

Executive Performance Report

Quarter 1 2025-26

Report produced by Strategy and Performance

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Executive summary

Introduction

Welcome to the **quarter one** performance report for the period 1 April to 30 June 2025.

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

The report also includes the following appendices:

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

Safe, healthy and living well

Going Well

Referrals to Children's Social Care (CSC)

This quarter has seen the lowest quarterly number of referrals for 2 years with 1,292 recorded and is 234 (-15%) fewer referrals than in Q1 last year.

Placement Stability

Despite the increase in the number of children entering care during Q1 2025/26, there has been notable improvement in both short and long term stability for children. The outcome being that children entering care are experiencing fewer placement moves and more consistent care and remaining in more familiar environments for longer.

To be Addressed

Child Protection Plans

The number of open Child Protection Plans (CPP) increased for the 6th successive quarter to 666, 42% higher than 12 months ago (n=197). The rate of CPP per 10k population stood at 58 per 10k at the end of the quarter, statistically significantly higher than the rate recorded nationally (45 per 10k) or the statistical neighbour average (35 per 10k).

Timeliness of Assessment

Over the last 12 months we have seen the average number of working days taken by social workers to complete a Children & Families assessment rise from 26 in Q1 2024/25 to 32 in this quarter. We've also seen the proportion of assessments completed within the 45 working day threshold fall by 5% to 91% in the same period. Although this is the worst quarterly performance reported in 8 years, it remains significantly better than the national or statistical neighbours averages (84% and 86% respectively).

Children in Care

The number of children in care is currently at an all-time historical high in North Yorkshire, increasing further at the end of Q1 2025/26 to 571 children in care, compared to Q4 2024/25 with 565 children in care.

Maximise the potential

Going Well

Timeliness of EHC plans issued

There has been a considerable improvement in the timeliness of new Education and Health Care plans being issued. 59% of EHC plans were issued within the 20-week deadline in Q1, compared to 12% in the same period of 2024/25. June saw performance at **73%**, which was the highest monthly rate seen for four years.

To be Addressed

Permanent Exclusions

Whilst there has been some indication of a reduction in suspensions (temporary exclusions from school for a fixed period), schools choosing to permanently exclude remains at similar levels to last year. There have been 111 permanent exclusions from mainstream schools in 2024/25 to date, compared to 110 at the same point of the previous academic year.



Safe, Healthy and Living Well

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

Children and Families Safeguarding & Child Protection

Summary

This quarter has seen the seasonally adjusted number of contacts received at the front door increase by 5% (n=396) with 8,645 contacts received. This is the highest quarterly number of contacts received since the inception of the MAST and a 13% increase (n=984) compared with Q1 last year. Analysis highlights increased contacts from police, schools and individuals have driven the rise in contacts this quarter.

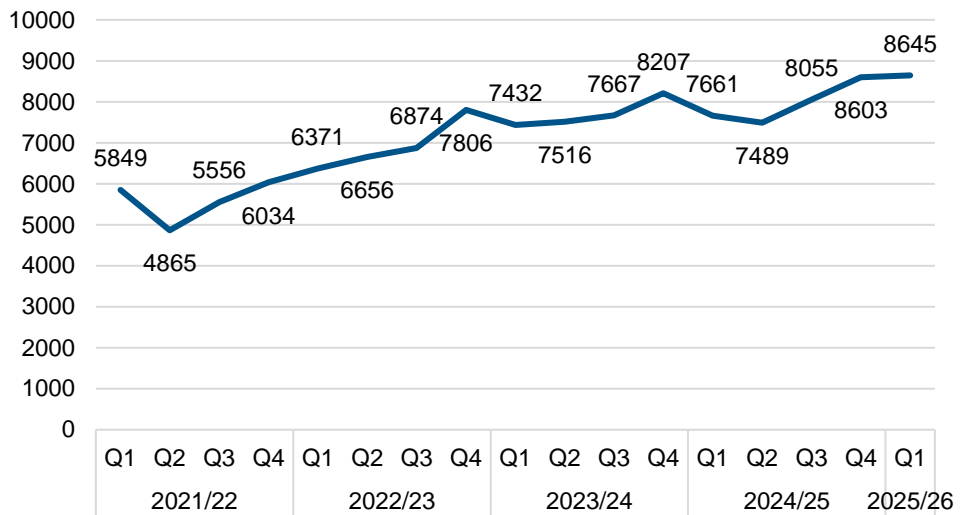
We continue to see more children present at risk of significant harm necessitating a statutory child protection plan. There were 206 such plans issued this quarter, a 13% increase (n=24) compared with Q1 last year. This has led to an unprecedented 666 open CPP at the end of the quarter.

Timeliness of assessment fell by 1.4% this quarter to 91.4%, although this remains significantly better than the national average (84.4%) or the statistical neighbour average (86.2%). However, performance this quarter was much lower than the 96.6% reported in Q1 last year.

Contacts at the Front Door

This quarter has seen another period of very high demand at the front door, with 8,645 recorded. Whilst this is similar to the 8,603 contacts received in the previous quarter, it is 13% higher (n=984) than in Q1 last year. The seasonally adjusted increase in contacts can be attributed to an increase in contacts from the police (+19%, +631 contacts), health services (+8%, +128 contacts) and from individuals (+20%, +103 contacts).

