



Notice of a public meeting of

Children, Culture & Communities Scrutiny Committee

- To:** Councillors Nicholls (Chair), Nelson (Vice-Chair), Clarke, Crawshaw, Cuthbertson, Knight, Pearson, Waller, Wells and Wilson
- Date:** Tuesday, 17 October 2023
- Time:** 5.30 pm
- Venue:** The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest (Pages 1 - 2)

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

[Please see attached sheet for further guidance for Members]

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 6)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 05 September 2023.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines are set as 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at our meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is 5:00pm on Friday, 13 October 2023.

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting, please contact Democratic Services. Contact details can be found at the foot of this agenda.

Webcasting of Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

During coronavirus, we made some changes to how we ran council meetings, including facilitating remote participation by public speakers. See our updates (www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy) for more information on meetings and decisions.

4. Finance & Performance Monitor 1 (Pages 7 - 24)

This report sets out the projected 2023/24 financial position and the performance position for the period covering 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023

5. Performance of York Learning Strategic Plan 2022-2023 (Pages 25 - 50)

This report presents York Learning's end of year performance against their strategic aims for the academic year 2022/23.

6. Annual Update - Libraries and Archives (Pages 51 - 72)

This report provides members with an annual update from Explore Libraries and Archives Mutual Limited (Explore) who operate the Council's libraries and archives service.

7. Work Plan (Pages 73 - 74)

Members are asked to consider the Committee's work plan for the 2023/24 municipal year.

8. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democratic Services Officer

Reece Williams

Contact Details:

- Telephone – (01904) 555209
- Email – reece.williams@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim (Polish)
własnym języku.

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی میا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 (01904) 551550

This page is intentionally left blank

Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members

- (1) Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:

Type of Interest	You must
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Disclose the interest, not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being: (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest. In which case, speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.

- (2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.
- (3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

This page is intentionally left blank

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Children, Culture & Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	5 September 2023
Present	Councillors Nicholls (Chair), Nelson (Vice-Chair), Clarke, Crawshaw, Cuthbertson, Pearson, Waller, Wilson and Mason (Substitute for Councillor Knight)
Apologies	Councillors Knight, Wells

1. **Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests, not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in respect of business on the agenda.

Councillor Waller noted that he was a Governor of York High School and Westfield Primary School and Councillor Cuthbertson noted that he was a Governor of Headlands Primary School; these had been included on their registers of interests.

Councillor Crawshaw noted that he had children in both years 6 and 9. In relation to both items on the agenda, he declared a personal non-registerable, sensitive interest. He had taken advice and was satisfied that he had no conflict of interest.

Councillor Webb noted that he was a teacher at Holgate School and an employee of Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust.

2. **Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 7 March 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

3. **Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been one registration to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Flick Williams spoke on Agenda Item 5 (Report of the School Inclusion Advisor – Inclusion Services). She stated that children were expected to attend school without adequate precautions being in place, which could lead to an increase in COVID-19 cases. She noted that a focus on school attendance would primarily affect poorer families, and disabled children.

4. SEND Update: Delivery of the SEND Operational Plan, 2023-2025

[Councillor Mason arrived at 5.48pm.]

The Assistant Director of Education presented the SEND Update report, which updated members on the progress since the SEND inspection re-visit in November 2022.

Since the November 2022 inspection Ofsted had removed the written statement of action that was implemented in the 2019 inspection.

A new inspection framework was in place and the next inspection should examine how the authority works with partners, and children's and young people's parents/carers, and will be driven by the child's voice. Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) must reflect the choices of the child/young person, and they should understand why they have an EHCP and what the aims of the EHCP are.

Communication and the voice of the child/young person were key priorities. Engagement events would be started from January 2024 that would be fed into the next SEND strategy.

Monthly meetings with the Parent Carer Forum were held to understand how the Council can better support parents and carers, this was a key part of the SEND operational plan.

In response to issues raised during public participation, the Assistant Director of Education stated that schools had not returned to pre-COVID-19 normality, but schools were as safe as possible for children. Schools were having to be reactive, rather than strategic, in their responses to challenges.

Employers had committed to the council's request to develop a network of inclusive employers; this demonstrated the council's commitment to the futures of SEND children.

The Head of the Integrated SEND Service explained that the number of mediations and tribunals seen by City of York Council were similar

to national figures, and working with parents and carers effectively prior to a tribunal being needed has successfully led to the reduction in mediations and tribunals.

It was agreed that at a future committee meeting the Assistant Director of Education would provide an update on the SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) (4.1 in Annexe A) and transition plans (4.5 in Annexe A).

Resolved: Members noted contents of the report and consider plans for ongoing scrutiny of the issues.

Reason: To ensure that the committee maintained an overview of SEND provision in the local area.

5. Report of the School Inclusion Advisor - Inclusion Services

The School Inclusion Advisor presented the Behaviour and Attendance report and indicated that York had previously been below national averages and had seen an increase in expulsions this year which is in line with a national increase. It was said that there is a commitment city-wide to reduce the number of expulsions being seen. It was noted that primary school absence levels had improved from last year, and it was hoped that secondary school absence levels would soon follow this trend. Severe absences had improved from last year but SEND pupils and those on FSMs (free school meals) were disproportionately affected by these absences than other pupils.

In response to questions from members, officers noted that:

- All schools have got a pastoral team who can assist with SEND children.
- Communication with families can support SEND children who are medically unable to return to school to re-engage with mainstream education, and communicating with families to get a better understanding of early triggers in SEND pupils has helped keep children in school.
- There has been an increase of around 50-60% of those who are electively home-schooled, but York were below national statistics. Schools are encouraged to support electively home-schooled pupils back into mainstream education and have annual contact with these families to ensure the child is getting the best possible support.

Resolved: That members noted the contents of the report and considered plans for ongoing scrutiny of the issues raised within the analysis of the data.

Reason: To ensure that the committee fully discharged its responsibilities in relation to behaviour and attendance in schools.

6. Work Plan

Members considered the work plan for the municipal year 2023-2024.

Members agreed that:

- Councillors Cuthbertson, Crawshaw, and Wilson would be appointed to a Task & Finish group examining changes in the type of EHCPs that children and young people are qualifying for.
- Councillor Nelson would be appointed to the Food Insecurity Task & Finish Group. The Chair would write to the Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee to request a Liberal Democrat member to contribute to the group.
- The Chair would write to the Chair of the Corporate Services, Climate Change, and Scrutiny Management Committee to confirm the membership of the Task & Finish Groups and to request an additional member from another scrutiny committee for the Food Insecurity Group.

Cllr Nicholls , Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 8.24 pm].



Meeting:	Children, Culture & Communities Scrutiny Committee
Meeting date:	17 October 2023
Report of:	Ian Floyd Chief Operating Officer Richard Hartle Head of Children and Education Finance

2023/24 Finance and Performance Monitor 1

Subject of Report

1. This report sets out the projected 2023/24 financial position and the performance position for the period covering 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023, together with an overview of any emerging issues. This is the first report of the financial year and assesses performance against budgets, including progress in delivering the Council's savings programme.
2. This report outlines the Council's serious financial position with a forecast overspend for 2023/24 of £11.4m. This is a significant overspend that is of serious concern and it is very clear that the Council cannot afford to keep spending at this level. The general reserve is £6.9m and, whilst we have other earmarked reserves that we could call on if required, continued spending at this level would quickly see the Council exhaust its reserves.
3. Given the scale of the forecast overspend, immediate action is needed to bring spending down to an affordable level, both within the current financial year and over the next 4 years, to safeguard the Council's financial resilience and stability.
4. This report outlines the actions we need to take and identifies areas for further work. If we take immediate action and make these difficult decisions now, this will ensure the future financial stability of the Council and that we can continue to provide services for our residents. It is vital that the mitigations are delivered, and the forecast overspend is reduced.

Benefits and Challenges

5. This report is mainly to note the latest financial projections and current performance. The main challenge is delivering on agreed savings whilst also identifying further reductions in expenditure. The main benefit of approving the recommendations will be the ongoing financial stability of the Council.

Policy Basis for Decision

6. This report is mainly to note the latest financial projections and current performance. The ongoing financial resilience and stability of the Council will be essential to ensuring that Council priorities can continue to be achieved.

Financial Strategy Implications

7. This report sets out the projected financial position and identifies a range of actions that are necessary in order to reduce expenditure, both within the current financial year and over the next 4 years to safeguard the Council's financial resilience and stability.

Recommendation and Reasons

8. The Committee is asked to note the finance and performance information.

Reason: to ensure expenditure is kept within the approved budget.

Background

Financial Summary and Mitigation Strategy

9. The current forecast is that there will be an overspend of £11.4m. This is despite action being taken by managers across the Council to try and reduce expenditure. If the Council continues to spend at the current level, and no action is taken, then we will continue to overspend and will exhaust our reserves and any other available funding. The current level of expenditure is unaffordable and therefore we must take immediate action to reduce expenditure.

10. As outlined in reports to Executive throughout the previous financial year, we have continued to see recurring overspends across both Adult and Children's Social Care. However, the underspends and mitigations that have allowed us to balance the budget at year end have generally been one off. Whilst the use of reserves to fund an overspend is appropriate as a one-off measure, it does not remove the need to identify ongoing savings to ensure the overall position is balanced. The budget report considered by Executive in February 2023 also included an assessment of risks associated with the budget, which included the need to secure further savings and effectively manage cost pressures.
11. Members will be aware that the financial position of local government is a national challenge and that the pressures being seen across both Adult and Children's Social Care are not something that is unique to York. Many Councils are experiencing significant financial pressures and struggling to balance their budgets now, so it is vital that we take immediate action to reduce our expenditure down to a sustainable level both within the current financial year and over the medium term. Taking decisive action now will safeguard the Council's financial resilience and stability and prevent York being in a position where it is unable to balance its budget in future years. This means that, in addition to the actions proposed in this report, there will be a need to continue to identify further mitigations and savings for future years.
12. A series of mitigations and cost control measures are already in place to reduce the forecast overspend but further measures need to be implemented. Given the scale of the financial challenge, and the expected impact on budgets in future years, it is vital that every effort is made to balance the overall position. It is recognised that this will require difficult decisions to be made to protect services for vulnerable residents.
13. Corporate control measures are being implemented but they will not deliver the scale of reduction needed within the year. Other savings proposals, including service reductions, will also be needed.

The following measures will therefore be implemented with immediate effect.

- i. Increase car parking charges by 10p per hour as outlined in paragraphs 81 to 82.

