools
 - Monitoring, support and intervention
1. Closure process and academies
 2. The role of Governors
 3. Governor recruitment, training and retention

Landscape of Education in North Yorkshire (1 Sept 2023)

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358 schools

211 are LA maintained (60%)

- 147 are Academy Schools (40%)

Landscape of Education in North Yorkshire (1 Sept 2023)

Page 18

147 Academy Schools in 32 Trusts

- 113 Primary (38%)
- 28 Secondary (67%)
- 4 Special Schools (40%)
- 1 Academy Alternative Provision (formerly PRU) (20%)
- 1 UTC (100%)

Landscape of Education in North Yorkshire (1 Sept 2023)

Comparative size of schools

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Average number on roll in Primary Academies - 167

Average number on roll in LA Maintained Primary Schools - 126

Average number on roll in Secondary Academies - 922

Average number on roll in LA Maintained Secondary Schools - 746

Landscape of Education in North Yorkshire (1 Sept 2023)

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11 LA maintained schools

- 3 Nursery (100%)
- 184 Primary (62%)
- 14 Secondary (33%)
- 6 Special Schools (60%)
- 4 Pupil Referral Units (80%)

Landscape of Education in North Yorkshire (1 Sept 2023)

184 LA maintained primary schools –
Designation

- 86 Community Primary
- 21 Voluntary Aided Primary
- 76 Voluntary Controlled Primary
- 1 Foundation Primary

Landscape of Education in North Yorkshire (Feb 2023)

Numbers by area - Secondary

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	Secondary inc Y12 & Y13					
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Change	Change
	2017/18	2020/21	2022/23	2024/25	No.	%
Craven	4675	4816	5062	5307	632	13.5
Hambleton	4497	4245	4432	4568	71	1.6
Harrogate	11498	11523	11332	11154	-344	-3.0
Richmondshire	2726	2777	2802	2842	116	4.3
Ryedale	3095	3403	3425	3435	340	11.0
Scarborough	5093	5073	5088	5159	66	1.3
Selby	4795	5050	5214	5355	560	11.7
Total	36379	36887	37355	37820	1441	4.0

Landscape of Education in North Yorkshire (Feb 2023)

Numbers by area - Primary

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	Primary					
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Change	Change
	2017/18	2020/21	2022/23	2024/25	No.	%
Craven	3919	3964	3967	3970	51	1.30
Hambleton	6115	5979	5944	5948	-167	-2.73
Harrogate	11117	11022	10839	10765	-352	-3.17
Richmondshire	3582	3493	3407	3269	-313	-8.74
Ryedale	3552	3521	3410	3361	-191	-5.38
Scarborough	7507	7292	7193	7015	-492	-6.55
Selby	6893	7048	7245	7324	431	6.25
Total	42685	42319	42005	41652	-1033	-2.42

Vulnerable Schools and closures

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School closures

16 Primary schools have closed since August 2017

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- Drax Community Primary School – Aug 2017 – Selby area
- Horton in Ribblesdale CE Primary School – Aug 2017 – Craven area
- Rathmell CE Primary School – Aug 2017 – Craven area
- Ingleby Arncliffe CE VA Primary School – Dec 2017 – Hambleton area
- Swainby & Potto Ce VA Primary School - Dec 2017 – Hambleton area
- Ings Community Primary School – Dec 2017 – Craven area
- Burnt Yates CE Primary School – Aug 2018 – Harrogate area
- Arkengarthdale CE Primary School – Aug 2019 – Richmondshire area

School closures

16 Primary schools have closed since August 2017

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- Clapham CE VC Primary School – Aug 2020 – Craven area
- St Hilda's RC Primary School, Whitby – April 2021 – Scarborough area
- Kell Bank CE Primary School – Aug 2021 – Harrogate area
- Weaverthorpe CE Primary – Aug 2022 – Ryedale area
- Baldersby St James (Academy) – Aug 2022 – Harrogate area
- Woodfield CP School – Dec 2022 - Harrogate area
- Hovingham CE VC Primary – April 2023 – Ryedale area
- Skelton Newby Hall CE Primary – Aug 2023 – Harrogate area

School closures – via amalgamation

The amalgamation of the two Whitby secondary schools will involve the technical closure of Eskdale School and site. The proposal was determined by NYC Executive in April 2023. To be implemented September 2024.

The amalgamation of the Infant and Junior Schools at Wavell in Catterick, would involve the technical closure of the Junior School as a separate entity. The statutory representation period is currently live until 9 October. The proposal, if approved, is scheduled for implementation in April 2024.

School closures

The Rural presumption:

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There is a presumption against the closure of (officially designated) rural schools. This does not mean rural schools should not close.

It means that the *'case for closure should be strong and the proposal must be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area'*.

Educational challenges for small schools

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Challenges in leading small schools

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- Costs can prohibit schools from having their 'own' headteacher
 - Some heads have teaching roles alongside HT duties
 - Time constraints for leaders can impact on
 - time for strategic planning activity
 - time for monitoring and school improvement activity
 - opportunities for development of staff incl HTs
- Salaries for leaders are typically lower than in larger schools - recruitment and retention of leaders can mean temporary arrangements are necessary
- Small leadership teams mean that each person has a wider set of roles and priorities, this can prolong improvement activity

Challenges in leading small schools

- New and inexperienced teachers may not benefit from as much CPD but may be required to teach multiple year groups
- Buildings are often older, relatively more expensive to run and were not designed for modern teaching methods
- Targeted support for individual pupils can be a challenge
- Curriculum breadth and depth is more difficult to achieve in mixed age classes

Financial aspects for small schools

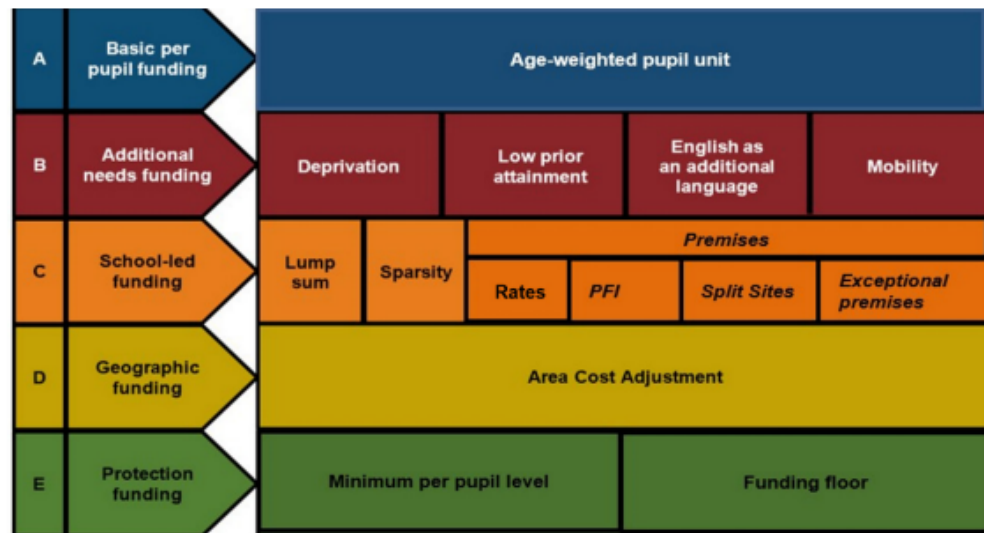
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How NY schools are funded (recap)