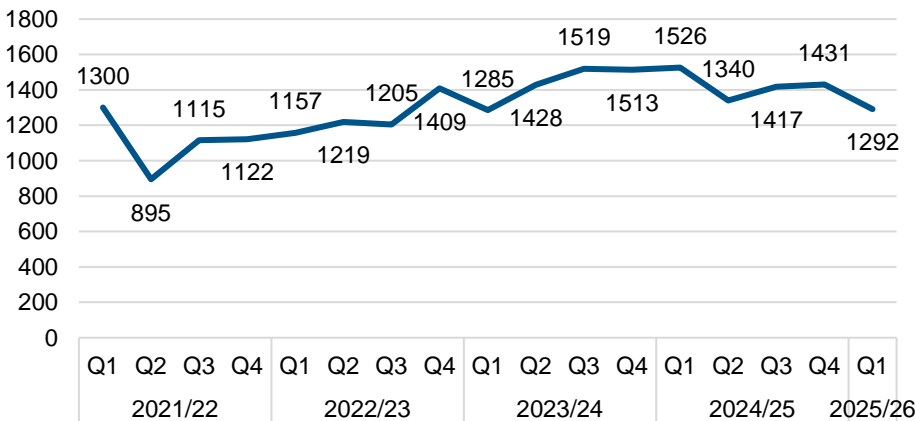
MAST Quarterly Contacts



Referrals to CSC

Despite demand remaining exceptionally high at the front door, this quarter saw referrals fall by 139 (-10.7%) to 1292 this quarter. This is 234 (-15%) fewer referrals than in Q1 last year and is the lowest quarterly number of referrals received in 2 years.

Quarterly Referrals to CSC

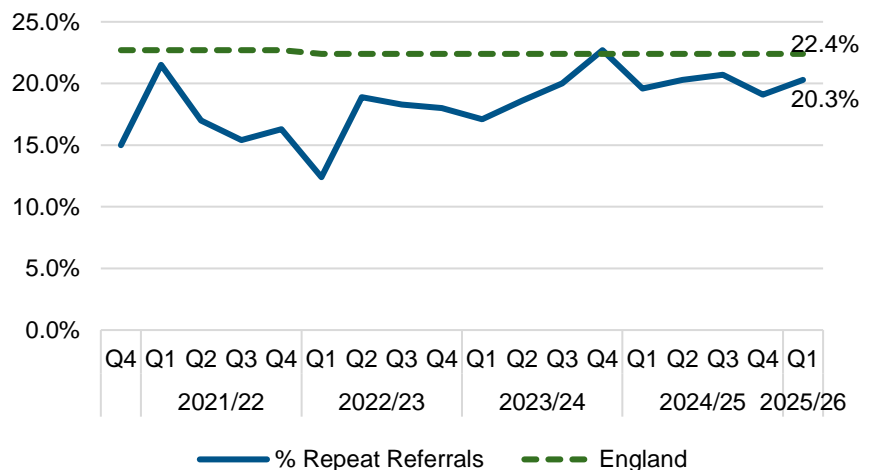


However, despite the reduction in the number of overall referrals we continue to see a high number of children referred at risk of significant harm, demonstrated by the 757 strategy meetings held this month and 486 S47 child protection investigations undertaken this quarter.

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Repeat Referrals to CSC

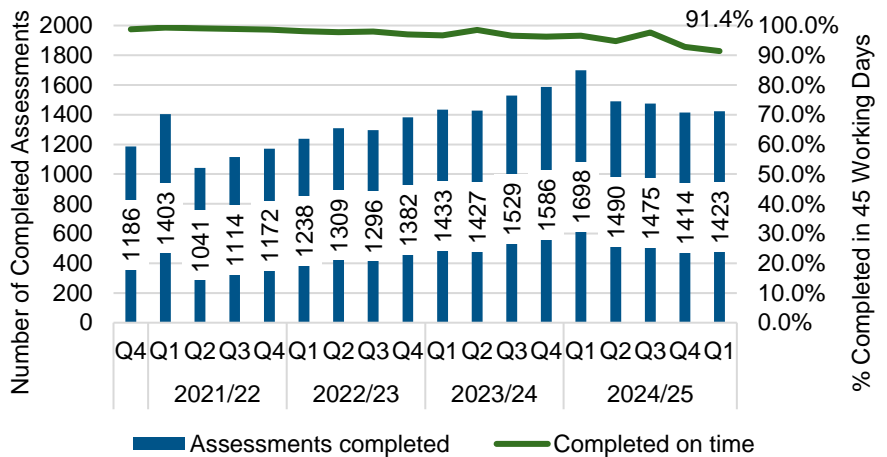
The rate of re-referral rose by 1.2% to 20.3% this quarter and remains statistically significantly lower than the national rate of 22.4%.



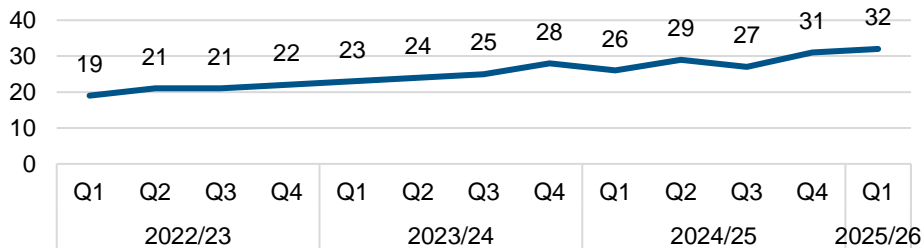
Timeliness of Assessment

Historically, timeliness of assessment has been a key strength in North Yorkshire, and the local authority has consistently been among the top 5 performing local authorities nationally in recent years. However, performance has deteriorated in recent months from 98% in Q3 2024/25 to 91% in Q1 this year. It's worth noting that despite the dip in performance, timeliness of assessment remains significantly better than the most recent national data (84.4% completed in 45 working days) or statistical neighbour average (86.2%).

