

**North Yorkshire County Council
Harrogate & Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee
6 January 2022**

Schools, educational achievement and finance

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of the local educational landscape, educational achievement and the financial challenges which affect schools in the Harrogate & Knaresborough constituency committee area.

2.0 Local educational landscape

- 2.1 There are now 20 primary academies and 5 secondary academies within the Harrogate & Knaresborough constituency area. The academy conversion rate for primary schools is higher within the constituency area when compared to the county as a whole (66.6% compared to 32.2% in North Yorkshire). The academy conversion rate for secondary schools is slightly higher (71.4% compared to 65.1% in North Yorkshire).

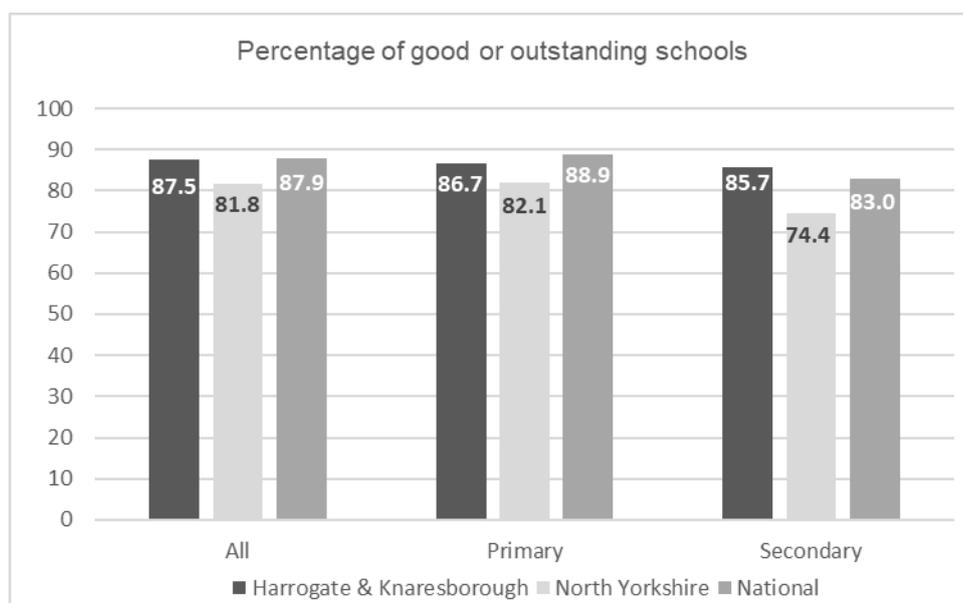
Summary of schools' status – December 2021

	Schools in North Yorkshire		Schools in Harrogate & Knaresborough ACC	
Primary Maintained	205	67.8%	10	33.3%
Primary Academy & Free School	97	32.2%	20	66.6%
Total	302		30	
Secondary Maintained	15	34.9%	2	28.6%
Secondary Academy	28	65.1%	5	71.4%
Total	43		7	
Special Maintained	7	70%	1	50.0%
Special Academy	3	30%	1	50.0%
Total	10		2	
PRU Maintained	4	80%	0	0%
PRU Academy	1	20%	1	100%
Total	5		1	
Total maintained	231	64.2%	13	32.5%
Total Academy	129	35.8%	27	67.5%
Overall Total	360		40	

3.0 School standards

3.1 School Ofsted judgements

In the constituency area 86.7 per cent of primary schools are judged good or outstanding by Ofsted, which is higher than the North Yorkshire average and slightly lower than the national average. In terms of secondary schools, 85.7 per cent are judged good or outstanding, which is higher than the North Yorkshire and national averages. There are 5 schools currently judged requires improvement or inadequate in the constituency area.



3.2 Attainment overall

The Committee has previously (23 September 2020) considered a report which contained all of the key attainment data for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Over the last 2 years, exams and assessments in schools have not taken place because of the disruption to students' education caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

In 2020, GCSEs, AS and A level exams, and those for some equivalent qualifications, faced widespread cancellation and were replaced with a grading process involving centre assessment followed by statistical standardisation. Ultimately, statistical standardisation was dropped in favour of teacher/ centre assessment, unless the adjusted grades were higher.