- ii. A freeze on recruitment, agency, and overtime wherever possible and safe to do so. Some exceptions are in place for waste, social care, income generating posts and health and safety matters. This will impact on service delivery in a variety of ways, depending on where the vacancies arise. Corporate Directors will monitor the position in their own directorates and highlight any risks as appropriate.
 - iii. Introduce an officer procurement challenge panel to review all procurements, ensuring that they look to reduce costs and review service levels with an expectation that savings are delivered from contracts. This will include not reprocurring non statutory contracts where it is considered possible and safe to do so.
 - iv. Identify alternative funding sources for the remaining one-off items, totalling £650k, that are due to be funded from the Venture Fund and Business Rates Pool to allow this funding to instead offset the forecast overspend.
14. Further work will also be done to consider whether savings can be realised from a range of other areas. This work will start now, and any options considered in a future report to Executive or an Executive Member Decision Session as appropriate.
- i. Explore the potential for generating income through provision of some non-statutory services such as green waste collection.
 - ii. Review the current capital programme to identify any schemes that can be delayed so that we can also defer borrowing costs to generate a revenue saving in year. This review will also consider whether schemes not yet started should progress and will include a review of ICT expenditure to identify any work that can be reduced or delayed.
 - iii. Consider a reduction in expenditure on highways maintenance.
 - iv. Consider further reductions in ward funding.
 - v. Review all grant payments to Community & Voluntary sector to identify any areas that could be reduced.
 - vi. Review all fees and charges to identify where in year increases could be implemented.
 - vii. Review a range of existing contracts and service levels to identify any that can be reduced.
15. Alongside these actions, officers will continue to carefully monitor spend, identify further mitigation, and review reserves and other funding to make every effort to reduce this forecast position.

However, it is possible that it will not be reduced to the point that the outturn will be within the approved budget. The Council has £6.9m of general reserves that would need to be called on if this were the case. As outlined in previous reports, any use of the general reserve would require additional savings to be made in the following year to replenish the reserve and ensure it remains at the recommended minimum level.

16. It must be a clear priority for all officers to focus on the delivery of savings plans during the year. Corporate Directors and Directors will keep Executive Members informed of progress on a regular basis.

Directorate Analysis – Children and Education

17. The overall projection represents a significant improvement on the position reported during 2022/23. In particular, a reduction in the underlying overspend within the Children & Education Directorate of over £3m compared to the 2022/23 final outturn position.
18. There has been significant progress made in reviewing and reducing the expenditure across Children & Education, with a substantial reduction in the use of agency staff and the cost of placements compared to 2022/23. This is extremely positive and is against the national trend of ever increasing overspends in Children's Services. However, costs are increasing due to inflation, an increase in safeguarding activity reflecting greater complexity of needs and the challenges of a dysfunctional children's social care market. Table 1 below provides a high-level summary.

Table 1: Children, Culture & Communities Financial Projections Summary 2023/24 – Monitor 1

2022/23 Outturn Variation £000		2023/24 Latest Approved Budget			2023/24 Projected Outturn Variation	
		Gross Spend £000	Income £000	Net Spend £000	£000	%
	Children & Education					
+7,539	Children's Safeguarding	24,036	2,727	21,309	+4,291	+20.1%
+773	Education & Skills	19,643	5,019	14,624	+782	+5.3%
-135	School Funding & Assets	170,894	178,536	-7,642	-5	-0.1%
-51	Director of C&E & Central Budgets	2,788	5,996	-3,208	+6	+0.2%
+8,126	C&E Directorate Total	217,361	192,278	25,083	+5,074	+20.2%
-750	One-Off Mitigations:					
-2,707	Covid Grant					
	DSG Safety Valve					
	M1 Mitigations				-500	N/A
+4,669	C&E Total After Mitigations	217,361	192,278	25,083	+4,574	+18.2%
+58	Culture & Communities	14,761	7,091	7,670	-34	-0.4%
+4,727	CC&C Scrutiny Total	232,122	199,369	32,753	+4,540	+13.9%

+ indicates increased expenditure or reduced income / - indicates reduced expenditure or increased income.

Children's Specialist Services

19. As previously reported, the number of Children Looked After (CLA) in York has consistently been at a higher level than the budget was built to accommodate. The number at the beginning of the financial year was 267, at the end of June it was 263. Placement budgets are predicted to be overspent by a total of £2,608k, which is a significant improvement from the 2023/23 outturn which was £5,651k overspent. However, the pressure on this budget continues and is partly due to the limited market for children's placements and the statutory requirements placed on local authorities to meet children's needs, coupled with inflationary pressures which could worsen the position.

20. In addition, there is a predicted overspend in the Corporate Parenting Staffing Teams of £317k as the staffing budgets make no provision for the extra costs of agency staff.
21. Safeguarding Interventions is predicted to overspend by 165k due to a higher number of cases and the use of some agency staff to cover vacancies. In addition, legal fees are predicted to overspend by £218k.
22. An overspend in Disabled Children's Services of £542k is mainly overspends on direct payments. A specific project for direct payments is being investigated, which will clawback some of previous payments made and reduce ongoing costs.

Education and Skills

23. Home to School Transport shows a forecast overspend of £775k. This continuing overspend is due to an increase in numbers for post 16/19 plus the provision of more specialist education provision locally. This is a much more cost-effective alternative to expensive out-of-city provision but has a consequent effect on this budget as we have had to provide more transport to establishments such as York College, Askham Bryan, Choose 2 and Blueberry Academy. The change in legislation to allow EHCPs up to the age of 25, resulting in significantly more students accessing this option, has also significantly increased our transport spend.

School Funding & Assets (including the DSG)

24. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is currently projected to be on track to meet the targets set out in the Safety Valve recovery plan agreed with the DfE.
25. The main pressure continues to be experienced within the High Needs Block and is due to the continuing increase in High Needs numbers, and increasing complexity, requiring expensive provision, especially in Post 16 and Post 19 provision and the education element of Out of Authority placements.
26. The brought forward balance on the DSG as at 1 April 2022 was a deficit of £5,843k, following the first payment of additional funding under the Safety Valve agreement in March 2022. The net position

in 2022/23 would have been an overspend of £1,380k, however a further £4,500k of additional DSG was paid during the year as the LA successfully met the targets set out in year one of the agreed management plan. The result is a revised cumulative deficit of £2,723k to carry forward to 2023/24.

27. The Safety Valve agreement commits the local authority to bring the DSG into an in-year balanced position by 2025/26. Further payments are conditional on the local authority meeting the targets set out in the Management Plan, and reporting quarterly to the DfE on progress, with the eventual aim of eliminating the in-year deficit by the target date, with additional payments by the DfE eliminating the historic deficit at that point.

Office of the Director of Children & Education & Central Budgets

28. There are no significant variations to report.

Children & Education Directorate Mitigations

29. Senior officers in the Directorate and Finance have reviewed all budgets and have identified a number of in-year mitigations to reduce the headline directorate overspend. To date, an amount of £500k has been identified, mainly from reserves and grants brought forward that can be allocated to fund expenditure in the year, plus a small amount of unallocated growth and contingency provision.

Communities & Equalities

30. These services, which include York Learning, Libraries, Sports and Leisure and Communities are currently expected to underspend by £34k. Most service areas are spending within the budget allocation with some small underspends identified related to holding vacant posts.

Performance – Service Delivery

31. This interim performance report is based upon the strategic indicators included in the Performance Framework for the Council Plan (2019-2023) which was launched in late 2019. Following local elections in May 2023, a new Council Plan (2023-2027) went through the formal approval stage and for the Q2 2023-24 Finance and Performance Monitor, there will be a new Performance Framework based on the new Council Plan and therefore a new suite of strategic indicators.
32. The Executive for the Council Plan (2019-23) agreed a core set of strategic indicators to help monitor the Council priorities and these provide the structure for performance updates in this report. Some indicators are not measured on a quarterly basis and the DoT (Direction of Travel) is calculated on the latest three results whether they are annual or quarterly.
33. Performance items around the Council plan topics “A Better Start for Children and Young People” and “Safe Communities and culture for all” are reported below, as historically other topics in the Council plan are reported to the other various scrutiny setups.

A Better Start for Children and Young People

A Better Start for Children and Young People						
	Previous Data	Latest Data	DoT	Frequency	Benchmarks	Data Next Available
Secondary school persistent absence rate (10% absence) (recorded over 6 terms)	12.10% (2020/21)	26.22% (2021/22)	↑ Bad	Annual	Not available	Data for 2022/23 will be available in March 2024
Voice of the Child - Service Usage and Life Opportunities	Narrative	Narrative	N/A	Quarterly	Not available	Narrative
% of children who have achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) at Foundation Stage - (Snapshot)	75.60% (2018/19)	70.90% (2021/22)	→	Annual	National Data 2021/22 65.20%	Data for 2022/23 will be available in November 2023
Average Progress 8 score from KS2 to KS4	0.22 (2018/19)	0.26 (2021/22)	→	Annual	National Data 2021/22 -0.02	Data for 2022/23 will be available in November 2023
% of pupils achieving 9-4 or above in English & Maths at KS4 (C or above before 2016/17)	73.60% (2018/19)	75.30% (2021/22)	→	Annual	National Data 2021/22 56.10%	Data for 2022/23 will be available in November 2023
%pt gap between disadvantaged pupils (eligible for FSM in the last 6 years, looked after and adopted from care) and their peers achieving 9-4 in English & Maths at KS4	29.00% (2018/19)	32.00% (2021/22)	→	Annual	National Data 2021/22 28.20%	Data for 2022/23 will be available in November 2023
% of Year 12-13 (academic age 16-17) NEET who possess less than a L2 qualification - (Snapshot)	87.10% (2022/23)	88.20% (Q1 2023/24)	→	Monthly	Not available	Q2 2023/24 data available in October 2023

The DoT (Direction of Travel) is calculated on the latest three data points whether they are annual or quarterly.
All historic data is available via the Open Data Platform

34. The number of Children and Young People in York's care at the end of Q1 2023-24 was 263. York's rate per 10k population was 71 compared to a national average of 70. At the end of Q1, there were 16 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children in the care of York, which is expected to increase due to the National Transfer Scheme mandating that "the Home Office will not transfer UASC to an authority that is also looking after UASC in line with, or greater than, 0.1% of their child population". For York, this is equivalent to approximately 36 young people meaning this sub-group of children in care has the scope to more than double.
35. The number of children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan was 97 at the end of June 2023, following a steady decline from a high of 191 in August 2022. At 26 plans per 10k population, performance was lower than comparator averages (Family 31.8 per 10k, National 41.4 per 10k). The proportion of children becoming the subject of a second or subsequent plan was improved, at 16.7% in the first quarter of 2023-24. Small cohorts, and large sibling groups are known to cause fluctuations in performance in this area and Children's Social Care continue to review children who become the subject of a second or subsequent plan.

36. The number of referrals to Children’s Social Care during Q1 2023-24 was just under 400, which was fewer than the same period in the previous two years (around 450). Re-referral performance (within 12 months of a previous referral) also remains stable and in line with benchmarks. In recent years, York has seen fewer referrals to CSC per 10k than comparator groups, and performance this year suggests a similar trend.
37. The number of Early Help Assessments initiated by City of York Early Help service in Q1 was 54, which is reduced on the previous three years. It should be noted that CYC services have been working with other agencies over the last 12 months, with increasing numbers of assessments led by partners (e.g. schools). City of York Early Help services continue to be involved with the same number of families, working alongside families and partners who are leading on Early Help Assessments.