Number & Timeliness of Children & Family Assessments



Timeliness of Assessment - Average Working Days to Complete

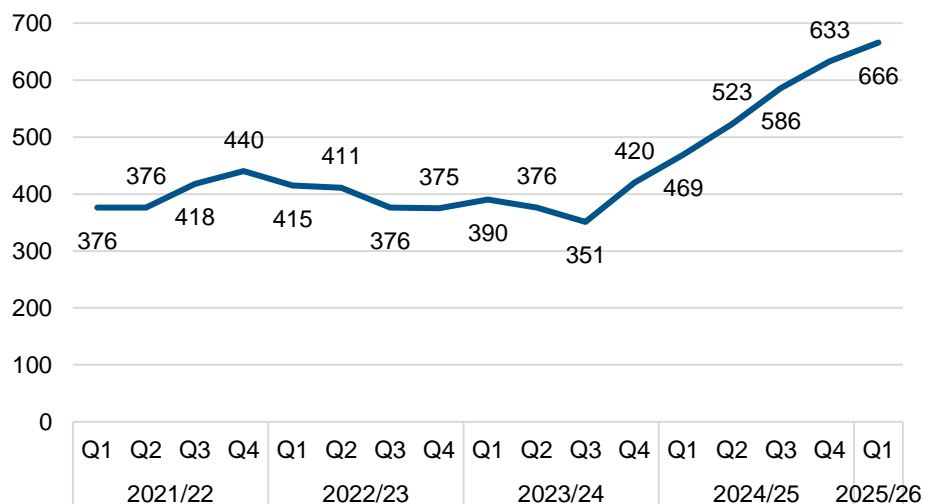


The average number of days taken to complete an assessment has increased from 27 working days in Q3 2024/25 to 32 working days this quarter, which is similar to the national average (32 working days) and the statistical neighbour average (33 working days).

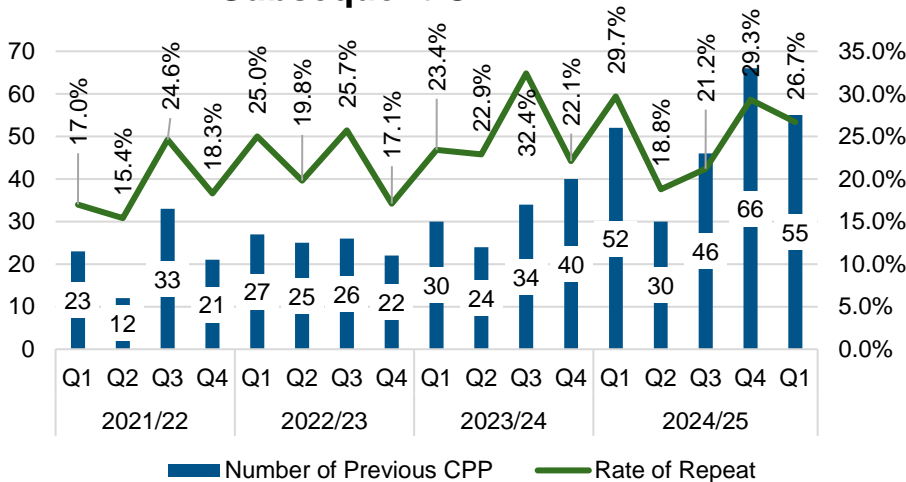
Child Protection Plans

This quarter saw the number of open CPP rise for the 6th successive quarter to 666 at the end of June. This is an increase of 5% (n=33) compared to the position at the end of March and a 42% increase (n=197) compared to the number of open CPP at the end of June last year. This is the highest quarterly number of open CPP in at least 10 years and reflects the increase in the number of children presenting to services at risk of significant harm. However, the rate of increase this quarter is much lower than the average of 12% over the previous 4 quarters.

Number of Open CPP



Rate & Number of Second or Subsequent CPP



It's important to note that the high number of CPP places additional demands on the service and wider partner organisations. The issues faced by children subject to a CPP are typically more complex or entrenched than in the case of a Child in Need and will therefore require more intensive interventions over a longer period.

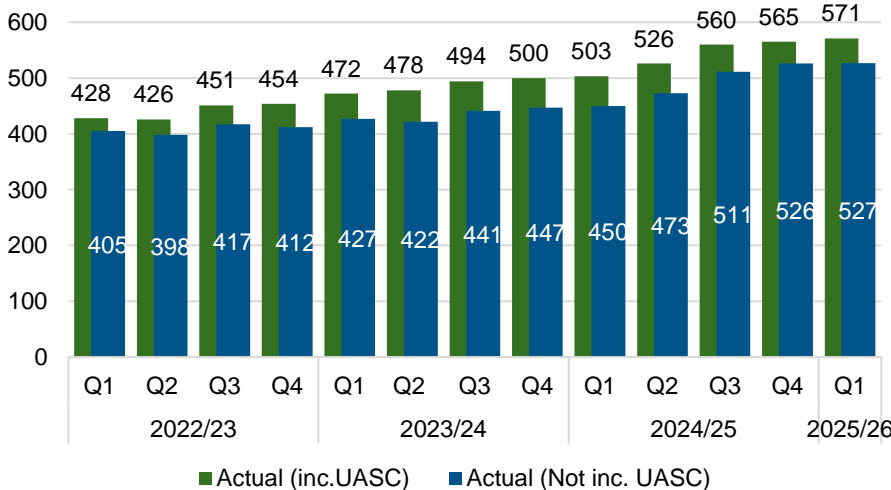
Of the 206 new CPP issued this quarter 55 were second or subsequent plans, equivalent to a rate of 26.7%. It's worth noting that in 27 of 55 second or

subsequent plans more than 2 years had elapsed since the previous plan.

Children Entering into Care

The number of children in care is currently at an all-time historical high in North Yorkshire, increasing further at the end of Q1 2025/26, to 571 children in care, compared to Q4 2024/25 with 565 children in care, this is an increase of 6 individual children and +1%, although it is worth noting the percentage increase and number of children is in line with that at Q4 2024/25, with 5 individual children and +0.9% increase reported. Additionally, when cross referencing back to Q1 2024/25 year on year comparisons demonstrate increases of +68 children and +13.5% increase.

Number of Looked After Children



Regarding Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children there has been an increase to 44 children at the end of Q1 2025/26 compared to 39 children at the end of Q4 2024/25, presenting an increase of 5 individual children and +11.4% increase in children. At same point last year is a decrease of 9 individual children and decrease of -17%.