- The funding for 5 – 16 year old pupils in mainstream schools is determined by the DfE direct National Funding Formula (NFF)
- North Yorkshire reflects the NFF funding formula factor values in its local school funding formula (used to calculate funding for both LA maintained schools & academies in North Yorkshire)
- Individual school funding for a financial year is based on the number of pupils recorded on the previous October school census e.g. October 2022 pupil numbers provide the basis of the funding for the 2023/24 financial year (starting 1st April 2023 – LA maintained schools)

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The NFF funding formula factors are:



2023/24 School Financial Pressures

- School budgets continue to experience significant cost pressures in the 2023/24 financial year. Cost pressures include:
 - September 2023 teachers pay award of 6.5% (additional separate DfE grant funding support teacher's pay award costs above 3.5%)
 - A National Employers offer of £1,925 on NJC salary points 2 to 43 and 3.88% increase for salary points 44 and above from 1st April 2023. This equates to a 9.4% increase for the lowest paid employees. (no additional funding provided)
 - Ongoing high levels of inflation.
 - Cost pressures associated with supporting an increasing number of pupils with SEND
 - Below forecast inflation increases in school funding provided by Government for the 2022/23, 2023/24 & 2024/25 financial years.

2023/24 School Financial Pressures

The table below provides a summary of school revenue deficits over recent years and forecasted deficits for the current year.

Financial Year	Primary (incl. Nursery)		Secondary		Special (incl. PRU)		Total	
	No. Schools In Deficit	Average Deficit £'000	No. Schools In Deficit	Average Deficit £'000	No. Schools In Deficit	Average Deficit £'000	No. Schools In Deficit	Average Deficit £'000
2015/2016	22	-16.4	3	-325.7	0	0	25	-53.5
2016/2017	21	-24.7	7	-242.5	2	-294.2	30	-93.5
2017/2018	44	-22.2	9	-275.9	1	-967.8	54	-82.0
2018/2019	35	-33.9	8	-384.6	4	-435.6	47	-127.8
2019/2020	26	-45.4	6	-520.8	5	-584.0	37	-195.3
2020/2021	11	-54.1	6	-596.5	5	-659.6	22	-339.7
2021/2022	15	-54.0	5	-690.7	4	-473.4	24	-256.5
2022/2023	21	-51.3	5	-672.5	5	-424.5	31	-211.7
2023/2024	23	-57.9	6	-606.1	5	-512.0	34	-213.3

2023/24 School Financial Pressures

The projected cumulative revenue outturn position for future years, as reported in school 2023/24 Start Budgets is outlined below:

REVENUE BALANCES	PRIMARY & NURSERY	SECONDARY	SPECIAL	PRU	TOTAL
Actual Revenue Balance (March 2023)	15,054	-973	-887	753	13,947
Projected Start Budget (March 2024)	10,890	-1,968	-1,747	556	7,731
-					
Projected Start Budget (March 2025)	3,329	-3,372	-2,674	341	-2,376
-					
Projected Start Budget (March 2026)	-9,643	-6,234	-4,166	16	-20,027

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Local Authority Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty

The Local Authority adopts a number of measures to support schools facing financial difficulty:

- the use of a financial risk rating framework to determine the level of support, challenge and intervention undertaken at individual school level, including the use of Notices of Financial Concern where deemed appropriate. Currently, six schools are subject to a Notice of Financial Concern.
- the undertaking of School Resource Management reviews in individual schools where this has been identified as an appropriate intervention through the risk rating process. The reviews are based on the DfE School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) model and are undertaken by LA staff, many of whom have the SRMA accreditation;
- review of the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) and Resource Management dashboard in financially challenged schools;
- continuing the promotion of school collaboration and the sharing of best practice in terms of effective resource management between schools;
- the provision of Headteacher and Governor finance briefings and training;
- continuing to lobby DfE for fairer funding for North Yorkshire schools, especially in relation to small, rural secondary schools.

Monitoring, support and intervention

Page 38

Monitoring

A risk based approach taking account of indicators across the 3 key elements:

- Pupil numbers
 - Number on roll and expected increase or decrease
 - In area cohort and retention rate
 - Outstanding housing developments
- Educational performance
 - Pupil outcomes
 - Current inspection outcome and progress made to areas for improvement
 - Leadership and governance capacity
 - Proximity to inspection window
- Finance
 - Accumulated budgets (surplus of deficit) 3-year forecast
 - The extent of any change in budget
 - Potential impact as indicated in a financial recovery plan (where relevant)

Support and intervention

SCHOOL A: Universal support for all LA schools

SCHOOL B: Bespoke support, delivered by individual service areas including, strategic planning, school improvement and schools finance. Monitoring at service leadership level.

SCHOOL C: Coordinated support for schools needing two or more services to be delivered collaboratively. Joint monitoring by senior managers

Closure process and academies



LA Maintained School closure process

Process can be instigated by the Governing Board (preferred) or by Officers.

An 8 step process:

Page 2

1. Consideration of viability – business as usual activity for several schools
2. Request to consult – usually following a GB resolution – concerns in the public domain
3. Approval to consult (Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills)
4. Consultation – guidance for 6 weeks in term-time, includes a public meeting
5. NYC Executive review the consultation – halt or proceed
6. Publication of statutory notice and proposal – allows a further 4 weeks for representations
7. NYC Executive review and determine (or Executive Member for Education, Learning and Skills if no objections)
8. Implementation – closure date

A separate process for staff runs in parallel

Academy School closure process

A different process, notably that

- The Secretary of State is the decision maker - Guidance on closure 'by mutual agreement with the Secretary of State'
- NYC are only a consultee – although NYC need to agree to the closure of a designated rural academy
- The school's community are involved at a much later stage, after a substantive decision has already been taken

Academy School closure process

A six stage process:

1. Consideration of closure – engagement with NYC officers required
2. Seeking an in principle agreement – where appropriate consent of the Trustees or Diocese is required
3. In principle decision – The Regional Director makes a recommendation to the Secretary of State who decides whether, in principle, the funding agreement should be terminated and the academy closed
4. Seeking a substantive decision on closure – various activities by the Department (DfE) and Trust at this stage including:
 - Updating VFM and viability assessments
 - Developing a communications plan
 - Exploring availability of other schools (with NYC officer input)
 - Exploring land/ lease arrangements in advance of termination

Academy School closure process

5. Substantive closure decision - The Secretary of State decides whether the funding agreement should be terminated and the academy closed

Following a substantive decision from the Secretary of State to proceed to closure, the academy trust should share news of the closure with pupils, parents, staff, unions, relevant local authorities and schools elsewhere in the local area at the earliest opportunity and conduct a listening period.

The listening period is an opportunity for stakeholders and interested parties to be provided with information as to why the school is closing and how it is proposed the closure process will operate. Likewise, it is an opportunity for stakeholders and interested parties to submit their views on how the school closure process can be best managed.

This is the first time that the proposal is in the wider public domain and the first opportunity for the Council to express it's formal view via the Executive.

Academy School closure process

*The listening period should normally take place over a period of no fewer than 4 weeks (during term time, and not school holidays). It should be made clear that **the decision to close the school has been made**, and the rationale for closure should be set out. The academy trust should set out the plans it intends to put in place to transfer pupils to schools elsewhere in the local area. It should also let people know the proposed timeline for closure*

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6. Approval and implementation of the closure plan - The Secretary of State will consider the outcome of the listening period and give permission for the trust to announce details of the closure. At this point NYC officers are responsible for securing alternative schools for the displaced pupils, usually undertaken via a co-ordinated preference exercise

The role of Governors

Page 47

The role of Governors

Governance responsibilities

Page 178
There are three key roles for governors –

- **strategic direction**
- holding leaders to account for **performance** of the school
- **financial oversight**

These directly relate to the three key areas for officer monitoring

The role of Governors

Are closures and a lack of Governors related?