Summer 2021 assessments were awarded based on teacher or centre assessment and no statistical adjustment processes were used. Final results for many qualifications, including GCSEs and A Levels, were released to schools in August 2021. Review and appeal processes have been made available where students believe they received the wrong grades, but overall, final grades were significantly higher in both 2020 and 2021 than in 2019.

The Government intends for GCSEs, AS, A Level and equivalent assessments and exams to go ahead in England in summer 2022 and has consulted on assessment arrangements. It is proposing some changes to general, and vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs). Additionally, current plans would see school-level performance (league) tables reintroduced for the end of the GCSE phase (key stage 4) in 2022; school-level information is not being published during either 2020 or 2021. Further detail is expected about how the assessments will be graded in 2022 and beyond. Some concerns remain about whether these measures will go far enough to address inequalities, and whether schools, colleges, and students will have enough notice of the final arrangements.

In primary schools, national curriculum assessments due to be held in summer 2020 and summer 2021, including tests, teacher assessments and the phonics screening check, were also cancelled too. These statutory assessments are expected to resume in 2022 and we will also see the wider introduction of the Reception Baseline Assessment.

Due to the changes in exams and assessments, the DfE has not collected and released school data for comparative purposes and so there is nothing to report to this Committee until Autumn 2022 when the results of the summer 2022 cycle will have been published.

3.3 Not in education, employment or training

There were 1446 young people recorded in Year 11 in this constituency in May 2020 and of this cohort only 23 (1.59%) were not in education, employment or training after leaving school as of August 2021.

4.0 Fixed-term and Permanent Exclusions

4.1 Fixed-term exclusion incidents

Fixed term exclusions				
Academic year	Harrogate & Knaresborough	North Yorkshire	Percentage of North Yorkshire total	Most common reason
2020/21	491	3257	16.5%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (37.7%)
2019/20	598	4366	13.7%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (34.9%)
2018/19	831	5962	13.9%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (47.8%)
2017/18	846	6,005	14.1%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (48.2%)
2016/17	650	4,583	14.2%	Persistent disruptive behaviour (46.8%)

In the 2020/21 academic year, there have been a total of 3257 fixed term exclusions for a total of 1462 individual children in North Yorkshire. 231 of these children were on roll of mainstream schools in Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency.

In the same period last year, there were 4189 fixed-term exclusions for a total of 1491 individual children, 238 of these children were on roll of mainstream schools in Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency.

In the 2020/21 school year, 491 of the 3257 incidences of fixed-term exclusions in mainstream schools across the county were applied to 231 children and young people who went to schools in the constituency.

The most common reason for a fixed-term exclusion in the constituency has consistently been 'persistent disruptive behaviour'.

In 2019/20 schools in the constituency area had a 20.7% share of the schools population in North Yorkshire and 13.7% of fixed term exclusions for the county, this increased to 16.5% in the 2020/21 academic year.

Fixed-term exclusions can be a useful sanction, but frequent use can place pressure on family and foster placements, impacts on achievement, and may lead to risky behaviour while the pupil is not in school during the day.

4.2 Permanent exclusions

Permanent exclusions			
Academic year	Harrogate & Knaresborough	North Yorkshire	Percentage of North Yorkshire total
2020/21	5	26	19.2%
2019/20	11	52	21.1%
2018/19	15	87	17.3%
2017/18	15	103	14.6%
2016/17	10	86	11.6%

4.3 From September 2020 the transition of the Pupil Referral Service (PRS) to provide preventative places to reduce the need for secondary exclusions has been introduced. Schools are able to request placements at the PRS as part of a joint education programme for children that are disengaging from mainstream school. The partnership approach between the PRS and school will ensure that children receive the necessary support without a permanent exclusion. Post implementation review of this practice was due to be carried out this year but has been delayed due to Covid 19 and will take place next year.

5.0 Special Education Needs and Disabilities

5.1 Targeted Mainstream Provision- Reshaping of SEN Provision in Harrogate and Knaresborough over the 2020/21 Academic Year

The development of the new model of provision, Targeted Mainstream Provision (TMP) is intended to help the LA meet demand for full time education provision for children with SEND and who have an Education, Health and Care Plan. This model delivers provision for children and young people who are able to access mainstream education but with additional support for their special educational needs.