Safe Communities and Culture for all

Safe Communities and culture for all						
	Previous Data	Latest Data	DoT	Frequency	Benchmarks	Data Next Available
% of Talkabout panel satisfied with their local area as a place to live	84.38% (2021/22)	82.18% (2022/23)	➡	Bi-annual	Community Life Survey 2020/21 79%	Q1 2023/24 data available in September 2023
All Crime per 1000 population	70.7 (2022/23)	16.3 (Q1 2023/24)	➡	Monthly	National Data Q1 2023/24 22.8	Q2 2023/24 data available in November 2023
Number of Incidents of ASB within the city centre ARZ	994 (2022/23)	254 (Q1 2023/24)	➡	Monthly	Not available	Q2 2023/24 data available in November 2023
Visits - All Libraries	864,963 (2022/23)	240,908 (Q1 2023/24)	↑ Good	Quarterly	Not available	Q2 2023/24 data available in October 2023
% of Talkabout panel who agree that they can influence decisions in their local area	24.26% (2021/22)	20.94% (2022/23)	↓ Bad	Bi-annual	Community Life Survey 2020/21 27%	Q1 2023/24 data available in September 2023
% of Talkabout panel who give unpaid help to any group, club or organisation	61.35% (2021/22)	60.64% (2022/23)	➡	Bi-annual	Community Life Survey 2020/21 62%	Q1 2023/24 data available in September 2023
Parliament Street Footfall	6,869,593 (2022/23)	1,848,762 (Q1 2023/24)	➡	Monthly	Not available	Q2 2023/24 data available in October 2023

The DoT (Direction of Travel) is calculated on the latest three data points whether they are annual or quarterly.
All historic data is available via the Open Data Platform

38. Library Visits – Library visits (to all libraries, including reading cafes) during 2022-23 totalled 864,963, which is a large increase on the visits in the previous two years (617,771 in 2021-22 and 183,706 in 2020-21). This shows a very positive direction of travel. Figures for Q1 2022-23 (240,908) continue this positive trend and are in line with pre-pandemic figures.

Contact details

For further information please contact the authors of this Decision Report.

Author

Name:	Richard Hartle
Job Title:	Head of Children and Education Finance
Service Area:	Finance
Telephone:	Ext 4225
Report approved:	Yes
Date:	6 October 2023

Co-author

Name:	Ian Cunningham
Job Title:	Head of Business Intelligence
Service Area:	Governance
Telephone:	Ext 5749
Report approved:	Yes
Date:	6 October 2023

Annexes

Annex 1: Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee Scorecard Q1



Scrutiny - Children, Culture and Communities 2023/2024

No of Indicators = 56 | Direction of Travel (DoT) shows the trend of how an indicator is performing against its Polarity over time.
Produced by the Business Intelligence Hub October 2023

Annex A

			Previous Years			2023/2024						
		Collection Frequency	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT
117c	% of Year 12-13 (academic age 16-17) young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) - (Snapshot)	Monthly	1.90%	1.10%	0.80%	0.90%	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	◄► Neutral
	Benchmark - National Data	Quarterly	3.00%	2.70%	3.00%	3.20%	-	-	-	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Quarterly	3.20%	3.10%	3.50%	3.80%	-	-	-	-		
	Benchmark - Comparator Data	Quarterly	2.80%	2.40%	2.90%	3.00%	-	-	-	-		
148	% of care leavers aged 19-21 in employment, education or training at last birthday (DFE measure) - (Snapshot)	Monthly	53.66%	60.76%	69.44%	64.86%	-	-	-	75%	Up is Good	◄► Neutral
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	52.00%	55.00%	(Avail Dec 2023)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2024)	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	51.00%	54.00%	(Avail Dec 2023)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2024)	-		
	Benchmark - Comparator Data	Annual	50.80%	54.20%	(Avail Dec 2023)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2024)	-		
81	%pt gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils at 15, who attain a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 - (Snapshot)	Annual	36.33%	24.11%	(Avail Apr 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2025)	-	Up is Bad	◄► Neutral
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	24.93%	25.26%	(Avail Apr 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2025)	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	24.43%	25.52%	(Avail Apr 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2025)	-		
	Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	1	8	(Avail Apr 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2025)	-		
82	%pt gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils at 15, who attain a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 - (Snapshot)	Annual	33.29%	18.86%	(Avail Apr 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2025)	-	Up is Bad	◄► Neutral
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	21.92%	21.35%	(Avail Apr 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2025)	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	23.83%	23.97%	(Avail Apr 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2025)	-		
	Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	1	13	(Avail Apr 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2025)	-		
CJGE17	% of working age population qualified - No qualifications	Annual	5.30%	3.70%	(Avail Oct 2023)	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	◄► Neutral
CJGE18	% of working age population qualified - to at least L2 and above*	Annual	83.60%	87.90%	(Avail Aug 2023)	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	▲ Green
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	78.20%	78.20%	(Avail Aug 2023)	-	-	-	-	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	75.90%	76.40%	(Avail Aug 2023)	-	-	-	-	-		
	Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	3	1	(Avail Aug 2023)	-	-	-	-	-		
CJGE20	% of working age population qualified - to at least L4 and above*	Annual	46.40%	59.30%	(Avail Aug 2023)	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	▲ Green
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	43.10%	43.50%	(Avail Aug 2023)	-	-	-	-	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	37.30%	38.00%	(Avail Aug 2023)	-	-	-	-	-		



Scrutiny - Children, Culture and Communities 2023/2024

No of Indicators = 56 | Direction of Travel (DoT) shows the trend of how an indicator is performing against its Polarity over time.

Produced by the Business Intelligence Hub October 2023

			Previous Years			2023/2024							
		Collection Frequency	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT	
1. Education		Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	5	1	(Avail Aug 2023)	-	-	-	-	-		
	EH7	% of children who have achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) at Foundation Stage - (Snapshot)	Annual	NC	70.90%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	NC	65.20%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	NC	64.40%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	ES8	% of After School Clubs achieving 'Outstanding', 'Good' or 'Met' - (Snapshot)	Annual	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral
	ES9	% Take up of early education places by eligible two year olds - (Snapshot)	Annual	80.60%	93.10%	91.50%	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral
	KS4a	Average Progress 8 score from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4	Annual	NC	0.26	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	NC	-0.02	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	KS4c	% of pupils achieving 9-4 or above in English & Maths at Key Stage 4 (C or above before 2016/17)	Annual	NC	75.30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	NC	56.10%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	KS4i	%pt gap between disadvantaged pupils (eligible for FSM in the last 6 years, children in care and adopted from care) and their peers achieving 9-4 in English & Maths at Key Stage 4	Annual	NC	32.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	◄► Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	NC	28.20%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	NEET02c	% of Year 12-13 (academic age 16-17) NEET who possess less than a L2 qualification (New definition Jan 2017) - (Snapshot)	Monthly	89.40%	85.40%	87.10%	88.20%	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	◄► Neutral
	PriFSM	% of children who are eligible for a free school meal in the primary sector (excluding Danesgate)	Annual	13.60%	15.47%	15.88%	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	21.60%	23.70%	23.99%	-	-	-	-	-		
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	23.60%	24.50%	25.86%	-	-	-	-	-		
		% of children taking a free school meal in the primary sector (excluding Danesgate) - (Jan Census Snapshot)	Annual	NA	12.30%	12.72%	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral
SecFSM	% of children who are eligible for a free school meal in the secondary sector (excluding Danesgate)	Annual	11.70%	12.60%	14.26%	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral	
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	18.90%	20.90%	25.39%	-	-	-	-	-			
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	21.50%	23.70%	22.69%	-	-	-	-	-			



Scrutiny - Children, Culture and Communities 2023/2024

No of Indicators = 56 | Direction of Travel (DoT) shows the trend of how an indicator is performing against its Polarity over time.

Produced by the Business Intelligence Hub October 2023

			Previous Years			2023/2024							
		Collection Frequency	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT	
		% of children taking a free school meal in the secondary sector (excluding Danesgate) - (Jan Census Snapshot)	Annual	NA	8.70%	10.20%	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral
	SEN05G	Total number of children who have an EHCP (York LA Local Measure) - (Jan Census Snapshot)	Annual	821	898	976	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral
02. Childrens Social Care	64	% of children ceasing to be subject to a Child Protection Plan who had been the subject of a CPP continuously for two years or longer - (YTD)	Monthly	1.41%	2.78%	0.46%	0.00%	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▼ Green
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	3.70%	3.70%	(Avail Dec 2023)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2024)	-		
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	3.30%	3.80%	(Avail Dec 2023)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2024)	-		
		Benchmark - Comparator Data	Annual	4.20%	4.30%	(Avail Dec 2023)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2024)	-		
	65	% of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time - (YTD)	Monthly	25.57%	29.11%	37.06%	16.67%	-	-	-	22%	Up is Bad	◀▶ Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	22.10%	23.20%	(Avail Dec 2023)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2024)	-		
	DOD08	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)	Five Years	0.12 (2015)	0.1 (2019)	(Avail 2024)	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▼ Green
		National Rank (1 is Bad) (Rank out of 317)	Five Years	238 (2015)	253 (2019)	(Avail 2024)	-	-	-	-	-		
	EFL1	Children in care per 10k, excluding Short Breaks - (Snapshot)	Monthly	75.14	74.59	70.81	71.08	-	-	-	60-70	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	67	70	(Avail Dec 2023)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2024)	-		
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	78	81	(Avail Dec 2023)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2024)	-		
		Benchmark - Comparator Data	Annual	62.5	63.6	(Avail Dec 2023)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2024)	-		
		Number of children in care, excluding Short Breaks - (Snapshot)	Monthly	278	276	262	263	-	-	-	222-260	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral
	EFL2	Children subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10k - (Snapshot)	Monthly	34.86	34.05	28.38	26.22	-	-	-	30-38	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	41.4	42.1	(Avail Nov 2023)	-	-	-	(Avail Nov 2024)	-		
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	49	48.5	(Avail Nov 2023)	-	-	-	(Avail Nov 2024)	-		
		Benchmark - Comparator Data	Annual	31.8	39.3	(Avail Nov 2023)	-	-	-	(Avail Nov 2024)	-		
Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan - (Snapshot)		Monthly	129	126	105	97	-	-	-	111-141	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral	
HOU102	Number of homeless households with dependent children in temporary accommodation - (Snapshot)	Quarterly	10	28	35	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▲ Red	



Scrutiny - Children, Culture and Communities 2023/2024

No of Indicators = 56 | Direction of Travel (DoT) shows the trend of how an indicator is performing against its Polarity over time.
Produced by the Business Intelligence Hub October 2023