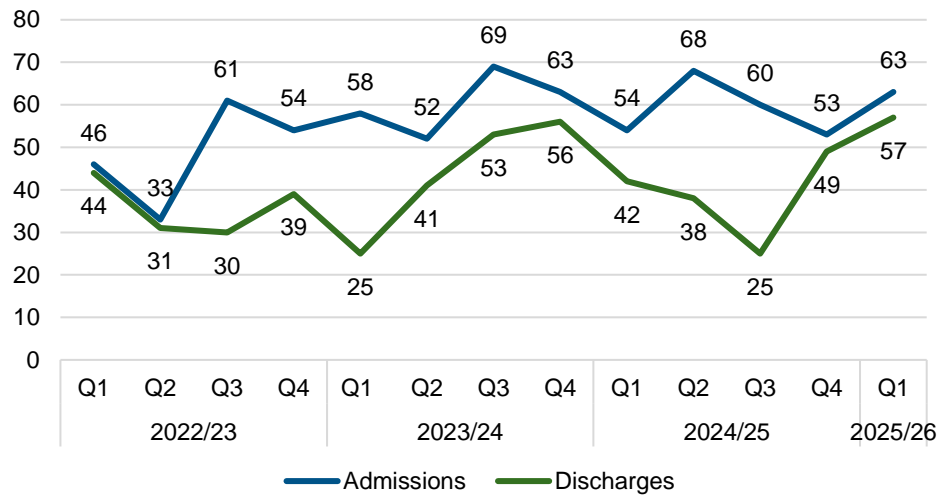
Although the number of children entering care increased further, it is worth noting this growth is similar to that of Q4 2024/25 and Q3 2024/25, demonstrating that the increased rates have

reduced when comparing this quarter's data to the first two quarters in 2024/25 (Q1 and Q2). When analysing the data further regarding admissions and discharges, the data currently is indicating in the last two quarters (Q4 2024/25 and Q1 2025/26), the numbers of admissions and discharges are becoming more aligned and the gap has narrowed between these two indicators.

At Q3 2024/25, 60 admissions were reported compared to just 25 discharges (+35 more admissions than discharges), the impact increased the numbers of children in care further. As a contrast, if you look at the

end of Q4 2024/25, there were 53 admissions versus 49 discharges (+4 more admissions than discharges). Although, at the end of Q1 2025/26 the gap is slightly more with 63 admissions versus 57 discharges (+6 more admissions), as a year on year comparison also this is a decrease compared to performance at Q1 2024/25, 54 admissions versus 42 discharges (+12 more admissions).

Admissions Vs Discharges



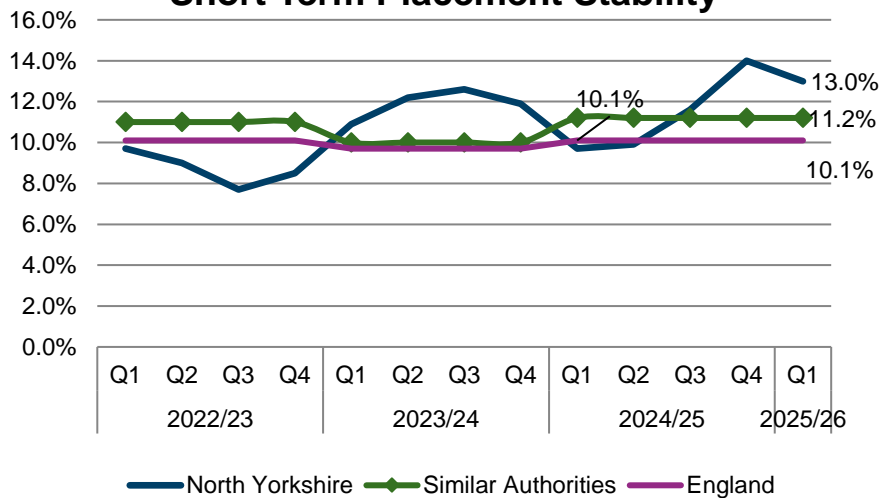
Short and Long Term Placement Stability

Despite the increase in the number of children entering care during Q1 2025/26, there has been notable improvement in both short- and long-term stability for children. The outcome being that children entering care are experiencing fewer placement moves and more consistent care and remaining in more familiar environments for longer, which is important for a child’s emotional and developmental wellbeing. However, it is worth noting that not all placement moves are detrimental for the children, in some cases this can lead to a better match and meet the child’s needs more appropriately and a step in the direction of a better level of permanence for the child.

Short Term Stability

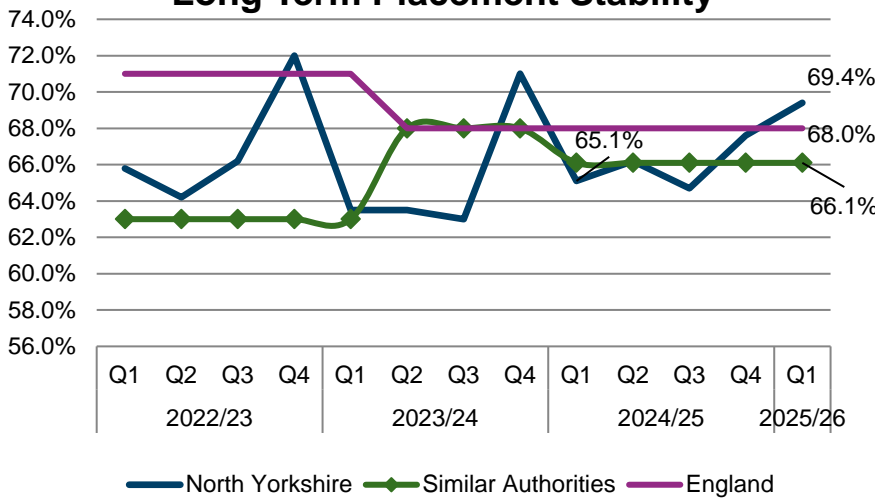
Regarding short term stability at the end of Q1 2025/26, fewer children have experienced 3 or more placements during the period, 74 (13%) of children, compared to 83 (14.7%) of children at the end of Q4 2024/25. Although, this is a positive step and is an improvement when comparing it to the same point last year at Q1 2024/25, the number of children experiencing 3 or more placements moves was reported as 48 (9.7%) of children, this represents a +3% increase year on year, however the number of children in care at that point was also considerably lower at 497 children in care at the end of Q1 2024/25. The national average currently from the 903 DFE Children in Care Return 2023/24, reported 10% of children with 3 or more placements in 12 months and that of our statistical neighbours 11.2%.