Over the 2020/21 academic year the first provisions were successfully opened and a number of schools were approved to operate TMPs. Grove Road Community Primary School in Harrogate Town is now successfully operating a TMP.

Work is continuing through 2021/22 to increase the amount of TMPs in areas which do not yet have host schools identified, to ensure that the LA has capacity to meet demand for this provision.

The 'outreach' offer for children and young people with SEND continues to be met by the SEND multi-disciplinary hubs made up of specialist staff employed directly by the Local Authority including specialist teachers, practitioners, educational psychologists and therapists.

5.2 SEN Statistics for Constituency Area

As of January 2021 there were 648 children living in the constituency with a North Yorkshire funded EHC plan, 18.3% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs for children with a North Yorkshire funded EHC plan living in the area are Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at 42.4 % and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) at 17.9%, and Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD) at 13.1%.

As of January 2021 school census there were 1607 children recorded as SEN Support from schools in this constituency, 17.2% of the North Yorkshire total. The most common needs for children receiving SEN support in the area are Specific Learning Difficulties (e.g. Dyslexia) at 22.5% and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) at 19.5%.

6.0 Elective Home Education

As of 31st August 2021 there were 904 children recorded as Electively Home Educated in North Yorkshire, 82 of which were formerly from a mainstream school in Harrogate and Knaresborough ACC. At the same point last year, there were 688 children EHE in North Yorkshire, 71 formerly from a mainstream school in Harrogate and Knaresborough ACC. This represents a 31% increase in North Yorkshire and a 15% increase in Harrogate and Knaresborough ACC.

Between 1st Sept 2020 to 31st August 2021, 483 children became EHE in North Yorkshire, 53 of which were formerly educated in a mainstream school in Harrogate and Knaresborough ACC. This figure was 32 from Harrogate and Knaresborough of 294 becoming EHE in North Yorkshire, in the same period last year.

7.0 School Finance

7.1 Schools in Financial Difficulty – the countywide position

As of March 2021 the overall position for North Yorkshire Schools was:

- 22 schools with accumulated deficits totalling £7.5M
- This was an increase of £0.4M from 2019/20 (after adjusting for school closures, amalgamations and academy conversions in 2020/21)
- Deficits range from £1k (special school) up to £1.6M (special school)
- The average primary school deficit is £57k
- The average secondary school deficit is £596k
- 3 schools out of the 22 have since converted to Academy status or closed since 31st March 2021
- Of the 19 schools remaining, 9 schools are predicting that their position will deteriorate, 8 are projected to improve their financial position and 2 are projected to return to a surplus position as at 31st March 2022

7.2 School Projections - Based on May 2021/22 Start budgets

- 143 LA maintained schools (67%) are projecting an in-year deficit in 2021/22
- 6 schools are projected to move from a surplus balance to a deficit balance by March 2022
- 12% (26 schools) are forecast to be in deficit at 31st March 2022, this is projected to rise to just under one in five by March 23 and just under two out of five by March 24.

	2018/19 (Actual)	2019/20 (Actual)	2020/21 (Actual)	2021/22 (Forecast)	2022/23 (Forecast)	2023/24 (Forecast)
Number of Schools in Deficit	47	37	22	26	40	79
Value of Deficit	£6.0M	£7.2M	£7.5M	£8.5M	£9.4M	12.8M
Proportion of schools in deficit	18%	15%	10%	12%	19%	37%

7.3 Funding

- Concern around overall quantum of funding given cost pressures (e.g. future pay awards, the longer term impact of the Covid pandemic in terms of additional expenditure requirements and potential income losses).
- North Yorkshire secondary schools are placed 138 out of 150 local authorities in terms of funding. On average, a school in North Yorkshire

will receive £5,570 per pupil in 2021-22 compared to a national average of £5,935. Comparing the funding for a 1,500 pupil secondary school this equates to a difference in funding of £0.5m.