			Previous Years			2023/2024						
		Collection Frequency	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT
		Number of children in temporary accommodation - (Snapshot)	Quarterly	15	51	63	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad Red
	MIPack1	Number of Referrals to Children's Social Care - (YTD)	Monthly	1,552	1,588	1,700	395	-	-	-	1480-1700	Neutral Neutral
03. Public Protection	CSP01	All Crime	Monthly	11,026	14,235	14,759	3,290	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad Neutral
	CSP13	NYP Recorded ASB Calls for Service	Monthly	9,298	6,394	4,741	1,248	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad Neutral
	CSP15	Overall Violence (Violence Against Person Def.)	Monthly	4,249	5,675	5,746	1,289	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad Neutral
		IQUANTA Family Grouping (1 is good) (Rank out of 15)	Monthly	4	10	7	5	-	-	-	-	
	CSP23	Hate Crimes as Recorded by NYP	Monthly	151	233	168	44	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad Neutral
		IQUANTA Family Grouping (1 is good) (Rank out of 15)	Monthly	7	15	12	10	-	-	-	-	
	CSP28	Number of Incidents of ASB within the city centre ARZ	Monthly	1,410	1,276	994	254	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad Neutral
	CSP29a	Number of Incidents of ASB within the CIZ	Monthly	557	656	423	130	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad Neutral
	CYPL2c	Number of Early Help Assessments initiated	Monthly	344	517	333	54	-	-	-	-	Neutral Neutral
	PP08	% of births registered within 42 days	Monthly	60.00%	87.00%	93.00%	97.00%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good Green
		Benchmark - National Data	Monthly	55.00%	74.00%	88.00%	91.00%	-	-	-	-	
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Monthly	46.00%	65.00%	91.00%	91.00%	-	-	-	-	
	PP09	% of still births registered within 42 days	Monthly	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Monthly	98.00%	97.00%	97.00%	97.00%	-	-	-	-	
Benchmark - Regional Data		Monthly	98.00%	97.00%	97.00%	91.00%	-	-	-	-		
PP10	% of deaths registered within 5 days	Monthly	82.00%	72.00%	47.00%	57.00%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good Neutral	
	Benchmark - National Data	Monthly	76.00%	60.00%	47.00%	44.00%	-	-	-	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Monthly	79.00%	59.00%	48.00%	48.00%	-	-	-	-		
CHP30	Hospital admissions for asthma (0-18 years), per 100,000 population	Annual	38.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad Neutral
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	74.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	66.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	



Scrutiny - Children, Culture and Communities 2023/2024

No of Indicators = 56 | Direction of Travel (DoT) shows the trend of how an indicator is performing against its Polarity over time.

Produced by the Business Intelligence Hub October 2023

			Previous Years			2023/2024						
		Collection Frequency	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT
04. Health and Wellbeing	NCMP01	% of reception year children recorded as being obese (single year)	Annual	NC	8.90%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	14.40%	10.11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	15.30%	10.96%	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	NC	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	NCMP02	% of children in Year 6 recorded as being obese (single year)	Annual	NC	18.87%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	25.50%	23.45%	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	26.50%	24.89%	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	NC	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	NCMP03	% of reception year children recorded as being overweight (incl. obese) (single year)	Annual	NC	22.70%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	27.70%	22.25%	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	29.50%	23.73%	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	NC	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	PHOF01a	% of adults (aged 19+) that meet CMO recommendations for physical activity (150+ moderate intensity equivalent minutes per week)	Annual	69.29%	75.20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	65.94%	67.30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	65.23%	66.10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	PHOF06a	Under 18 conceptions (per 1,000 females aged 15-17) (Rolling 12 Months)	Quarterly	9.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Quarterly	12.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Benchmark - Regional Data		Quarterly	15.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
PHYS06	% of adults (aged 16+) that are physically active (150+ moderate intensity equivalent minutes per week, excl. gardening)	Annual	63.00%	66.50%	70.40%	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good Green	
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	60.90%	61.40%	63.10%	-	-	-	-	-		
LIB01	Library Visits - All Libraries	Monthly	183,706	617,771	864,963	240,908	-	-	-	-	Up is Good Green	
LIB02	Books Borrowed - All Libraries	Monthly	497,380	942,896	1,057,839	254,687	-	-	-	-	Up is Good Neutral	
TOU01	Room Occupancy (%) - (Hotels)	Monthly	31.98%	65.13%	80.10%	83.50%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good Green	



Scrutiny - Children, Culture and Communities 2023/2024

No of Indicators = 56 | Direction of Travel (DoT) shows the trend of how an indicator is performing against its Polarity over time.

Produced by the Business Intelligence Hub October 2023

			Previous Years			2023/2024							
		Collection Frequency	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT	
05. Tourism	TOU04	Average Room Rate (£) - (Hotels)	Monthly	£60.31	£100.11	£100.28	£106.43	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral
	TOU08	Visits to Attractions: Big Attractions (Within City of York) - (New definition 2022-23)	Monthly	377,905	1,830,597	2,692,054	728,118	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	▲ Green
	TOU09	Visits to Attractions: Small Attractions (Within City of York) - (New definition 2022-23)	Monthly	24,505	136,032	189,889	59,710	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	▲ Green
	TOU14	Parliament Street Footfall	Monthly	3,876,800	6,955,548	6,869,593	1,848,762	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral
	TOU15	Visitor Information Centre Footfall	Monthly	44,057	155,476	165,408	35,205	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral
06. Resident Surveys	RTA01	The % of York residents reporting 'good' or 'excellent' experience with Council (Baseline Q3 Talkabout)	Quarterly	NC	NC	NC	NC	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral
	RTA02	The % of York residents reporting 'poor' or 'satisfactory' experience with Council (Baseline Q3 Talkabout)	Quarterly	NC	NC	NC	NC	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	◄► Neutral
	TAP01	% of Talkabout panel satisfied with their local area as a place to live	Quarterly	84.90%	84.38%	82.18%	81.44%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral
		Benchmark - Community Life Survey	Annual	79.10%	76.00%	(Due 2024)	-	-	-	-	-		
	TAP11	% of Talkabout panel who agree that they can influence decisions in their local area	Quarterly	27.30%	24.26%	20.94%	22.79%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral
		Benchmark - Community Life Survey	Annual	26.60%	27.00%	(Due 2024)	-	-	-	-	-		
	TAP13	% of Talkabout panel who give unpaid help to any group, club or organisation	Quarterly	71.22%	61.35%	60.64%	61.83%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral
		Benchmark - Community Life Survey	Annual	62.20%	55.00%	(Due 2024)	-	-	-	-	-		
07. Large Projects	CORP10L	Large Project - Provision of School Places	Quarterly	Amber	Amber	Amber	Green	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral
		Large Project - Family Hubs Implementation Project	Quarterly	-	-	Green	Green	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral



Meeting:	Children, Culture & Communities Scrutiny Committee
Meeting date:	17 October 2023
Report of:	Angela Padfield
Portfolio of:	Councillor Jo Coles – Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care and Councillor Kilbane – Executive Member for Skills

Scrutiny Report: Performance of York Learning Strategic Plan 2022-2023

1. This report (Annexe A) presents York Learning's end of year performance against their strategic aims for the academic year 2022/23.

This report forms part of the service's governance reporting arrangements, which are crucially important for the service in demonstrating to Ofsted that it has secure and robust governance arrangements in place.

Policy Basis

2. Members are asked to comment upon the performance of York Learning and seek clarification on any areas of concern.
Reason: To help monitor the service, guide managers, and ensure there is robust and accountable governance arrangements.

Recommendation and Reasons

3. This report is for discussion, challenge, and comment on the service's performance over the last year.

Reason: To help monitor the service and provide sound governance arrangement for York Learning Services.

Background

4. York Learning is a council service, which delivers a range of learning programmes to support people into employment, to improve their skills and to support their personal development and wellbeing. The service is funded exclusively from external contract funding and fee income which is in the region of £4.4m.
5. This report, which is for the academic year 2022/2023, is an important element in enabling the service to demonstrate to Ofsted that it has secure and robust governance arrangements in place.
6. Access to cultural activities:
 - York Learning continues to provide a strong cultural offer that is accessible to all. The offer is wide ranging to promote Arts and heritage crafts as well as other interest to provide engagement pathways into learning. We have maintained discretionary rates (means tested benefits) in all weekly Painting, Drawing, Crafts and Dressmaking courses to ensure they are accessible to all. Learners can also apply for hardship funding, and we also have a growing social prescription model to enable access to free courses from referral partners to those who feel they can't afford to access a course or don't see why spending money for accessing a course or engagement activity may support their wellbeing. We currently get direct referrals for social prescribing from Kyra, CVS, Job Centre Plus, Mind and Local Area Teams.
 - City wide annual Community Arts Events/Projects in either Fine Arts, Textiles or Crafts are run across the city to engage with a wide range of community groups, charities, and schools. Last year, we focused on the making of Morsbags (shopping bags from recycled and unwanted fabrics). This year we have also had a Dressmaking and Millinery Event for learners to celebrate what they have created, and we have organised the Adult Learning in York Week to promote adult learning overall with a range of free provision across the city with other adult learning providers such as York College, University of York, Kyra, U3A and the Railway Museum. This year, we are continuing to engage people in Morsbags to reinforce the preserving of the environment and ways to be sustainable. We are also undertaking a partnership project with All Saints of North Street where we will engage with a

target group to design and make a stained-glass artwork entitled "The Anchorite".

- There has been a range of courses which intertwine maths teaching with the activities of sewing, dressmaking and craft courses which fulfil the Multiply agenda, enable free classes to make them accessible whilst also generating an opportunity to introduce these cultural activities to residents who will not previously have engaged with them. This will continue through this current academic year and will be based at Westfield School, Door 84, and Clarence Street. They have been designed to equip learners with the basic skills to alter clothes to "fit" (either them or their family members), encourage sustainability by using existing garments and hopefully equip learners with the skills they need to continue to sew at home.
- This year we have introduced a new 'All Inclusive Arts & Crafts' course just beginning at Explore York, designed for people who may require a more bespoke approach to learning and welcome to those particularly with dementia. Sessions will include felt making and embroidery along with art collage, printmaking, and sketch book ideas.
- Learning to leisure activities we have also started two 'Keep Moving! – Seated and All Inclusive' exercise courses' starting at Marjorie Waite court. One of which is specifically aimed at people suffering the symptoms of dementia.
- There continues to be learning provision in different languages which is picked up in more detail in point 10 below.

7. Subcontracted SEN (Special Educational Needs) provision
Personalised learning packages are funded through the 16-18 EFA (Education Funding Agency) Study programme funding stream as the eligibility for this also covers those with Education health care plans (EHCP) up to the age of 25 who want to study post-16 or post-19 education after leaving secondary education. Funding for this programme comes through a student number allocation which states the overall number of students that can be funded, the guided learning hours that they should be undertaking, and of that number how many places can be allocated to high needs support (HNS) students. HNS students are those with EHCPs whose learning needs require additional funding above and beyond £6000 per academic year. This funding can pay for a myriad of resources and additional staffing for those students who require considerably greater input than their mainstream peers. The funding model is

complex and operates on a lagged basis. Local authorities are treated differently to FE colleges under this funding stream and also have a duty of care to ensure that if provision is available then students must be placed in it regardless of funding availability. As York Learning couldn't provide all of these options in house, it has been better to subcontract this provision and support those external organisations with a robust quality process in place to monitor performance.