Short Term Placement Stability



Long Term Stability

Long Term Placement Stability



Long Term Stability continues to be strong and demonstrates a positive trend for children entering care in North Yorkshire and has improved at the end of Q1 2025/26 to 69.4% with 150 children in long term placements of over 2 years compared to 68.2% at the end of Q4 2024/25, with 146 children in long term placement of over 2 years. When comparing the same point last year this also is demonstrating an increase of +3.1% year on year, compared to Q1 2024/25 (65.1%). Additionally North Yorkshire performance is strong and above both national and statistical benchmarks with national average

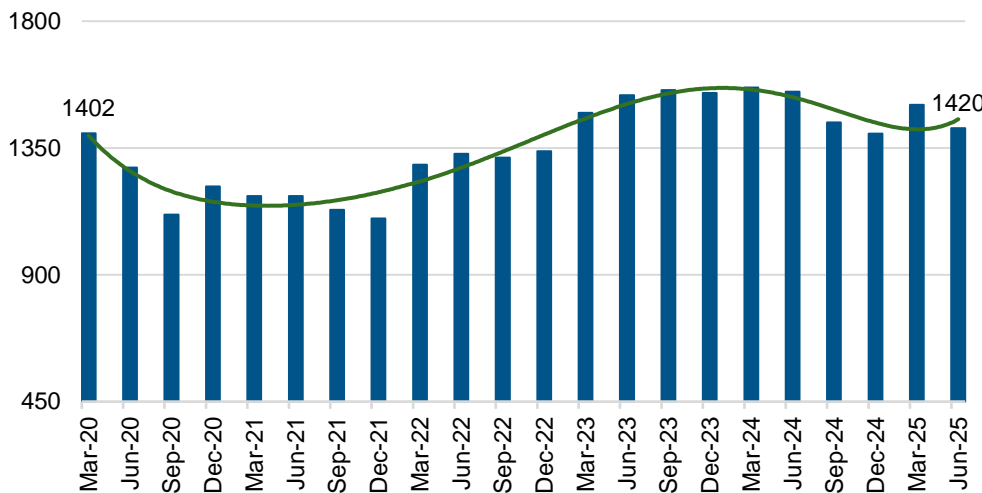
currently reported from DfE releases for 2023/24, as 68% and that of our statistical neighbours also at 66.1%.

Early Help

Activity

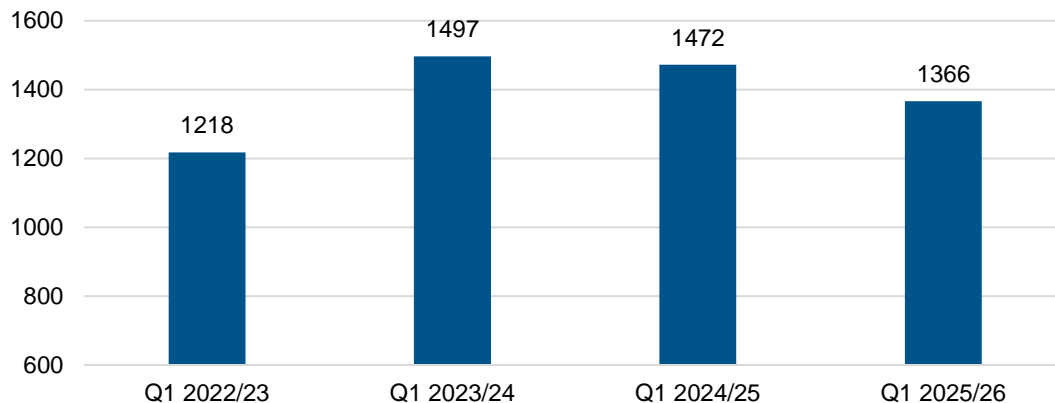
The number of ongoing households receiving support from the Early Help Service has decreased in Quarter 1 2025/26 and has reduced down by 5.5% compared to Q4 2024/25. The current total of 1,420 Households relates to 2,705 children and young people.

Ongoing Early Help Households



Demand through the 'front door' has reduced by 7.2% to 1,366 compared to the Q1 2024/25 (1,472), as shown in the chart below. The low Quarter 1 2022/23 figure may be due to continuing reduced demand during the Covid 19 pandemic. Compared to the previous quarter, Q4 2024/25, then new referrals have decreased even more, by 11.6% from the 1,546 Early Help Episodes in January-March 2025.

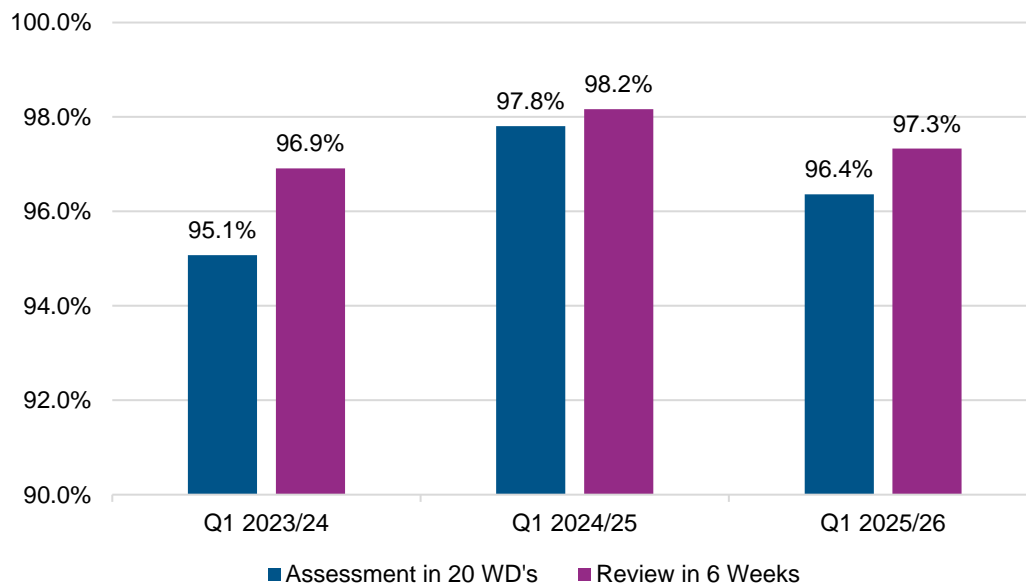
MAST Contact Decision: New Early Help Episode