Page 49

Good governance **is not about** the pure number of governors

- However, governors are volunteers and capacity can be an issue for individual boards
- Conversely, too many governors can hamper effective debate and decision making
- Poor governance, irrespective of the number of board members, can increase the vulnerability of a school

The role of Governors

Are closures and a lack of Governors related ?

Page 50

Good governance **is about** the quality and rigor of governance in undertaking the three key roles

- Governors positive influence over strategic direction, performance and finance can help a school remain educationally and financially viable
- However, a school closure can become necessary despite good governance
- Recognising that a school should be proposed for closure can be good governance

Support for governance in LA schools - Governor, recruitment, training and retention

- Access to the School Improvement offer, incl. a named contact and in-person work
- Access to school improvement visit reports
- Attendance of LA officers at relevant Governing Board meetings
- Training packages via NYES – majority is online
 - SLA for governor support
 - SLA for clerking
 - Bespoke training if requested
- Support for HT recruitment
- LA and diocese liaison where applicable
- **New joined-up clerking and governance service from January 2024

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Adult Learning and Skills Service Autumn 2023 Update

Page 53

Paul Cliff – Shared Head of Adult Learning and Skills (York and North Yorkshire)

adultlearningservice@northyorks.gov.uk

September 2023

Agenda Item 8

Context

- The Adult Learning and Skills Service is part of the Children and Young Peoples Directorate within North Yorkshire Council. Working across the county, the service delivers:
 - Community Education (1700 learners) and Adult Skills (1200 learners) both online and in face-face community venues across the county
 - High Needs Education to 170 young people aged 16-25 with additional needs from four main hubs in Harrogate, Northallerton, Scarborough and Selby
 - Apprenticeships in Health and Social Care (currently 14 Level 2 and 17 Level 3 learners) are delivered through the council's Training and Learning team working closely with the Adult Learning and Skills Service
- The Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funded Adult Education Budget (AEB), (circa £2.6m), aims to engage adults and provide the skills and learning they need to progress into, or within, work or equip them for an apprenticeship or other learning. It enables more flexible tailored programmes of learning to be made available, which may or may not require a qualification to help eligible learners engage in learning, build confidence, and/or enhance their wellbeing.
- Funding for learners with high needs (circa £3m) is also provided via the ESFA 16-19 allocation with the aims of developing greater independence or progress toward employment.



Service strategy

A clear strategic vision for adult learning provision delivered by North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council was consulted on in summer 2022. The approved Adult Learning and Skills strategy set out a clear purpose for the service that is based around eight key strategic aims.

Page 55

The Ofsted inspection of North Yorkshire's adult learning took place in February 2023 and resulted in a 'Requires Improvement' judgement. It identified a number of areas requiring further action in order for the service to achieve a Good rating.

Aims

1. To clearly define the purpose of the adult learning services
2. To develop a curriculum offer that is in line with local skills needs
3. To reach and inspire learning for the full breadth of the community demographic with the offer
4. To be the provider of choice for those furthest away from the skills offer
5. To protect the full aims of community learning
6. To grow provision into areas not well supported by other providers
7. To support a clear progression pathway for all adult learners
8. To provide effective value for money



Approaches

- Use the widest range of media to promote the link between learning and personal growth
- [Develop effective partnerships to provide clear engagement points for learning](#)
- [Develop close working relationships with other providers of education](#)
- Work closer with the VCS to support effective use of community learning
- [Develop a flexible, blended curriculum offer](#)
- Provide face-face engagement points for those hardest to reach and engage
- Use an appropriate combination of digital and face-face IAG
- [Increase progression from engagement programmes into main curriculum](#)
- Continue to develop provision and project funding to widen the income streams available to the service



Aim 1 - Clearly define the purpose of the adult learning services

Objectives



Progress

- Page 56
- **A clearly defined mission statement**
 - **A publicly communicated purpose and strategy communicated to all stakeholders, funders and partner organisations**
 - **Clear pathways for engagement with learning developed in collaboration with local partners and within the authorities**
 - **Increased engagement and recruitment of learners from a wider demographic that encompasses differences including prior qualification levels and employment status**

- **The accountability statement describes the mission as, 'providing the gateway to opportunity for the region's adults, (and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) enabling them to reach their full potential'**
- **Partnership Development Officer (PDO) team now in place and actively working with partners**
- **Multiply collaborations offer clear strong progression opportunities to targeted groups**
- **32% increase in male learners in 2022-23**
- **34% increase in 19-25 year old engagement in adult learning programmes**
- **Ongoing work to develop the 16-25 Personalised Learning College (PLC)**

Aim 2 - To develop a curriculum offer that is in line with local skills needs

Objectives



Progress

- Page 57
- A curriculum offer designed with individual learning progression in mind
 - A curriculum offer that supports engagement with a digital community
 - Programmes of learning that allow a non-threatening gateway to qualifications
 - A wider family learning offer that supports parents to fully understand the skills landscape
 - A community learning offer that supports individuals to develop and recognise their transferable skills
 - An effective commissioning approach for community learning funding

- Clearly defined career pathways are in place
- Curriculum encourages progression through specific community learning levels and onto accredited learning - progression of 42% from CL to accredited learning
- New documentation in place for learners that articulates transferable skills and measures progress
- From Dec 23 there will be further sub-contracting of specialist provision
- Collaboration with internal and external stakeholders on UKSPF projects
- PLC staff - 'work coach' training to support the progression of young people into employment

Aim 3 - To reach and inspire learning for the full breadth of the community demographic with the offer

Objectives



Progress

- Page 58
- **A wider range of gateway partners that services work with to provide the 'right door' that learners will choose to step through to engage with the wider progressive learning offer**
 - **Greater proportionate levels of engagement with learning programmes**
 - **Reduced levels of job vacancies in key sectors**
 - **Greater progression from engagement programmes into main curriculum offer and onwards to specialist skills and higher education provision**

- **Improved Partnership Development Officers (PDO) reporting assists curriculum design**
- **Community courses form part of the curriculum, 20 courses running or planned before Christmas (eg Men's Shed, food banks, VCS)**
- **Pilot projects with Economic Development directorate on Cyber security awareness for the population**
- **Learning Skills Improvement Funds (LSIF) secured for next two financial years to support recruitment into Health and Social Care and to widen digital engagement**
- **Progression strengthened between ESOL and functional English**
- **Greater range of 'front door courses' linked to targeted progression opportunities e.g. Step into Learning , Who am I?**
- **Move toward targeted use of Digital Functional skills**
- **Multiply team overachieved engagement target reaching 2208 learners with 496 undertaking substantive maths based activity**

Aim 4 - To be the provider of choice for those furthest away from the skills offer

Objectives



Progress

- Page 59
- A wider range of gateway partners that services work with to provide the 'right door' that learners will choose to step through
 - Effective and locally driven collaborative arrangements with FE colleges, training providers and HE to support progression
 - Co-delivery that shares resources and staff to support progression through shared curriculum planning in line with local skills needs.
 - Greater progression from authority-led adult learning programmes into specialist skills and higher education provision.