- North Yorkshire primary schools are placed 35 out of 150 local authorities in terms of funding. For primary schools, a North Yorkshire school will receive on average £4,715 per pupil compared to a national average of £4,611.
- Concern over the impact of continued high needs financial pressures on school budgets.
- North Yorkshire has a number of schools that, geographically, are vital in serving their local communities. Inadequate sparsity funding and general financial pressures for smaller, rural secondary schools, continues to be a significant concern. DfE proposed changes to increase sparsity funding will come into effect for 2022/23 school funding, however the maximum sparsity funding increase for a small secondary school is £10k. NYCC continues to lobby the DfE and local MPs for higher levels of funding for the small, rural secondary schools within the LA.

7.4 Schools in Financial Difficulty – Harrogate and Knaresborough

2021/22	2023/24
6 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2022; 46% of schools in Harrogate and Knaresborough.	5 schools projecting to be in deficit by March 2024; 39% of schools in Harrogate and Knaresborough..
4 primaries; 1 secondary; 1 special.	3 primaries; 1 secondary, 1 special.
Total projected value of deficits = £1.4M	Total projected value of deficits = £2.7M
Projected average primary deficit = £77k Projected average secondary deficit = £1.1M Projected average special deficit = £39k	Projected average primary deficit = £127k Projected average secondary deficit = £2M Projected average special deficit = £329k

8.0 Planning school places

8.1 School sustainability

The sustainability of schools is largely influenced by three key factors which are usually related to each other:

- Falling pupil rolls
- School standards
- Financial difficulty

Where school closures have regrettably occurred in North Yorkshire these factors have been relevant. There have been six closures in the county over the last three years but none in the constituency area.

8.2 Collaborative working

Collaborative working is two or more schools working together to the mutual benefit of their pupils with the overall aim of improving outcomes for all. This has the potential to broaden opportunities and contribute to efficiencies. There are three primary federations in the Harrogate and Knaresborough area. In two of these federations there are 2 maintained schools with a single governing body and Headteacher and the third is a federation of three primary schools.

King James's and Boroughbridge High Secondary Schools federated in January 2021 following successful collaboration between the two schools.

8.3 Pupil rolls – current and future

The County Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available for every child under the Education Act 1996. For this purpose, it groups schools together into planning areas in accordance with the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Appendix 1 shows the planning areas together with:

- Capacity in the planning area
- Current numbers on roll
- Projected future numbers
- Projected impact of approved housing developments

The County Council is carefully monitoring pupil numbers across the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency area. A large proportion of the constituency is rural and served by small schools located within villages. Across the constituency schools have worked innovatively to mitigate these challenges including forming local federations. Like all small schools the fluctuation of pupil numbers exacerbates the already challenging nature of school funding.

The general picture across the whole of the County shows projected growth in the urban areas contrasting with declining numbers in rural locations. A falling birth rate combined with changing demographics means that a number of small schools are facing financial challenges associated with low numbers on roll. There are several social and economic reasons for the rural pupil number issue including the availability and price of housing and employment factors.

The picture in the constituency area (Appendix 1) however shows a generally high take up of places and therefore lower surplus capacity across the board. The LA groups schools together into planning areas in accordance with the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Only two primary planning areas differ from the low surplus capacity picture. They are the primary aged groupings known as Harrogate Urban Central and Boroughbridge Outer.

Appendix 1 does not include projections of pupil yield from sites proposed in the Harrogate Borough Council Local Plan that do not yet have planning

approval including the larger proposed west of Harrogate sites of H49 (Windmill Farm) and H51 (Lady Lane) sites west of Harrogate.

Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon will accommodate most of the housing growth over the Local Plan Period.

The key points to note within LA planning areas across the constituency area are:

7.4 Primary

Harrogate Primary West – Members will be aware of the significant housing development planned/underway in the Harrogate west area.

The LA (Education and Highways) continue to be involved in strategic discussions with Harrogate Borough Council and site promoters to determine the associated educational infrastructure required to meet the expected increase in demand for school places.

In addition, the LA has secured an additional site for education at Penny Pot Lane. Development has started at Penny Pot Lane and we are currently monitoring the pace of housing and the impact on the need for additional school places. Additional capacity has been added to Oatlands Junior School.

Harrogate Primary Outer Area – In response to the significant housing developments in Killinghall, the LA have added three classrooms at Killinghall CE School since 2017 increasing the school's capacity to that of a one form entry school (210 places).