- The local offer is currently via 6 different local subcontractors that specialise in personalised learning programmes but all of which have slightly different learner outcomes and themes depending on the individuals interest.
 - These students study full time, accessing a variety of educational and vocational study, accredited English and maths and access to enterprise opportunities and work placements. There is a wide variety of options and pathways to choose from to meet the needs, aspirations, and interests of the learners.
 - This is a strong part of York Learning's offer that performs very well overall. Two providers are on action plans for improvement which is mainly related to some poor achievement rates related to English and maths. Our subcontracting partners say they are well supported by us throughout the quality processes.
 - We have been successful in increasing funding for numbers in 22-23 from 97 to 104 places. We have decided not to pursue more funding for this coming academic year as we feel we need to revisit the quality processes with all providers to maintain the focus currently required.
 - The service has just completed a thorough audit via Veritau in the processes of managing this offer, the funding, and the procurement processes. All expected actions have been implemented with most now completed. There were no concerns on our fitness to continue receiving and subcontract the funding for this offer and the process we follow.
8. Our language offer has shrunk over the last few years, which is a part of a visible trend nationally. However, we are keen to continue to promote the modern foreign language provision as it encourages and promotes cultural awareness and diversity. For 23/24 We have sighted two courses in a target area of the city and reduced the price of the Spanish Absolute Beginners in order to attract a wider audience, which has worked very well so far.

Currently the offer consists of; -

- French, Spanish, Italian & BSL (although the BSL which was full has had to be cancelled as the tutor pulled out). We are hoping to expand into Lip Reading for 23/24.
- Courses are designed with clear starting points and progression routes from Absolute Beginners (year 1), Year 2-4 to Advanced Culture & Conversation. However, all languages do not operate at each level depending on the number of learners who progress as that decides if a course can continue to be offered.
- Delivery models include: -
 - Face to Face,
 - Blended (3 x face to face sessions and 7 x online sessions)
 - Online only.
- We have kept a 'Means Tested Benefit' rate within all languages courses up to Year 3 after that if a learner particularly would struggle to pay for the course, at the full costs rate, we will ask them to submit a learner support request via the hardship fund.
- Challenges in languages are myriad which include: recruitment of tutors which has been very difficult over the last couple of years, partly a negative impact from Brexit; a drop of languages within some schools have seen some teachers leave the sector altogether and there are very few trained BSL tutors. Language tuition moved online due to Covid and thrived at first but has struggled to pick up post covid. Learners are often motivated to take up a language when they travel and post covid the decline in t travel at first and the cost-of-living impact afterwards is all part of those dropping numbers of engagement for learners.

Consultation Analysis

9. The report has been created through collaboration with the service management team within York learning.
10. The plan is presented for consultation, comments and seek clarification on any areas for concern.

Risks and Mitigations

11. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy the main risks identified associated with the areas of work covered in this report are its image and reputation. Measured in terms of impact and likelihood, the risk score has been assessed at 7 which equates to "Low". This is acceptable but means that regular monitoring will be required of the Quality Improvement Plans.

Wards Impacted

12. All Wards

Contact details.

For further information please contact the author of this Decision Report.

Author

Name:	Angela Padfield
Job Title:	Head of York Learning
Service Area:	Customers and Communities
Telephone:	01904 555987
Report approved:	Yes
Date:	06 October 2023

Background papers

No papers.

Annexes

Annex A: York Learning Strategic Plan 2022-23

Annex A

	York Learning Strategic Plan	2022/23			
	Areas covered across City	Whilst there isn't a course running in every ward, all residents have a choice from a range of offer they can attend centrally, online or nearby – Please see heat maps for venues and where learners live at the end			
	Last Ofsted Rating	Good (Nov 20)		Self-Assessment Rating	Good (Jan 23)
	Total Learner Enrolment numbers 22/23	4,766		2021/22	5,696
1	York Learning identified the following key priorities in the Council Plan we support and contribute towards.				
1.1	Safe Communities and Cultures for All	Nos/Enrolments 22/23	Target for 22/23	Progress to date	Commentary
	Modern Foreign Languages and Sign Language	683	700	439	<p>Understanding and participating in a language develops an understanding of other cultures and encourages a more equal and diverse approach to others. We believe that this helps encourage a mutual respect within communities.</p> <p><u>Update June 23</u> Recruitment has continued to drop in languages, we had hoped to see more of a return with face-to-face provision post covid, but we believe the impact of the costs of living and less people holidaying abroad has had an impact on the interest in languages in general. This is a reduction seen nationally in the uptake in languages.</p>

Annex A

					<p>However, 2 of the new Beginners and Beginners Plus Spanish courses are oversubscribed and we have had requests to begin a new Italian course. It has proved incredibly difficult to find suitably qualified MFL tutors.</p> <p>Our BSL evening course is also full, however, our tutor has withdrawn due to his other work commitments. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of suitably qualified tutors nationally, but the CM is optimistically following up a new lead.</p>
	Heritage Skills	650	700	499	<p>This wide offer develops personal interest and skills to support the cultural visual arts and crafts environment that York has to offer. Learners continue to develop their skills and/or go on to become self-employed artist, designers. Nearly all learners report benefits to their mental health and wider social interactions prevent feelings of isolation.</p> <p><u>Update June 23</u></p> <p>We are continuing to develop this area and are covering a wide ranged offer from stained glass which is now on the endangered heritage craft list, ceramics, textiles to willow work. We are struggling to expand it with the lack of suitable venues to widen the offer.</p>

Annex A

	Community Arts Events	7 events 194 enrolments	8 events 250 enrolments	5 events	<p>There are events that run as introductory free activities to engage with residents and community groups through particular events. <u>Update June 23</u> . Includes events such as Adult Learning in York Week; Fashion Show; Morsbags workshops and recycling of fabric into Knickers. These all enable us to bring cross sections of communities together.</p> <p>We have had to move staffing over this last year to ensure we maximised opportunities with Multiply and therefore have had to reduce the number of events, however we have now identified some capacity and will start with more events over the next year.</p>
	ESOL – English for Speakers of Other Languages	181		301	<p>No target was set as this was a rapidly expanding area. <u>Update June 23</u> Full details in section 2.4 below.</p>
	Prevent and Safeguarding				<p>York Learning has robust Prevent and Safeguarding processes. Prevent and safeguarding both feed into safer communities and supports residents understanding of what to do if the need should arise. <u>Update June 23</u> We have introduced and increased our free online safety courses to our offer. We have effective safeguarding processes and concerns go to all</p>

Annex A

					DSL's/DDSL's ensuring that a high level of safeguarding response is always maintained. The Improvement Board did a review of our safeguarding processes and were happy to say they were effective with one or two enhancements suggested which we have put into practice.
1.2	Well paid Jobs and an inclusive Economy	Nos/Enrolments 22/23	Target for 22/23	Progress to date	Commentary
	Improve Essential Skills – English, maths, Digital, Employability	339	460	980	<p><u>Start of year</u> We are optimistically cautious for a full return to the classroom. Primarily there is face to face learning as well as online and blended learning but when teaching lower levels of skills such as Entry and Level 1 face to face has the most impact and supports good achievement rates.</p> <p><u>Update June 23</u> A good recruitment response during this academic year in these areas. However, there has been higher drop out from learners particularly within maths due to demands between work/life affecting attendance, lack of understanding of the time commitments needed and increased anxiety in learners around maths exams.</p> <p>In spite of funding being withdrawn for Level Two ICDL we have continued some provision through non accredited routes to support local employer</p>

Annex A

					feedback being clear that this qualification/level is wanted.
	1-1 Careers Information Advice & Guidance And full assessments	524	540	537	<p>All accredited courses have processes in place to do individual advice & guidance and assessments.</p> <p>1-1 careers guidance sessions have significant impact to support individuals to identify their skills, what they need to improve on and what opportunities there are for employment, volunteering, progression.</p> <p><u>Update June 23</u></p> <p>Residents can now book an IAG or assessments through an online process which also supports partners and individuals to book sessions at any time of the day/night. A wide range of individuals from different backgrounds and incomes have come to sessions. Following on from these sessions we have seen that some are very far from the workplace due to low skills and poverty whilst others are struggling with where to take their current quals and what and how to apply for jobs.</p> <p>It is clear there is some work to do within initial assessments on the commitment towards studying to improve our retention rates and this is in our improvement plan for 23/24.</p>

Annex A

	Apprenticeships, Work Based -Vocational Learning	99(apprenticeships) 90 (WBL)	80 90	57 82	<p><u>Start of Year</u> Learners can be on an apprenticeship/ learner loans or AEB funded qualifications. Many learners are eligible for free courses due to low-income jobs. Courses focus on Childcare, Adult Care, Business Administration, and Management these are the key areas that our employers request from us. Most of the employers we work with are SMEs. Expecting lower recruitment due to lower staffing this year.</p> <p><u>Update June 23</u> Apprenticeships numbers have dropped with lower paid sectors continuing to struggle to recruit and retain learners which has affected our retention rates. We have increased assessment checks to support apprentices have the best chance to succeed or to improve their English or maths before they start their apprenticeship. maths/English is an additional pressure that apprentices are struggling with as well as the workload, additional shifts, and the allure of better paid work or less hours in other sectors.</p>
	Job fairs	0 – due to covid	2	3	<p>3 Job fairs have run this academic year, 2 large ones and 1 small one in Acomb. We are looking at alternative types of events in smaller venues. Numbers for attendance have been Sept 22 – 600+ visitors and 76 exhibitors.</p>

Annex A

					Jan 23 Acomb – 254 visitors and 25 exhibitors. March 23 – 750+ visitors and 65 exhibitors.
	Counselling Programme L2,L3,L4	127	130	207	<p>Most learners progress from L2 up to L4 to gain employment or self-employment in counselling. Working with many local partners for student placements.</p> <p><u>Update June 23</u> The counselling programme has continued to grow and for the first time we have two year 4 (2 year) programmes running side by side and an increase in level 2 and 3 courses. Demand for those wanting to work in this sector and placements/ volunteering and vacancies continues to be high. Learners progress into other areas of work including school counselling; volunteering; pastoral support; mentoring;</p>
	Vocational courses aimed at employment or to support Self Employment including BootCamps	66 enrolments	80	304	<p>A range of courses to support reskilling when not in the workplace or to become self-employed. These include Bookkeeping and Payroll L1-L3, Putting a Business together/tax/marketing etc. & web design.</p> <p><u>Update June 23</u> We were awarded additional funding to run two cohorts of a Digital Bootcamp: 'Introduction to Coding'. Due to its success and the extremely positive feedback from learners we have now been</p>

Annex A

					<p>successful for further bootcamps in 23-24 to cover coding, data analysis and computer game design.</p> <p>New courses have run relating to social media and cyber security which was highlighted by employers and the rail industry as a skill shortage.</p> <p>Drawing & Painting and Dressmaking courses are scaffolded to aid learner progression. We have recently had two D&P courses form collaboratives and one of these groups have started selling their work at York River Art Market. The most advanced group is called “Working Artists” and the tutor advised on: - how to sell online, how to approach galleries, etc. One of this group recently had his own solo exhibition at York City Screen.</p> <p>Our most advanced Dressmaking & Pattern Cutting learners went to York College to receive a thorough introduction to the Degree course.</p>
1.3	Good Health and Wellbeing	Nos/Enrolments 22/23	Target for 22/23	Progress to date	Commentary
	Arts, Crafts, Fitness and Leisure opportunities	2,082 <small>(inc. 650 Heritage skills)</small>	2,500	2,483	There has been an increasing return to the classroom for many parts of this offer. Learners have embraced a return to the classroom. It attracts a wide range of learners from age 19+ upwards to 90+. Our successful online