- Full staffing establishment of PDO (Partnership Development Officers and Learner Engagement Officers (LEO's))
- Partnership work with Spouse Force
- Regular LEO presence in job centres, LEO's circa 1400 interactions with 65% converted to enrolments
- LSIF (Learning Skills improvement Fund) collaborative partnership
- Collaborative working with Training and Learning (T+L) apprenticeship team for care based roles
- Development of post 25 transition pathways for adults with SEND

Aim 5 - To protect the full aims of community learning within York and North Yorkshire

Objectives



Progress

- Collaborative commissioning and co-delivery of community learning programmes that support targeted community work
- A wider family learning offer that supports parents to fully understand the skills landscape and local Labour Market
- An effective blended community learning offer to support individuals in rural communities to learn with others
- A RARPA based focus on the wider progression into further adult education learning that supports a gateway to funded adult education learning

- Co-planned development of community digital and Information Advice and Guidance champions
- New RARPA (Recognising and Recording Progress and Achievement) documents in use to ensure progression from community learning is clear
- LSIF funding
 - New learning spaces
 - Development of hybrid offer
 - Greater engagement focus
 - Immersive technologies
- Multiply
 - East Thirsk Learning Centre
 - Greater links between engagement and wider learning

Aim 6 - To grow provision into areas not well supported by other providers

Objectives



Progress

- A suite of blended community and adult learning that is available to support learners in all parts of the county
- Full utilisation of ring fenced funding in both services
- An adult learning service supported suite of traineeships, apprenticeships and supported internships allowing progression into roles within the authority and onwards to support local micro-enterprises to support trained staff.
- Achieving over 100% of grant funding

- Broader based community learning offer now available as online or face to face
- Curriculum focus now aims to secure more funding per learner
- Trialled curriculum within PLC will see greater focus on accredited courses and use of technology
- LSIF will see targeted work in Health and Social Care

Aim 7 - To support a clear progression pathway for all adult learners from entry through to higher education

Objectives



Progress

- Page 62
- **Clear curriculum offers that are promoted to learners and understood by all stakeholders at a local level.**
 - **Effective progression ladders that show clear pathways (both forwards and sideways) from engagement through to specialist skills development and HE opportunities that are in line with local skills priorities**
 - **Regular attendance and contribution to local skills boards to support the most appropriate curriculum offers for local residents**

- **Career pathways from all programmes are shared with Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) team**
- **Teachers also have an integral role in learner progression**
- **IAG training underway with business support and enrolment teams to support effective signposting**
- **Head of Service involvement in the development of the Local Skills Improvement Plan for the region**
- **Published course guide (paper and online) widely available in the community, supported by face to face engagement events**

Aim 8 - To provide effective value for money for the communities of North Yorkshire

Objectives



Progress

- Page 63
- **Full utilisation of grant funding on a wide ranging and well supported adult learning offer**
Services operating within effectively set budgets and not requiring further investment of additional public funds
 - **A co-investment structure that is fully reflective of need on all provision**
 - **Greater integration of adult learning services within the authorities they are part of to reduce duplication of offer and increase engagement**
 - **Greater integration of the teams delivering across York and North Yorkshire reducing staffing costs freeing up a greater portion of the budget to support learning resources and infrastructure**

- **Projected full use of adult learning funding in 2022-23**
- **94% of Multiply funding has been spent, despite shortened year 1 of the programme**
- **Adult Learning and PLC are forecast to achieve balanced budgets in 23-24**
- **Review of fees policy has been undertaken**
- **Effective use of learning and learner support have widened opportunities for learners**

Ofsted response

Areas for Improvement



Progress

- Page 64
- Establish that the recently revised quality assurance process is rapidly and fully implemented so that leaders and managers can accurately identify where improvements are needed.
 - Ensure that all courses align to the strategy for learners to progress in their careers and lives.
 - Ensure that adult learners gain a deeper understanding of British values and how they apply to their own lives.
 - Ensure that staff have a strong focus on learners and apprentices developing accurate skills in written communication.

- Fully revised quality procedures incorporating Ofsted feedback in place with relevant training for all staff
- Regular communication of policies, procedures and best practice
- Clear curriculum intent provided across all subject areas in 2023-24
- Dedicated resource area for teachers to support their knowledge of British values and learner safeguarding
- Regular updates on local safeguarding risks communicated to the team
- All staff have received training on written communication with follow up workshops planned

Case Studies

Example 1 – Scarborough

- **At 30 was lacking in confidence in social situations, with limited qualifications from school**
- **Engaged in a ‘step into learning’ short community learning course**
- **Developed understanding of own aims and goals whilst learning to overcome social anxiety supported by a LEO**
- **Progressed into a functional skills English course and passed**
- **Now completing a specific employability programme face to face**
- **Digital access has previously impacted on progression**
- **Loan laptop will now allow engagement in GCSE English**

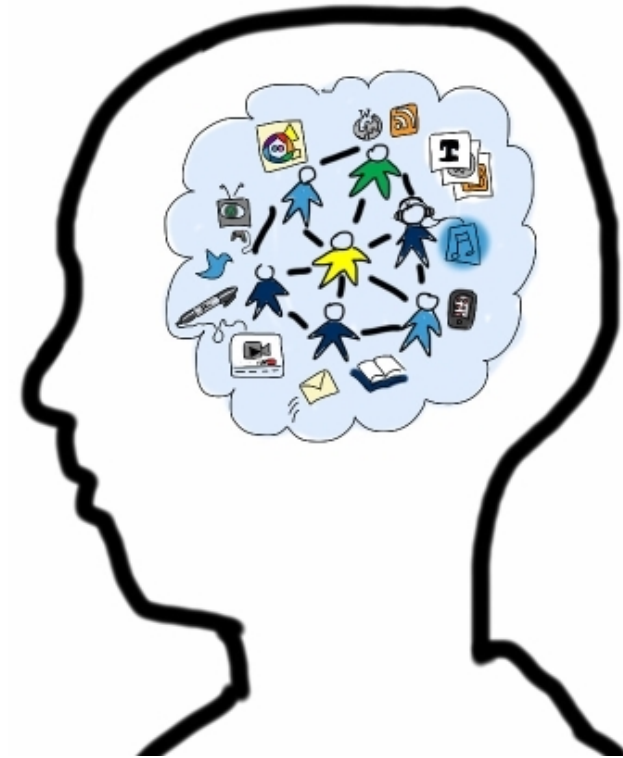
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Case Studies

Example 2– Harrogate

- In her **40's** and having had a previous career in childcare and education
- Identified a desire to change career direction into administration
- Attracted by the short-bite sized curriculum offer engaged in a number of admin based programmes
- Progressed into a formal ICT programmes
- Now working in administration within a primary school
- Directly credits the service with allowing for upskill that led onto this job role



Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Annual Report 2022 - 2023



Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) 2022 - 2023

Foreward

Anita Dobson, Nurse Consultant Public Health, City of York Council, Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Chair

The panel have co-produced a number of successful campaigns over recent years and this is testament to the hard work and dedication of the group in seeking to ensure the death of each and every child is thoughtfully considered and learnt from and for this I would like to give my upmost thanks.

In the coming year we are likely to see sustained difficulties for families as the cost of living crisis continues and in North Yorkshire and York, we are thankful that we have not yet seen children dying as a result of this.

The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) are mindful of both the local and national picture for children and their families and are considering how we can work together in the hope of preventing harm across our shared locality which will include working closely with partners from Public Health and Housing.