Knaresborough Primary Town – A site for education provision has been secured at Manse Farm to primarily serve the Manse Farm development in Knaresborough and the proposed Highfield Farm development. Planning approval was secured in 2020. It is intended that the new school (with nursery provision) will be a free school (a state-funded school, operating as an academy, independent of the local authority). Elevate Multi Academy Trust has been appointed to run the new primary school. Through the 'presumption route' process, NYCC is responsible for delivery and funding of the school using a combination of Basic Need Grant and developer contributions.

The age range of the school will be 3-11, providing places for 210 pupils (one form of entry) with the ability to expand to 420 places (two forms of entry) should that be required in the future. The school will provide places for boys and girls (mixed). The expected opening date is September 2024. The school will also support general school place sufficiency in the Knaresborough area and will be opened in a phased approach to avoid destabilising existing provision.

7.5 Secondary

Harrogate Secondary – Following discussions in 2019 with the local secondary schools additional capacity has been added at both Rossett School (2 additional classrooms) and Harrogate Grammar School (3 additional

classrooms recently completed). Both will assist to meet the expected rise in demand for places as a result of housing growth.

Knarborough - King James's School

Data continues to show that there are sufficient places for local children at King James's School. It continues to be the case that a significant number of pupils from outside of the catchment area are able to secure places in the main admissions round.

9.0 Recommendation

9.1 That Members note the report on educational factors in the Harrogate and Knarborough constituency area.

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Appendix 1 - School Place Planning data

APPENDIX 1

Planning Areas and forecast surplus/shortfall school places

School planning area	Places available as at 2020/2021	Number on Roll 2016/2017	Number on roll 2020/2021	Surplus Capacity 2020/2021	Forecast pupils as at 2025/2026	Pupils from current housing permissions until 2025/2026	Surplus capacity 2025/26
PRIMARY							
Boroughbridge Primary Area Boroughbridge Primary Kirkby Hill CE Rocliffe CE	474	357	334	140	299	266	-91
Boroughbridge Primary Outer Area Dishforth Airfield CP Great Ouseburn CP Green Hammerton CE Kirk Hammerton CE Marton-cum-Graffton CE Nun Monkton Primary St Peter's Brafferton CE Staveley CP	784	548	569	215	523	79	182
	1258	905	930	355	822	345	91

Harrogate Primary Urban Central Bilton Grange CP Coppice Valley Primary Saltergate Community Junior Saltergate Infant Starbeck Primary Academy New Park Primary Academy St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Harrogate, A Voluntary Academy Willow Tree CP Woodfield Primary	2399	2092	1977	422	1774	139	486
Harrogate Primary Urban East Grove Road CP Hookstone Chase Primary Richard Taylor CE St Robert's Catholic	1153	1127	1162	-9	1104	69	-20
Harrogate Primary Urban West Oatlands Infant Oatlands Junior Pannal Primary Rossett Acre Primary St Peter's CE Primary Western Primary	2145	2018	2070	75	1860	187	98
Harrogate Primary Outer Area All Saint's CE School Askwith CP Beckwithshaw CP Birstwith CE Admiral Long CE Darley CP Follifoot CE Hampsthwaite CE Kettlesing Felliscliffe CP Killinghall CE North Rigton CE Ripley Endowed Sicklinghall CE Spofforth CE	1324	1130	1183	141	1091	217	16
	7021	6367	6392	629	5829	612	580

Knaresborough Primary Aspin Park Academy Meadowside Academy St John's CE Primary St Mary's Primary School Knaresborough, A Voluntary Catholic Academy	1190	1190	1136	54	1069	216	-95
Knaresborough Primary Outer Area Goldsborough CE Long Marston CE Scotton Lingerfield Primary Tockwith CE	433	401	416	17	411	83	-61
	1623	1591	1552	71	1480	299	-156

Boroughbridge Secondary Boroughbridge High School	763	654	445	318	464	149	150
Harrogate & Rural Secondary Harrogate Grammar Rossett School Harrogate High St John Fisher Catholic High St Aidan's CE High Nidderdale High*	7685	7796	7841	-156	7928	380	-623
Knaresborough Secondary King James's School	1720	1524	1581	139	1631	138	-49

Note

- Figures above take into account outstanding housing permissions, but not undetermined planning applications or draft Local Plan proposals.