Annex A

				<p>programmes and other blended/hybrid styles have also continued.</p> <p>Many learners articulate that these classes help support them substantially to reduce their isolation, build confidence, reduce stress, improve their health and wellbeing, make new friends and to feel part of the community.</p> <p><u>Update June 23</u> We are continuing to identify funding to target those who cannot afford or recognise the benefits of courses that support wellbeing. We have kept pricing down, and funding is primarily accessible to those who can't afford to pay or need discounts to engage. Therefore, those who can pay do pay but we work hard to keep this to a reasonable price.</p> <p>A growing social prescription model working through key partners such as CVS, Job Centre, Kyra etc has helped us to target those who would most benefit from a free course.</p> <p>The Community Arts strand of the program is still going strong, with exciting developments ahead in - autumn 2023 with a new project hopefully called "The Anchorite".</p>
--	--	--	--	--

Annex A

	Positive Progressions (PP), Action Towards Inclusion (ATI),				<p>Sept - ESF funded projects that enable us to work with those furthest away from the job market are due to end March/June 23. These projects enable us to engage on a 1-1 basis to discuss barriers to employment and learning and setting targets and actions to enable participants to improve their life opportunities.</p> <p><u>Update June 23</u> both projects ended in this academic year and we successfully achieved targets.</p> <p>We have successful acquired a new project called RISE funded by UKSPF which is a short- term project until March 2024.</p> <p>In the meantime, we will continue to look for other funding avenues to support those furthest away from skills & employment with the 1-1 support our current funding streams do not support.</p>
1.4	Better start for Children and Young People	Nos/Enrolments 22/23	Target for 22/23	Progress to date	Commentary
	Family Learning	133	200	213	The Family Learning team will be working directly with 8 of our primary schools this year specifically looking at key areas such as parent input in developing wider reading with younger children.

Annex A

				<p>Strategic partnership development led to additional funding this work.</p> <p><u>Update June 23</u></p> <p>The model has worked well with schools whereby we place a tutor in the school for discussion with teachers about main aims for courses that term. This feeds into how we plan and run sessions adding in other objectives relating to English and maths to lead to progression from Family Learning to English, maths and employment learning.</p>
	<p>Routes 16-19 Study programme</p> <p>Positive Outcomes</p>	<p>14</p> <p>70%</p>	<p>18</p> <p>75%</p>	<p>This study programme runs at Winterscale House near Fishergate and is targeted at those young people who have struggled with school and are not yet ready for an apprenticeship or college and do not have the life skills to get a job.</p> <p><u>Update June 23</u></p> <p>Recruitment to the programme was low, still being impacted by Covid and the reduction in signposting of provision to young people. All learners who started on the programme had significant barriers to engagement and attendance, with one learner not being in education since Year 2. Those learners that withdrew were due to complex mental health needs. All learners on programme have Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) needs, 3 learners have an EHCP (Education Health, Care Plan).</p>

Annex A

				<p>Attendance has been a significant challenge across the cohort this year as it has across the schools in the city. Attendance in education across the board is yet to return to pre covid levels with those learners with SEN/EHCP/FSM over-represented in the figures. Learners where attendance was a barrier received ongoing support to attend, working with the young person and families to implement strategies for engagement.</p> <p>Achievement for learners has dropped to 58.5% from 75.7% in 2021-22.</p> <p>Positive progressions have been maintained into further education, employment or training is 78%. Although achievement is low, learners have made significant progress from their starting points, achieving at least one learning aim and gaining and developing their transferrable skills in preparation for employment and adulthood.</p> <p>Recruitment to the programme for 2023-24 is much healthier with 25 young people starting on programme September 2023 and changes to format and attendance expectations have been clearly set out.</p>
--	--	--	--	--

Annex A

	High Needs Support and Special Educational Needs 16-24	95	95	108	<p>Sept - Application to access increased funding to cover more learners has been submitted for 22-23 <u>Update June 23-</u> Increasing the funding was a focus for 22_23 in which we were successful. We have recruited 92 to date for 23-24 from a target of 105 . Our aim is to ensure all students are studying on specific learning pathways and to increase the proportion of 16-18s in this cohort to reflect the aspiration for special school pupils to leave Applefields at 16 rather than 19 in order to spend more time on gaining the skills for work and adulthood. We are part of a CYC Internships Work programme to increase and improve the number of Supported Internships available in York between May 23- May 24</p>

2	Key Areas of Focus	Target Date	Performance 21/22	Target for 22/23	Progress to date
2.1	Consolidate partnership working with North Yorkshire County Council and agree a strategy for future collaborative working	Jan 2023	new	June 2022	<p>This will restart with a fresh perspective. <u>Update June 23</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful launch of new joint strategy that clearly articulates the mission and aims for the service • Multiply initiative managed across both authorities exceeded Year 1 targets and continues to support adult participation in numeracy. • Shared Head of Adult Learning and Skills Service on strategic board for Learning Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) for York and North Yorkshire ensuring that routes to skills engagement were given high priority. • The LSIP will have significant impact on the shape of AEB devolution, Shared Head continues to make significant contribution to the MCA skills strategy. • York Learning Accountability Agreement builds upon the common strategy and aligns it with the regional LSIP. • Collaborative bid for additional funding drawn up and services contributing to the regional LSIF (Learning Skills Improvement Fund) bid alongside FE colleges to support the delivery of the LSIP
2.2	Continue to secure and extend provision for High needs support students as part of a “Personalised	Ongoing	95	105 Actual 108	The service has been hampered by its limited ESFA funding contract and will therefore continue to put robust business cases to our regional ESFA contact in support of growth.

Annex A

	Learning” for 16-19 year olds and for 19-24 with learning difficulties and disabilities				<p><u>Update June 23</u> The service was approved for a slight increase in numbers (104). We are now concentrating on stabilising the provision and focus on the quality outputs - total enrolments 108</p>
2.3	Deliver 3 jobs fair as part of a strategy to support York residents into work	<p>end of June 2023</p> <p>Funding ends June 2025</p>	0	2 Actual 3	<p>We are hoping that there will be a positive return to job fairs in October.</p> <p><u>Update June 23.</u> In 2022-23 we have held 3 job fairs – September 22 and March 23 at the York RI and one in Acomb in Dec 22.</p> <p>The job fair in March 23 had our highest footfall since before COVID with 610 attendees.</p> <p>The future direction of job fairs is still in discussion, and it is recognised that local job fairs are helpful but central large job fairs provide greater access to all residents. Central events enable a larger proportion of residents to attend and gives employers wider access to a range of applicants. Smaller local events can dilute the number of employers willing to attend elsewhere. We aim for 2 large event and 1 small job local fair and looking at 1 or 2 smaller events which are employment/ employability focused.</p>
2.4	Continuing to develop further English for Speakers of Other	July 2023	181	No target set due to rapidly	Whilst potential growth is clear, we continue to be limited by access to city centre premises and will be seeking advice, guidance, and funding within CYC to assist. Currently we

Annex A

	Languages programmes in response to demand			<p>increasing numbers.</p> <p>Actual 301 including Hong Kong nationals</p>	<p>have secured additional rooms at the Citadel but funding of venues for this type of learning is difficult.</p> <p><u>Update June 23</u> Additional support for funding of rooms and manager / teacher time to support additional classes has come from Ukrainian funding and partners have been supportive with additional space also. WO continues to be a base we use for daily classes. Funding has also supported the extension of this valuable programme to support the wider migrant groups. Classes have been increased with 12 additional classes including 3 migrant classes have been created with volunteers. This helps us to provide language development support with those not eligible to skills funding. Retention has been challenging as many are found homes outside of York and migrants are often moved within 2-3 weeks from those we have contact with.</p> <p>The movement of Ukrainians, Syrians, Hong Kong Nationals and Afghans particularly who have to move out of York for accommodation has affected our retention and achievement rates and is unavoidable if we are to respond to need.</p>
2.5	Revise and develop new Family Learning Programmes to reinvigorate the	July 2023	172	<p>200</p> <p>Actual 213</p>	<p>Sept - Whilst disrupted by school closures and restrictions, work is continuing behind the scenes to connect with Early Help Health and Early Years Teams so we still feel positive progress in this area will continue. T</p>

Annex A

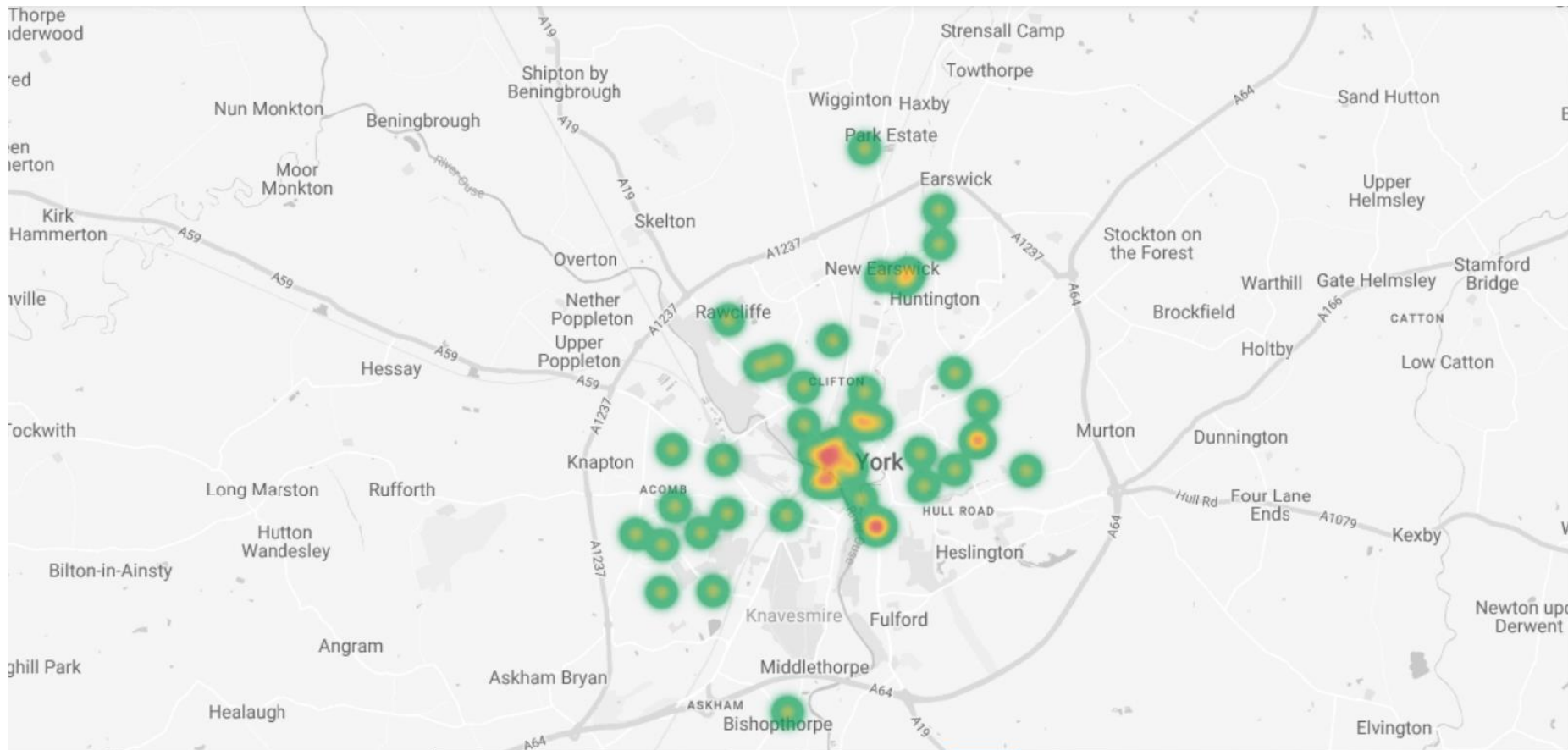
	programme and develop further support for learners				<u>Update June 23</u> the programme has continued to increase in numbers although learners need to be more targeted, so that we can concentrate on developing maths, English and digital skills. Many of the interactions have been short bite sized sessions/courses which is also the cause for the increase in enrolments. Engagement has been good though and will scaffold the more targeted approach into progression courses for 23/24.
2.6	Improve recruitment to digital skills from entry point's up to work place competence and those digitally excluded.	July 23	240	300 Actual 307	Sept - We continue to support learners to access digital devices so that they can engage. <u>Update June 23</u> Numbers have increased from 21-22 in part due to face to face delivery being re-offered plus our commitment to enable access to Level Two ICDL qualification where formal funding has been removed. There has also been a broadening of our offer which includes; cyber security skills, bootcamps on coding; social media and small bite size digital courses created with partners to better support their clients' needs.
2.7	Develop new community links to enable access to courses for social prescribing purposes and to target disadvantaged groups	July 2023	8 new connections	10 Actual 6 additional new connections including	New partnerships have been formed with a variety of groups to support social prescribing onto our courses such as; York CVS; KYRA; York Carers, Yorkey Dads; . We have also refreshed our working with IDAS & Changing Lives and others. <u>Update June 23</u> New working partnerships with:-