In Q1 2024/25, the average length of time cases were open was 17.4 weeks (Episode Leads). this has increased slightly to 17.6 weeks in Q1 2025/26. For 0-19 young people, in Q1 2024/25, the figure was 17.6, increasing to 17.9 in Q1 2025/26.

Timeliness – Early Help Assessments

Timeliness of Early Help Assessments



The timeliness of Early Help Initial Assessments continues to be very strong with 96.4% of Initial Assessments completed within the 20 working days target in Quarter 1 2025/26. However, this is a reduction from 97.8% in Q1 2024/25.

In addition, 97.3% of Assessment Reviews were completed within the 6 weeks target in Quarter 1 2025/26 – again a slight reduction from

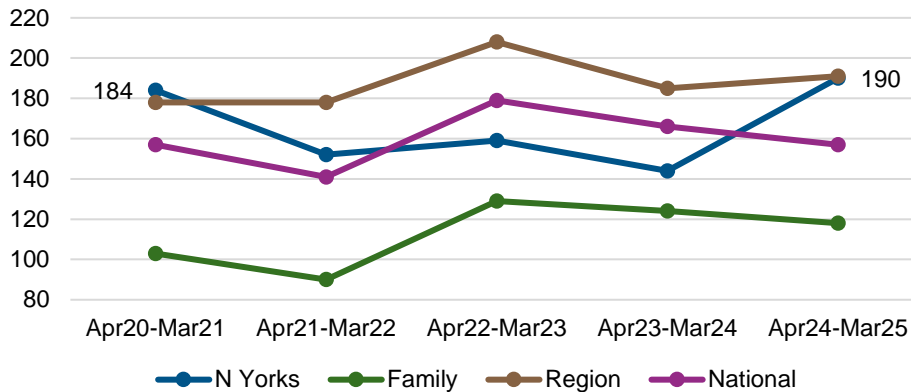
98.2% in Quarter 1 2024/25.

Youth Justice Service

First Time Entrants (FTE's) into the Criminal Justice System

The latest data for the 12 months ending March 2025 showed an increase in the rate of FTE's (r=190) into the criminal justice system in North Yorkshire compared with the rate 12 months previously (r=144). The rate of 190 relates to 106 young people and places North Yorkshire in the 3rd Quartile nationally.

First Time Entrant Rate



The current rate in North Yorkshire is similar to the regional rate (r=191), but higher than the national rate (r=157) and the family group average (r=118).

Recent data is taken directly from the YJS case management system rather than from an extract of the Police National Computer (PNC). Data from the case management system will show more FTE's than the official

data as it will count some offences (e.g., some Motoring Offences) which are excluded from PNC as they are not 'recordable'.

As with the previous data, the most recent data has been impacted by a few recording issues following the move onto the new case management system. The figure of 106 young people includes 4 Out of Area cases. Deducting these cases would reduce the rate from 190 to 183 (102 young people).

The figure of 102 includes 18 non-recordable Motoring Offences which would not be input onto PNC.

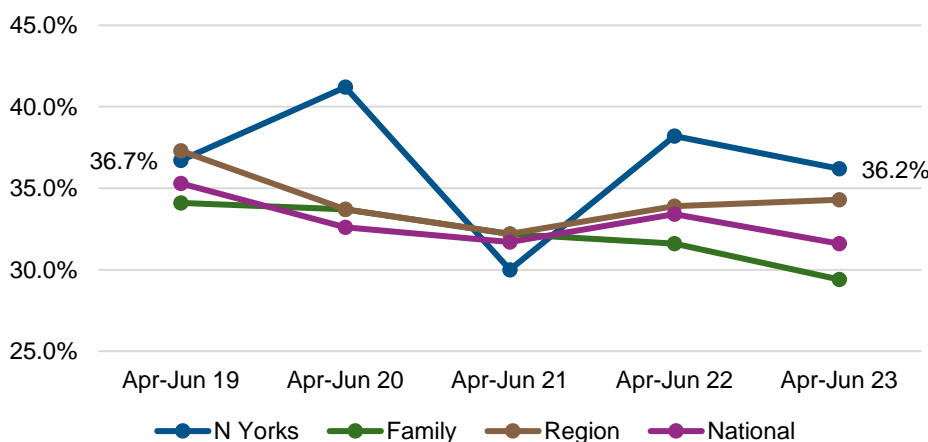
The Ministry of Justice recently published the 2024 calendar year FTE data taken from the official source, an extract of PNC. The data showed 78 FTE's in North Yorkshire equating to a rate of 140. This compares with the data published by the YJB from YOT case management system data for the same period of 99 FTE's equating to a rate of 178 (after deducting the cases included due to inputting errors).

It is anticipated that the rate will drop in the next set of figures as the quarter that will 'drop out' of the figures (April-June 2024) contained a particularly high number of FTE's (n=37).

Reoffending Rates

The latest official Binary re-offending rate for North Yorkshire of 36.2% for the April-June 2023 cohort was a decrease from the figure of 38.2% seen in the cohort 12 months previously. However, the rate is higher than the Family Group average (29.4%), Regional rate (34.3%) and National rate (31.6%).