In the coming year there will be two task and finish groups formed to look at our priority areas of "Who's Sober" and "Roadwise" and they will be reporting back their findings to the panel. This work will continue over 2023/2024 to ensure learning and recommendations can be embedded into service provision.

Contents

Foreward

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CDOP Death Review process	9
What has CDOP achieved over 2022/2023	11
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CDOP Priorities 2023/2024	13
Contact details	

Introduction

One of the most devastating things for a family to experience is the death of a child and it is recognised this will have a profound and long-lasting impact on everyone involved in that child's life. All deaths of children up to the age of 18 years, excluding stillbirths and planned terminations have been reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) since April 2008. The Child Death Review process is undertaken in accordance with national guidance and statutory guidance as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

The Child Death Review Statutory and Operational Guidance in 2018 builds on the requirements set out in Chapter 5 of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (publishing.service.gov.uk) The purpose of the Child Death Review Process is to try to ascertain why children die and put in place interventions to protect other children and prevent future deaths wherever possible. The process intends:

- To document, analyse and review information in relation to each child that dies to confirm the cause of death, determine any contributing factors and to identify learning arising from the process that may prevent future child deaths
- To make recommendations to all relevant organisations where actions have been identified which may prevent future deaths or promote the health, safety and wellbeing of children
- To produce an annual report on local patterns and trends in child deaths, any lessons learnt and actions taken, and the effectiveness of the wider Child Death Review Process.

- To contribute to local, regional and national initiatives to improve learning from Child Death Reviews.

Child Death Review statutory partners (the Local Authorities and Integrated Care Board for North Yorkshire and City of York) have a responsibility to undertake the Child Death Review Process as set out in the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. However, relevant agencies are also included within our CDOP panel to ensure that there are multi-agency representatives who provide differing areas of professional expertise. The process is undertaken locally for all children who are normally resident within North Yorkshire and City of York.

North Yorkshire and City of York Local Authorities and Integrated Care Boards created a Strategic Child Death Review Group to provide strategic oversight for the Child Death Review Process. Meetings are held twice a year and membership includes:

- Directors of Children and Young People's Services (NYC and CYC)
- Director of Nursing for the Integrated Care Board (Humber and North Yorkshire ICB)
- Designated Doctor for Child Death (Humber and North Yorkshire ICB)
- Child Death Overview Panel Chair (CYC Public Health)
- Partnership Business Unit Managers (NYSCP and CYSCP)
- Child Death Review Officer (NYSCP)

The collation and sharing of all learning from Child Death Reviews and the CDOP is managed by the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) which has been operational since 1st April 2019. The NCMD gathers information on all children who die across England with the aim to learn lessons to reduce child mortality.

Child Death Overview Panel

The Child Death Overview Panel meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis, the membership is listed below

Member	Role and Organisation
Anita Dobson	Nurse Consultant Public Health Consultant, City of York, Child Death Overview Panel Chair for North Yorkshire and York
Dr Gill Kelly	Public Health Consultant, North Yorkshire Council
Jemma Cormack	Safeguarding Manager, North Yorkshire Police
Dave Ellis	Detective Chief Inspector, North Yorkshire Police
Dr Sally Smith	Designated Doctor for Child Deaths & Consultant Paediatrician, City of York and North Yorkshire
Dr Natalie Lyth	Designated Doctor for Safeguarding and Children in Care, North Yorkshire and City of York
Dr Sarah Snowden	Children's Designated Doctor for Safeguarding and Children in Care, North Yorkshire and City of York
Hannah Ellingworth	North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager
Sophia Lenton-Brook	City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager
Dallas Frank	Head of Quality Assurance, Safeguarding, Principal Social Worker, Children's Social Care, City of York Council
Sarah Howarth	Group Manager, Children's Social Care, North Yorkshire Council
Alexandra Burton	Named Nurse for Safeguarding, Harrogate District NHS Foundation Trust
Helen Pulleyn	Named Nurse for Safeguarding, York & Scarborough Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Andrea Pitman	Healthy Child Team Service Manager, Public Health, City of York Council
Leanne Likaj	Head of Midwifery, Harrogate District NHS Foundation Trust
Sarah Ayre	Head of Midwifery, York & Scarborough Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Alison Brunton	Child Death Review Officer for North Yorkshire and City of York

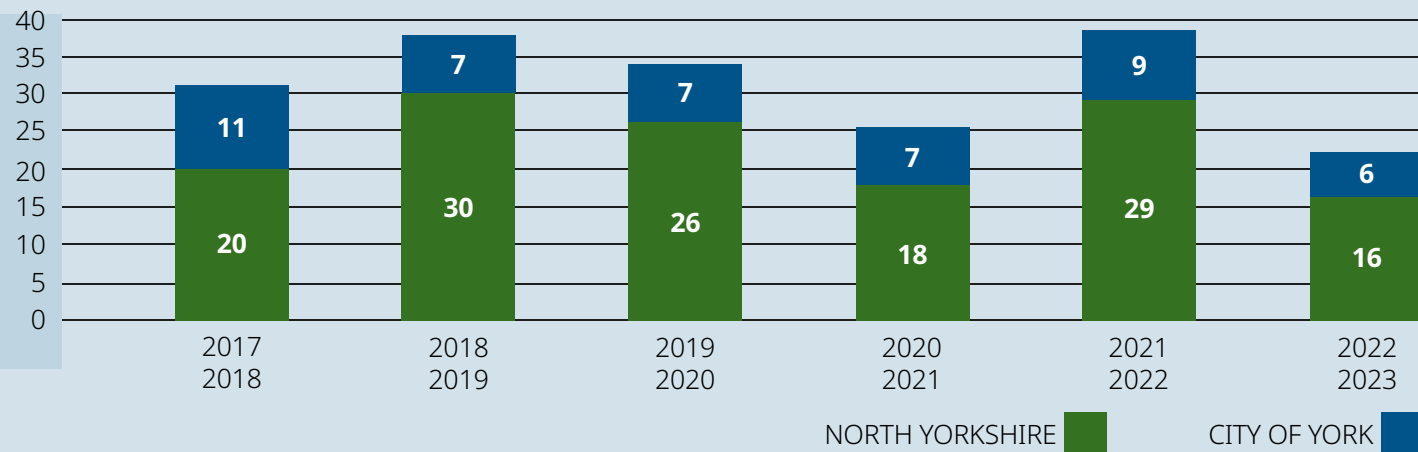
As of March 31 2023

Data Analysis 2022 - 2023

Total child deaths

A total number of 22 children and young people died during the period between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 - 16 children resided in North Yorkshire and 6 children resided in the City of York. This is the lowest number of total deaths of children and young people recorded within an annual period during the past 5 years as evidenced in Table 1.