Annex A

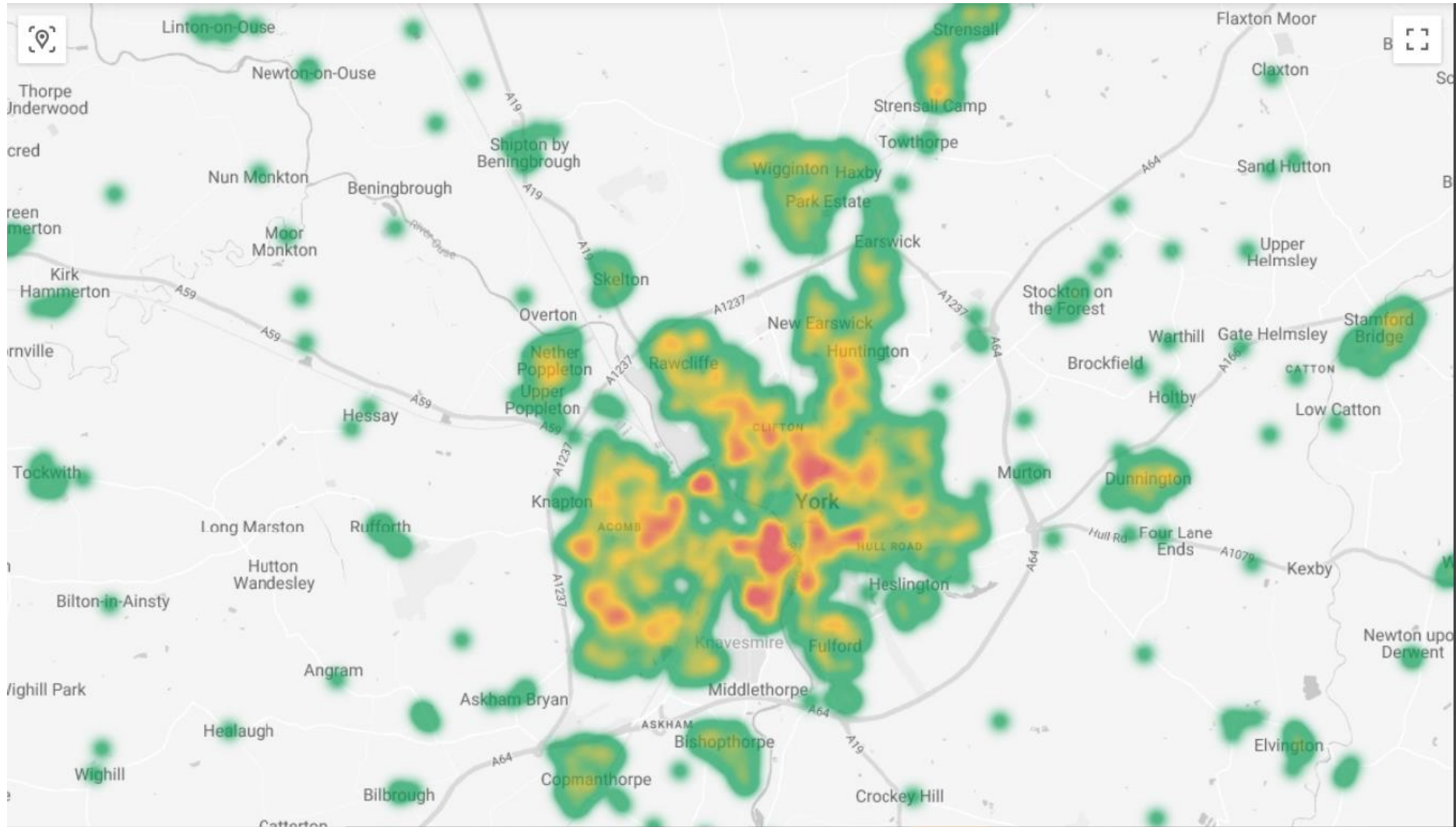
				3 new social prescriber referral points	Union Terrace, delivering ground up digital skills workshops in partnership with York IT ReUse; MySight free digital courses for the partially sighted; Job Centre Plus; The Early Intervention into Psychosis Team with creative arts and crafts. Dementia Strategy group with targeted provision;
2.8	Develop a new curriculum incorporating creative digital design and digital editing skills, marketing, photography	Sept 2023	New	New Update - (postponed)	Sept - These skills are in demand now and will develop higher-level skills to meet the future skills needs. This will complement the following areas; Digital & Coding, Art & Photography, Work Based and Apprenticeships, 16-18 Study Programme. <u>Update June 23</u> Due to staffing pressures this has been postponed until 2023-24
2.9	Develop strong community signposting and delivery of information advice and guidance using the Community Hubs and volunteers to support new Skills hubs moving forward.	July 23	New	New Update - 3 new classes 38 people trained in IAG	Working within the community hubs network build networking capacity and develop volunteer and community workers' skills in signposting and making appropriate referrals to support services. <u>Update June 23</u> Through Community hubs and Family Centres we have run 3 classes to engage volunteers/staff and charity workers into IAG courses. We have also invested in providing the Skills Network learning platform to widen the offer at Level 2 to family hubs and other partners which has led to an additional 38 learners taking formal qualifications this year in this area.

Heat Maps on Next Pages

Heat Map Venues



Heat Map where our learners are from





Meeting:	Children, Culture & Communities Scrutiny Committee
Meeting date:	17 October 2023
Report of:	Assistant Director of Customer, Communities, and Inclusion
Portfolio of:	Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care

Scrutiny Report: Annual Update – Libraries and Archives

1. This report provides members with an annual update from Explore Libraries and Archives Mutual Limited (Explore) who operate the Council's libraries and archives service.

Policy Basis

2. Explore in 2022-23 contributed to a significant number of corporate priorities and looking forward the newly adopted 'One City, for all' Council Plan 2023-2027 will see Explore's annual service delivery plan align to the new four core commitments. As can be seen in Explore's report their work can contribute directly to health and wellbeing, education and skills, economy, and sustainability.

Recommendation and Reasons

3. To note and comment upon the activities of the Explore update report.

Reason: To support the Council's role in performance management of the library and archives service contract.

Background

4. **Libraries and Archives:** Explore Libraries and Archives Mutual Limited (Explore) is an independent Industrial and Provident

Mutual organisation which entered a service delivery contract with the Council for 15 years on 1 April 2019 and currently operate:

- **York Explore:** the city centre flagship facility where all services are available including the Archive & Local History Centre
- **Explore Library Learning Centres:** Acomb Library, Clifton Library and The Centre@Burnholme in Tang Hall
- **Explore Gateways:** Smaller community libraries are located at; Bishopthorpe, Copmanthorpe, Dringhouses, Dunnington, Fulford, Haxby & Wigginton, Huntington, New Earswick, Poppleton, Strensall and York Stadium
- **Virtual Libraries:** E-library services including E-books, E-magazines & newspapers and online reference library.
- **Reading Cafes:** Homestead Park, Hungate and Rowntree Park
- **Mobile Library:** One mobile vehicle covering the smaller settlements around the edges of York on a two-week timetable.

Performance Management Arrangements

5. As part of the contractual arrangements for Explore there is a performance management framework that requires them to report formally to the Council quarterly against a set framework. Each service has a service specification with performance measures around availability of services, required outcomes and where required, measurements.
6. The performance and monitoring framework also acts to financially penalise poor performance or non-compliance, as well as rewarding over achievements.
7. An annual report from Explore is also a requirement of the contract which is being presented at Annexe A to describe the activities against the service specification.
8. In 2022-23 Explore's performance was monitored at each quarter and then finally at the end of the contract year. No financial deductions have been made due to non-compliance or performance issues.

Consultation Analysis

9. In 2022-23 Explore undertook a number of consultation exercises in relation to the Future Library Investment Programme capital projects for a new Clifton Explore Library Learning Centre and a refurbishment of the existing Acomb Explore Library Learning Centre. These are referenced in the Explore report at Annexe A.

Contact details.

For further information please contact the authors of this Decision Report.

Author

Name:	Andrew Laslett
Job Title:	Strategic Services Manager
Service Area:	Customer and Communities
Telephone:	01904 553370
Report approved:	Yes
Date:	09/10/2023

Co-author

Name:	Jenny Layfield
Job Title:	Chief Executive, Explore York Libraries and Archives Mutual Limited
Service Area:	Libraries and Archives
Telephone:	N/a
Report approved:	Yes
Date:	09/10/2023

Background papers

Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee – 21 July 2022. Explore’s annual report for 2021-22.