Binary Reoffending Rate



The April-June 2021 cohort showing a low reoffending rate in North Yorkshire is believed to have been impacted by covid related lockdowns and the recovery of the court system.

The frequency rate for this cohort (average number of reoffences per reoffender) decreased significantly to 3.06 and is lower than the Family Group rate of 5.28, Regional rate (4.96) and National rate (4.25).

The North Yorkshire cohort consisted of 47 young people with 17 reoffenders committing 52 proven reoffences.

The number of young people in the latest cohort is the highest level seen since the April-June 2021 cohort. The average cohort size in the 5 cohorts from Jan-Mar 2022 up to and including Jan-Mar 2023 was 35 with an average of 13 reoffenders.



Maximise the potential

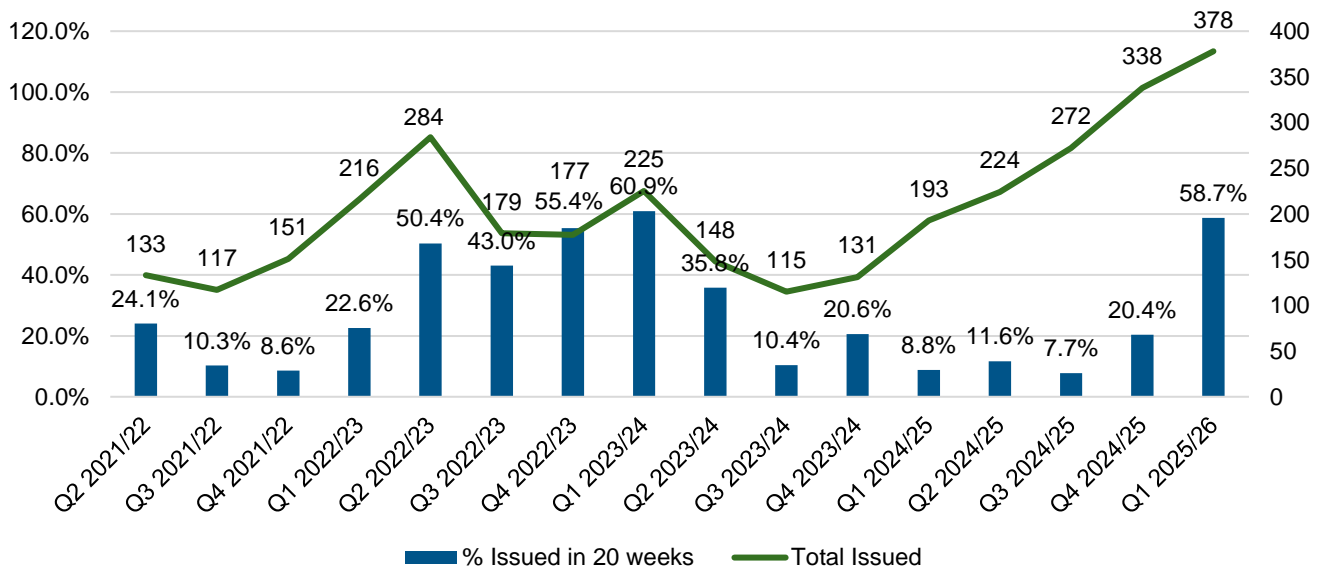
Maximise the potential of North Yorkshire’s people and communities.

Inclusion

Education, Health & Care (EHC) Plan Timeliness

There has been a clear improvement in the timeliness of issuing EHC plans since the beginning of 2025 and this has continued through Q1. 59% of EHC plans were issued within the 20-week deadline in Q1, compared to 12% in the same period of 2024/25. June saw performance at 73%, which was the highest monthly rate seen for four years.

Timeliness of EHC plans issued



Previous national comparisons placed North Yorkshire below the national average of 46%. However,

given the sustained improvement in performance, North Yorkshire’s performance would be expected to be well above this national benchmark by the end of the year.

This increase in timeliness has been achieved alongside increasing numbers of new EHC plans being issued, 378 were issued in Q1 2025/26 compared to 193 issued in Q1 2024/25. It is now expected that a higher number of EHC plans will be issued in this year than any previous year.

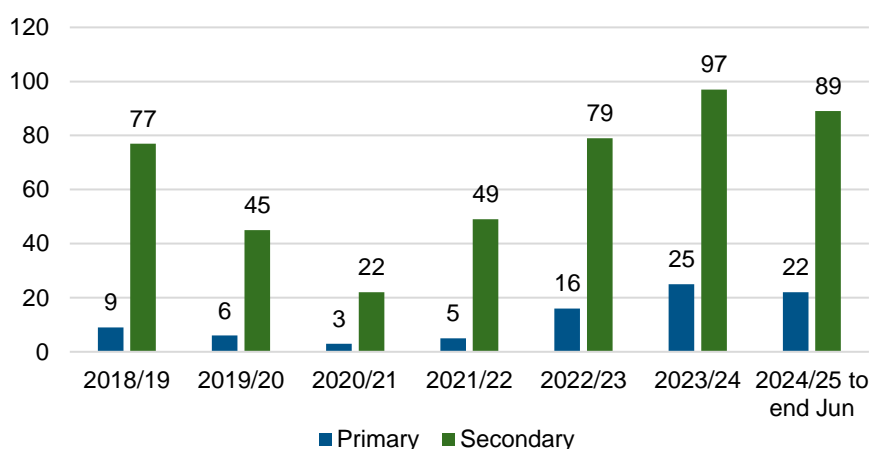
Exclusions from School

Total numbers of children being excluded from schools for either a temporary period or permanently continues to be higher than recorded before the pandemic, however there is some indication that the number of suspensions is beginning to slow or reduce.

It is important to note that schools choosing to exclude is a trend observed nationally and the most recent available national data (Spring term 2023/24 academic year) shows that North Yorkshire rates of exclusion have been at or below national rates for primary and secondary schools.