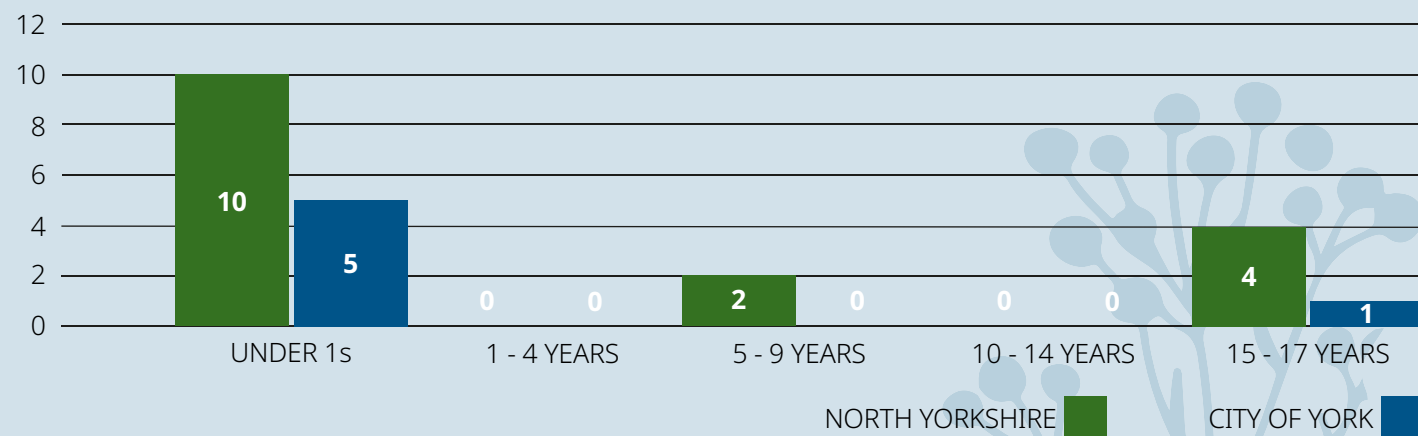
Table 1. Total child deaths in North Yorkshire and City of York 2017 - 2023



Age of Child Deaths

Table 2 summarises the ages of North Yorkshire and City of York children and young people at the time of their death during the period between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023. The highest number of child deaths consistently relates to children under 1 year of age. In 2022/2023, 68% of child deaths related to children in this age range.

Table 2. Age of child deaths in North Yorkshire and City of York 2022/2023



Child deaths fall under one of two categories:

- **Expected Death:** A child death is an “expected” death when the death of an infant or child was anticipated, such as for children born with life limiting conditions.
- **Unexpected Death:** An unexpected death is defined as a death that was not anticipated as a significant possibility 24 hours before the death, or where there was a similarly unexpected collapse leading to or precipitating the events which led to the death.

Expected and Unexpected child deaths

Table 3 provides the detail of expected and unexpected child deaths in 2021/2022 with a total of 30 expected and 8 unexpected deaths. When comparing this data to the current reporting year of 2022/2023, there were 12 expected deaths and 10 unexpected deaths (Table 4).

Table 3. Category of child deaths in North Yorkshire and City of York 2021/2022

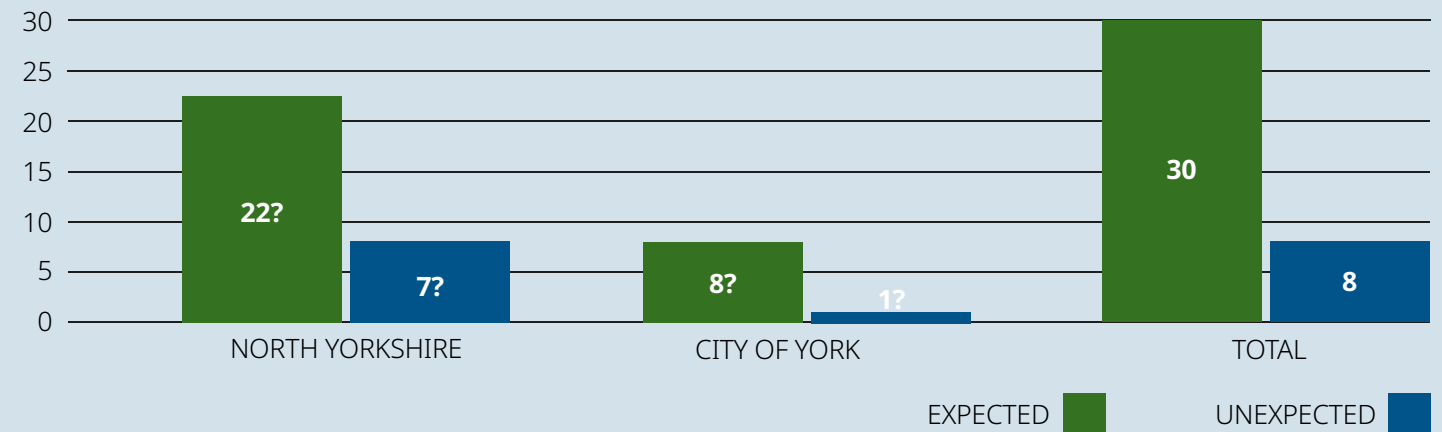
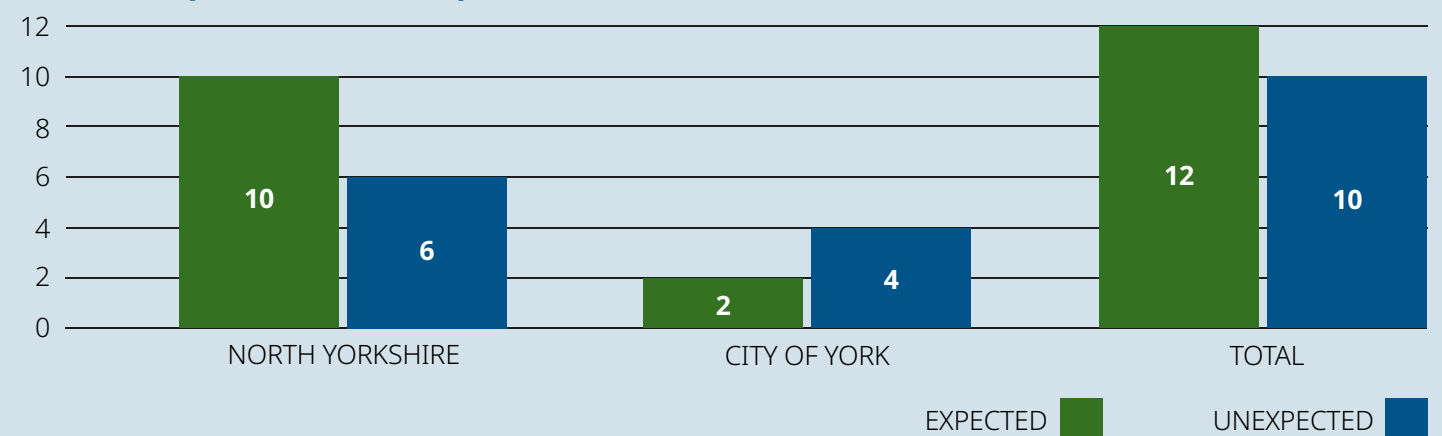