There have been a total of 111 permanent exclusions from North Yorkshire mainstream schools in 2024/25 academic year to the end of June, pending potential appeals. This compares with 110 in the same point of 2023/24.

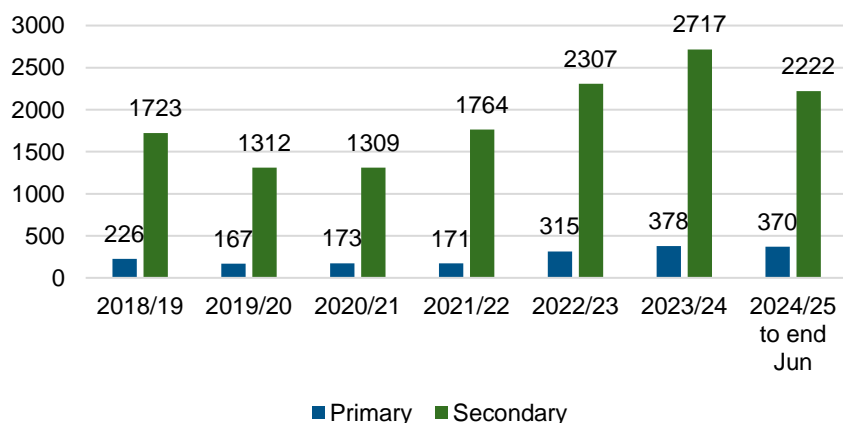
Permanent Exclusions



Rates of secondary schools and primary schools choosing to permanently exclude is very similar to recent years. There is as yet no sign in a reduction in the high level of permanent exclusions from primary schools which increased from 5 in 2021/22 to 25 in 2023/24. So far this year, there have been 22 permanent exclusions from North Yorkshire primary schools.

Whilst there has been an increasing national trend in the numbers of children suspended (temporary exclusions) at least once from schools since the pandemic, there is some indication that this is beginning to slow and reduce. The increase in North Yorkshire from 2022/23 (2609) to 2023/24 (3098) was +18% (n=+489). In 2024/25 to the end of June, there have been 2222 children suspended from secondary schools (totalling 7754 separate suspensions) and 370 from primary schools (370 suspensions), compared to 2717 and 378 at the same point last year respectively, suggesting that there will have been a reduction in total suspensions from secondary schools in this academic year.

Child Suspended



Reasons for schools choosing to suspend are very similar to previous years. Persistent disruptive behaviour has been by far the most common reason (55% of all suspensions), Verbal abuse or threatening behaviour toward an adult, the next most common reason given, makes up approximately 16%.

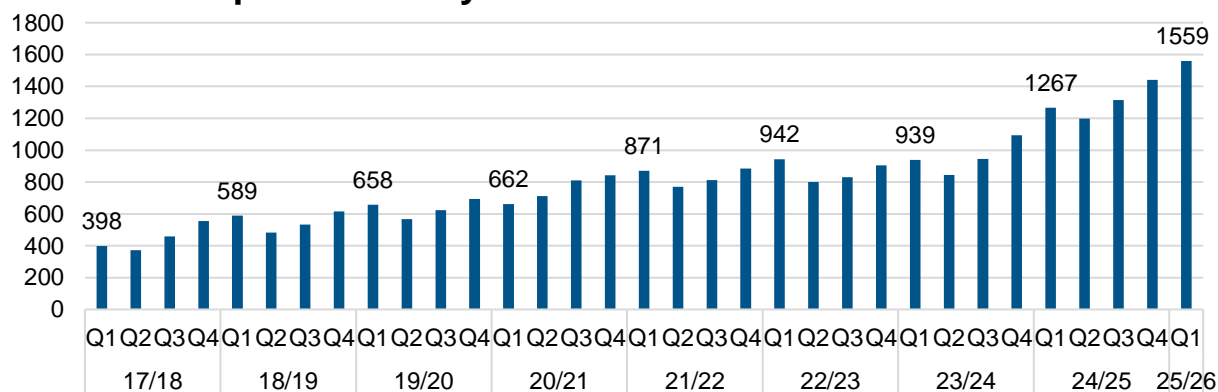
Elective Home Education

There are currently the highest number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) in North Yorkshire than at any time, 1559 by the end of Q1 2025/26, compared to 1267 at this point last year. It is a parental entitlement to Elective Home Educate and has become increasingly prevalent since the pandemic, with no indication of a decrease in this trend into the future.

Published national comparators put the National rate of EHE as a percentage of the school population at 1.4%, North Yorkshire is 1.5% (DfE, 2024). Based on current internal data, North Yorkshire’s rate would be closer to 1.7% at this point in time, with National data for this year forthcoming.

Nationally published statistics show that an increasing number of parents are choosing to home educate due to mental health concerns, a trend similar to that witnessed in North Yorkshire. The recently published national 10 Year Health Plan (Fit For The Future) announced the expansion of mental health support teams in schools and colleges to “identify needs and provide additional support for children and young people’s mental health through Young Futures Hubs.

Pupils Electively Home Educated at Quarter end



Education and Skills

Attendance

Overall attendance in schools appear to have marginally improved into 2024/25, when compared to recent years, although it continues to be below levels before the pandemic. Pre-pandemic, the primary school attendance rate was recorded as 96.1% (currently 95.2%) in 2018/19 and 94.4% in secondary (currently 90.5%), 91.3% for special schools (currently 84.3%).

Improvements in attendance are most apparent amongst children recorded as being persistently absent (absent from at least 10% of all sessions through the year) in primary schools. As of the end of June, 10.8% of all children were recorded as persistently absent in primary schools, below (better than) the 2023/24 rate of 12.4% and the national rate of 14.6%.

Whilst improvements have also been seen in secondary and special schools, these continue to be above national rates recorded in 2023/24.

North Yorkshire Council has held an Education Matters event this year to share information and promote partnership working for school attendance. These events have been valuable in understanding potential solutions.