Table 4. Expected and Unexpected Deaths 2022/2023



Location of Death

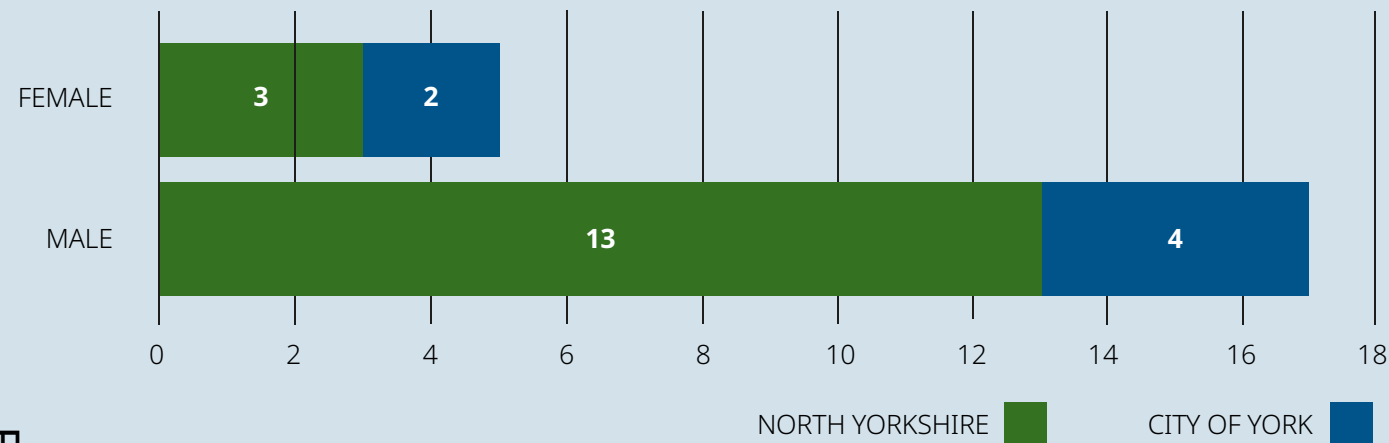
Of the 22 children and young people who died during the period between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, 20 (90.5%) occurred within a hospital or hospice setting and 2 children (8.5%) died in a place other than a hospital or hospice setting.

Child Deaths by Gender

Nationally, the mortality rate for males is higher than females and the child deaths reported to this CDOP for 2022/2023 reflect this national picture.

The table below provides a breakdown of the number of child deaths by gender during 2022/23.

Table 5. Child deaths by Gender



Of the 22 child deaths notified to CDOP between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, 21 were classified as White British and 1 was classified as White Other.

Children with a Learning Disability

Children who are known to have a learning disability are notified to the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review Programme (LeDeR) by the CDOP. Of the 22 cases reported to CDOP in 2022-2023, no children were identified as having a learning disability.

Child Death Processes

The notification of a child's death is received by the Child Death Review Officer who will ensure all relevant agencies complete a reporting form. This form captures all the relevant information about the child and family to inform the CDOP process. In addition to the reporting form, there are a number of supplementary reporting forms which the Child Death Review Officer uses to collect information from the relevant professionals which is also shared with the NCMD and collated for review by the CDOP.

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.

Categories of Child Deaths

All child deaths discussed at CDOP are categorised using a national template analysis form provided by the NCMD. This information is reported back to the NCMD who provide national data on deaths of children on an annual basis.

The below table details the category of child deaths in North Yorkshire and York from 2017 to 2023. 178 child deaths have been reviewed by the panel over the past 6 years. The majority of child deaths in 2022/2023 occurred as the result of a perinatal or neonatal event (11), with the next most common category being recorded as malignancy (5). Sudden Unexplained Infant Deaths (SUIDs) accounted for 4 child deaths in this reporting period.

Table 6. Category of child deaths in North Yorkshire and York, 2017 - 2023

	2017 2018	2018 2019	2019 2020	2020 2021	2021 2022	2022 2023	TOTAL
1. Deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect - This includes numerous physical injuries, which may be related to homicide as well as deaths from war, terrorism or other mass violence. It also includes severe neglect leading to death.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm - This includes any act intentionally to cause one's own death. It will usually apply to adolescents rather than younger children.	2	1	7	2	1	1	14
3. Trauma and other external factors - This relates to unintentional physical injuries caused by external factors. It does not include any deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect.	3	3	4	1	1	1	13
4. Malignancy - This includes cancer and cancer like conditions such as solid tumours, leukaemia & lymphomas, and other malignant proliferative conditions, even if the final event leading to death was infection, haemorrhage etc.	4	3	6	5	5	5	28
5. Acute medical or surgical condition - A brief sudden onset of illness which resulted in the death of a child.	6	2	2	2	3	0	15
6. Chronic medical condition - A medical condition which has lasted a long time or was recurrent and resulted in the death of child.	2	1	0	2	0	0	5
7. Chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies - Medical conditions resulting from anomalies in genes or chromosomes as well as a defect that is present at birth.	3	6	6	6	7	1	29
8. Perinatal/neonatal event - The death of child as a result of extreme prematurity, adverse outcomes of the birthing process, intrauterine procedure or within the first four weeks of life.	8	6	9	7	10	11	51
9. Infection - This can be any primary infection (i.e., not a complication of one of the above categories), arising after the first postnatal week, or after discharge of a preterm baby.	1	1	4	3	0	2	11
10. Sudden unexpected or unexplained death - This is where pathological diagnosis is either Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) or 'unascertained', at any age.	0	1	2	3	2	4	12
Total number of child deaths reviewed by CDOP	29	24	39	31	29	25¹	178

¹ 22 children died in North Yorkshire and York in 2022/2023. 25 cases were reviewed by CDOP which comprises of child deaths over 2021-2023.

CDOP Death Review Process

Joint Agency Response Meeting

When a child dies unexpectedly a Joint Agency Response Meeting (JARM) will be convened within 72 hours of the death. The purpose of the JARM is to enable the sharing of information between partners, facilitate multi-agency discussions and ensure any immediate safeguarding concerns are addressed.

Supporting and engaging with a family who have lost a child is of the utmost importance throughout the Child Death Review process, recognising the complexities of the process and the differing emotional responses that bereavement can bring. In North Yorkshire and York, the JARM will identify the most appropriate agency support for the bereaved family, defined locally as a Key Worker.

The Key Worker should:

- Be a reliable and readily accessible point of contact for the family after the death
- Help co-ordinate meetings between the family and professionals as required
- Be able to provide information on the Child Death Review process and the course of any investigations pertaining to the child
- Liaise as required with the Coroner's office and Police Family Liaison Officer (if involved)
- Represent the 'voice' of the parents at professional meetings, ensuring their questions are effectively addressed, and providing feedback to the family afterwards
- Signpost to expert bereavement support if required

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The purpose of the panel is to consider any learning or factors that could prevent future deaths of children. Following the completion of the CDOP Process and when the cause of the child's death has been determined for both expected and unexpected child deaths, the information relating to the case is anonymised and is reviewed by the CDOP.

CDOP review child deaths at the end of any statutory processes and a child's death cannot be discussed until all relevant information pertaining to the death is obtained and as such, children may not always be reviewed by the panel in the year of their death. During 2022/2023, the panel has reviewed a total of 25 deaths which account for children who died between the years of 2021 to 2023.

Child Death Review Meeting

Both expected and unexpected child deaths are required to have a Child Death Review Meeting (CDRM). This is a multi-agency meeting where all matters relating to an individual child are discussed by professionals directly involved in the care of that child during their life. A CDRM typically happens three months or more following the death of a child. The draft analysis form is completed within this meeting which is then presented to and confirmed with the CDOP.

Learning and Modifiable Factors

Of the 22 child deaths reviewed in 2022/2023, CDOP identified 12 cases (54%) where modifiable factors were present.

Modifiable factors are defined as "those, where, if actions could be taken through national or local interventions, the risk of future child deaths could be reduced".² When the panel reviews the death of a child they identify and agree if there are any modifiable factors that may have prevented the death and what actions are required as a result. All actions are monitored by the CDOP.

The CDOP process seeks to identify learning from all child deaths to identify common themes, ways of working and strategies to minimise the risk of future deaths. The CDOP will identify modifiable factors which, had they been in place, may have reduced the risk of harm.

Training

The Designated Doctor for Child Death and the Child Death Review Officer delivered the Child Death Review: Advanced Training for Professionals across North Yorkshire and City of York in 2022/2023 with a range of multi-agency professionals totalling 28 delegates attending over three sessions.

The Child Death Review Officer and North Yorkshire Children's Partnership (NYSCP) Manager regularly engage in the NCMD Webinars which are designed to provide detailed updates on the NCMD, discuss emerging issues and obtain information around the latest events in the Child Death Review sector. Information from these events is shared with North Yorkshire and City of York's Child Death Review Partners on a regular basis.

Feedback from the Child Death Review Training.

"Really helpful to understand more about the CDOP process from start to finish - really well delivered - thank you" and "Excellent course and will be useful to me in my work".

² Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (publishing.service.gov.uk)

What has CDOP achieved over 2022/2023?

Regional CDOP Learning Event

In December 2022, North Yorkshire and City of York held what was the first of planned annual Regional CDOP Learning Events. 32 people attended the in-person event which included representatives from Health, Police and the Local Authorities of East Riding, North Yorkshire, York, Hull and North East Lincolnshire. North Yorkshire and York's Day or Night Sleep Right campaign was showcased and a table top discussion took place regarding Sudden Unexpected Deaths in Infancy (SUDI). Each regional area was asked to share a case example to highlight areas of good practice in respect of the panel's work and these were shared amongst the group through a discussion, question and answer session. The feedback from the event was positive and the next event will be hosted by a neighbouring CDOP.

The role of the Key Worker

Over 2022/2023, CDOP explored and developed the role of the Key Worker for North Yorkshire and City of York with a view to strengthening the support offered to bereaved families. The task and finish group considered best practice examples nationally, making use of regional and national networks. The strategic CDOP group have confirmed that the process of identifying a key worker within the JARM is now embedded into practice for those families whose children die unexpectedly. The process is written into the JARM agenda and during the CDRM, confirmation of the Key Worker is provided alongside any updates in respect of actions carried out on behalf of the family. This work has been shared with regional and national CDOPs to support the development of best practice at a national level.

What 3 Words App Campaign

The North Yorkshire and York CDOP undertook a piece of multi-agency work with Hull, East Riding, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire CDOPs to promote the use of the What3Words app³ via a coordinated communication campaign. The CDOP had planned to drive this work forward to ensure greater awareness of What3Words across our sub-regional footprint to support emergency services to get to patients in a timely manner, with the ultimate aim to preserve life. After further consultation with Partners, it was felt that as What3Words has a commercial element which could pose a conflict within the CDOP process, therefore it was agreed by the panel to not pursue this priority. It is reassuring to note that, when reviewing data over 2022/2023, there have been no identified instances of modifiable factors in relation to the speed or timeliness of emergency services involvement.

Neonatal Twin Deaths Audit

The CDOP identified an increase in twin neonatal deaths during 2021/2022. In response to this, an audit of these children's deaths was undertaken by the Designated Doctor for Child Death. As a result of the findings of the audit the CDOP were reassured that there were no recurring themes, trends or patterns to necessitate any further investigation.

Sudden Unexpected death in Infancy

The sudden and unexpected death of an infant is one of the most devastating tragedies that could happen to any family. At least 300 infants die suddenly and unexpectedly each year in England and Wales. North Yorkshire and City of York Safeguarding Children Partnerships (NYSCP & CYSCP) identified an increase in the number of infants who have died where unsafe sleep practices were present in recent years, some of which have resulted in multi-agency reviews. In July 2020, the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (CSPRP) published a report *Out of routine: A review of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) in families where the children are considered at risk of significant harm* (publishing.service.gov.uk).

This report identified that these tragic deaths occur more frequently in families that are particularly vulnerable, with many of the risk factors associated with SUDI overlapping with those for child abuse and neglect. In response, the NYSCP and CYSCP agreed to adopt a SUDI Prevent and Protect Model. A key aspect of this model is the introduction of multi-agency SUDI risk minimisation guidance. A task and finish group was established with multi-agency representation to develop the SUDI Prevent and Protect Model and awareness campaign. The task and finish group established a brand for the model with expert guidance from North Yorkshire County Council Marketing and Customer Communications Team and also agreed the 'strap line' 'Day or Night, Sleep Right' NYSCP (safeguardingchildren.co.uk).

Following the implementation of Day or Night, Sleep Right, work has continued with the aim of establishing safe sleep as a fundamental aspect of multi-agency 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 multi-agency SUDI risk minimisation programmes across the country.

In addition to an extensive program of single-agency training, multi-agency training is available to practitioners. A multi-agency masterclass was developed which has now had 446 views on the NYSCP YouTube channel and the SUDI podcast has been listened to 76 times. A podcast on Spotify for Podcasters is also available.

³ what3words /// The simplest way to talk about location

CDOP Priorities 2023/2024

1. Building on the success of the Day or Night Sleep Right campaign, the CDOP will be launching 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. This campaign will be linked to Day or Night Sleep Right and the CDOP will work closely with colleagues in Public Health working on alcohol and substance use.
2. The CDOP will be working closely 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.



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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)

TUESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023 - COMMITTEE MEETING AT 10.00 A.M.			
ITEM	DRAFT OUTLINE/COMMENT	METHOD	LEAD
School Closures and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why a School is closed i.e. the process and how Academies work within this. • Whether School closures and a lack of Governors is related. • How Governors are recruited; trained; and retained. 	Presentation	Assistant Director, Education and Skills
Adult Learning Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline of the service provided 	Presentation	Assistant Director, Education and Skills
Child Death Overview Panel – Annual Report 2022/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on the number of children who have died; whether the death was expected or unexpected; and the category of death. 	Presentation	Assistant Director, Children and Families

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

FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2024 - COMMITTEE MEETING AT 10.00 A.M.

ITEM	DRAFT OUTLINE/COMMENT	METHOD	LEAD
Schools Update (to include financial position, Children and Young People’s Service)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current picture, in terms of figures for all North Yorkshire Council Schools and Academies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance and standards/Attainment results - Funding - Strategic planning - Attendance, admissions • Information on Local Authority Maintained Schools accumulated balances information and projected start budget information by School phase • Update on School funding arrangements for 2024/2025 • The offer for Post-16 Education 	Report/Presentation	Jointly: Assistant Director, Education and Skills; and Assistant Director, Strategic Resources
County Lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The situation nationally • The position in North Yorkshire • The approach in North Yorkshire 	Presentation	Assistant Director, Children and Families
North Yorkshire Substance Use Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on progress 	Presentation	Director of Public Health
Healthy Child Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the desired outcomes being achieved? • Data on Breakfast Clubs provision 	Presentation	Director of Public Health

ITEMS FOR MID CYCLE BRIEFING

DATE	POTENTIAL ITEM
Friday 13 th October 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (in respect of the Committee meeting on 8 th December)	<p>North Yorkshire Youth Commission - Feedback from young people on the work they are doing as part of the commission and their priorities for the year ahead (Link in with Children and Young People’s Service Participation Team)</p> <p>Youth Provision outside of Schools</p>
Friday 26 th January 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (in respect of the Committee meeting on 23 rd February)	<p>Young Carers</p> <p>One Adoption Agency - Yorkshire and Humber - Annual Report</p>