[Executive meeting 21 June 2018](#) – Item 7. The Library and Archives Service: Procurement of Operator Report

Annexes

Annex A: Explore York Libraries & Archives Report 2022-23

This page is intentionally left blank

Explore York Libraries and Archives

Report against contract April 2022- March 2023

Explore is a different kind of public service – an independent mutual society owned by our staff and community members and everything we do is shaped by the needs and ideas of the communities we serve. Explore receives two thirds of its income through its contract with City of York Council and the remainder we need to raise through trading, grants, and other fundraising. The cost of running Explore in 2022-23 was £3.8 million.

At Explore:

We inspire everyone to challenge their imagination, explore their potential and connect with each other, supporting and enriching our communities.

We make a difference to the communities across York, deliver on the requirements of our contract and achieve this vision by focusing our work on these six key purposes:

1. **Strong and Sustainable** – we are well governed, financially sustainable, and entrepreneurial.
2. **Connect communities** – we build stronger communities by being a safe, welcoming space where all can belong, enjoy new experiences, and connect to each other and the wider world.
3. **Share the joy of reading** – we enable everyone to share the joy of reading and literacy.
4. **Support Digital Inclusion and Information Literacy** – we support digital inclusion and enable access to trusted information.
5. **Challenge Imaginations** – we inspire people to learn, imagine, create, and share ideas.
6. **Wellbeing** – we support individual and community wellbeing.

This report is structured around our six core purposes and identifies key successes over the last year (April 2022-March 2023).

Overview

In a city of approximately 200,000 residents Explore has an impressive array of statistics. We had 724,717 visits to our libraries and 79,118 engagements (self-directed and staff led) engagements with our Archives. We provided over 2,571 events attended by 39,578 people. We recruited 10,628 new members, saw 430,712 visits to our website and our volunteers gave us over 18,914 hours of their time, equivalent to around £250,000 of staff time.

This second “post-pandemic” year has clearly demonstrated the value we provide in supporting our communities with new challenges. The role of libraries in improving literacy, digital skills and health and wellbeing in communities have been even more important as our communities have moved from a pandemic into a cost-of-living crisis. Day to day we have supported our communities through provision of warm and safe places and working closely with our partners to ensure they receive the support they need. This is evidenced throughout this report.

Our organisational resilience was strengthened in October by the appointment of 2 new non-executive directors, both with experience in the culture sector, in addition to the 2 new community directors appointed at our AGM in September. The appointment of my role in January 2023 now puts us in an excellent position to focus on organisational growth and sustainability for future years.

Our financial resilience has been tested with the inflationary increases that have been seen, dramatic increase in all our costs but most notably in heat and light, made more challenging by our desire to be warm spaces for our communities, however we have continued with the sound financial prudence that we have demonstrated over the past four years to ensure we have ended this year with an operational profit.

We continue to think innovatively, as demonstrated by the fantastic news in November that we would be an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, one of only 16 library services across the country. This is a brilliant accolade for us and recognises our

reputation as a provider of high-quality cultural experiences across all our communities.

Strong and Sustainable

Overall Performance

We continue to track our performance against our pre-pandemic data however as the visit's performance demonstrates we are on track to be "back" to pre-pandemic levels next year. To have achieved this within three years is a sound achievement.

Visits: 724,717 visits in total across the year exceeding our target by 9%. Our aim was to be at 80% of pre-covid levels by the end of the year and we had achieved this by November. Our Explore Centres continue to perform strongly as does New Earswick and the new Haxby and Wigginton Library. The downward trend in attendance to our mobile library continues and will be a focus for our overall Service Review to be carried out in 2023-24.

Physical and E-Issues: Physical issues were at 95% of our pre-pandemic levels benchmarking ahead of the Libraries Connected sample. There is a decline in issues of large print and audio books however this is countered with an increase in e-issues which are 9% ahead of target (397, 376) which are generally considered to have better accessibility features.

PC Usage: There is a continued downward trend in PC usage with 41,866 sessions this year.

Website Usage: Our website has seen an 8% increase in visits compared to last year. We have seen an increased use of the on-line catalogue in the final quarter of the year which is potentially attributable to the removal of reservation fees.

Customer Feedback

In Autumn 2022 Explore ran the Public Services Quality Group (PSQG) survey, which is a national pen and paper survey of Reading Room users administered by Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA). Overall customer satisfaction rating was 9.3 (out of 10) and there were many areas where perceptions had improved from the last time the survey was run in 2016, so the results were very positive overall. We identified some useful

information about our audiences: for example, over half the responders were new users (either new to Explore or to Archives in general) and the age of the audience has decreased since last time with the largest age group now being under 25s.

On an ongoing basis Explore gathers ad hoc feedback from customers via many channels, primarily face to face conversations, but we also gain feedback via our online form; email and social media comments. We collect these comments on a database to monitor trends and calculate response times where required.

The key themes identified in 2022-2023 were suggestions for shaping the new Haxby Library (e.g. furniture and signage); requests for longer café opening hours across the library cafes; requests for foreign language books; and suggestions to re-instate printed newspapers and magazines following our move to digital provision.

The majority of comments recorded however are complimentary, with customers keen to tell us what our services mean to them. It's clear that Explore has a significant social impact on our customers, especially in terms of their sense of connection to the community and to their wellbeing. A few comments from 2022-2023 are:

"This really is my happy place. It's a wonderful library with great books and lovely staff. I look forward to coming."

"I don't know how I would survive without the library."

"Thank you for helping me to get warm."

Financial Overview

Libraries have a pivotal role to play in enriching our communities by offering access to a diverse range of knowledge, resources, and cultural experience, fostering literacy, lifelong learning and social cohesion.

In line with many organisations, particularly in the charitable sector, the inflationary increases in 2022-23, particularly those linked to fuel, were huge. Explore's energy costs increased over 111% from £97,339 to £206,022. Explore continues to focus on

and build its financial sustainability with our cafes showing a 26% increase and room hire a 38% increase from the previous year. In addition, we raised over £58,000 from grants and other fundraising income.

The income we receive from our contract with CYC remains essential, providing 2/3 of our overall income. The index linked increase we receive each year, equating to 5% in 2022-23, was critical in ensuring we could continue to support the communities of York. This support in difficult times is gratefully received and acknowledged and envied further afield!

We understand the sustained challenges on the public purse and a key focus for us over the next five-year strategic period will be to build our capabilities around income generation and fundraising and to retain close scrutiny of our expenditure. Three of our core contracts are due for renewal in 2024-2025 and we will need to ensure value for money and demonstrate financial jurisprudence in our procurement decisions.

Our People

Our organisational resilience was strengthened with the appointment of two new non-executive directors Helen Apsey (Make It York) and Sarah O'Brien (York St John University) both with experience in the culture sector, and two new community directors – Rosemary Cook and Luke Castle appointed at September's AGM. In addition, I was appointed as new CEO in January. The aim over the next 12 months will be on developing a five-year vision with core themes already standing out including organisational growth and both environmental and financial sustainability.

Operationally, our staffing teams were boosted by several externally funded roles – a team of 6 part-time Coordinators to support the delivery of Our City Hub at York Explore every weekend, and a Digital Coordinator supporting on the delivery of the 100% Digital York project for the city, led by Explore.

Volunteers

With the new target of one volunteer per library opening hour, our volunteer support has increased across the year with 18,914 hours

donated by 549 of York's resident. Key activities such as the Summer Reading Challenge and the Big City Read recruited volunteers specifically to deliver those projects, whilst the launch of Explore's digital offer in October saw the introduction of a new role to support customers who need 1-to-1 help accessing digital resources. Our volunteers also tell us how volunteering makes a difference to their wellbeing too, helping them gain new skills, experience, and confidence.

Friends' Groups

Explore has Friends groups at Haxby and Wigginton, Bishopthorpe, Dunnington, Dringhouses, Copmanthorpe, Fulford and Poppleton. These groups are strong and active advocates for the local libraries working tirelessly to raise funds and spread the word of the importance of their local library to their communities. Over the year they have built back the level of activity at their branches raising money, arranging community events, and supporting their libraries in a myriad of other ways.

Community Members

Community Members can act as powerful advocates for Explore in York and beyond; 23 new community members were added to the register and 36 members were removed during 2022-23 There was a total of 774 community members on 31 March 2023.

We communicated regularly with Community Members during the year through the director recruitment campaign and election and through various other direct emails. Explore will look to developing this cohort further in the coming strategic period working with our members to develop their voice further and look at potential for broader support against some of Explore key strategic challenges.

Connecting Communities

Explore is in the community, for the community and shaped by the community. We work collaboratively with a broad range of community and cultural partners to facilitate and support a broad array of events and activities that provide our communities what they want.

Our libraries, archives and reading cafes create a shared, inclusive sense of place where people of all ages and the varied communities of our city can connect and know they belong. Our Library managers build relationships with local partners such as local area co-ordinators and front-line contact is seen as crucial, and a game-changer as can be seen from the following experience at Acomb Explore:

A lady came to the desk in February 2022. At 71 she had lost her husband to cancer a couple of months before. She was really struggling to cope and was very nervous about even leaving the house, although she seemed physically able, because of Covid and just being alone. She was Chinese and her English was good, but she felt dis-associated from other people because she felt she couldn't speak to them as well as she would like. But since she had been out of China so long that she didn't feel like she conversed well in Chinese either and felt like she didn't belong anywhere. She was extremely distressed and upset. She spoke to the Acomb Explore Manager, who happened to be on the Reception Desk at the time. She told her that she wondered whether it was even worth carrying on with life. Fiona chatted to her and after a while told her about Penny Hutchinson the Local Area Co-ordinator. She asked if she could pass her details on to Penny and ask Penny to get in touch with her. A couple of days later Penny met the lady at Acomb Explore Café for a coffee and a chat. Many months later in July 2022 Penny told Fiona that she had seen the customer at a coffee morning in the community. She reported that she had made a lovely supportive network of friends and was feeling much stronger and was doing very well. In fact, Penny had given her a list of things in the local area, and she had replied "I am actually really busy Penny so I don't think I would have the time".

Penny Hutchinson said "we wouldn't have been able to do this without that initial contact from you all at the library. That crucial front-line contact is really a game changer."

Our City Hub

June saw the launch at York Explore of Our City Hub for migrants and refugees, a partnership with City of York Council. The hub was

held every Saturday for an initial 12 month funded project (4 x 10-hour co-ordinator posts) and has now been extended to June 2024. The hub is supported by 40+ volunteers from migrant communities who speak a variety of different languages.

The standard format is two sessions from 9.30-11.30am and 1-3pm. The morning session is a drop-in information session. Co-ordinators are on hand to support with information and referral to support organisations if needed. During the morning volunteers provide activities in the children's library while parents access the information they need. The afternoon English classes have been so popular that an additional class is now held during the morning, the afternoon is also a time for community activities.

A special event in August marked Ukrainian Independence Day. The Lord Mayor attended and gave out certificates to the Hub volunteers and engaged with the activities which included workshops based on Ukrainian culture, talks around the history, culture and literature of Ukraine and a look at traditional embroidery.

Library Lawn: A community space in the heart of the city

We took advantage of the glorious, hot weather in summer to share some great outdoor classic games - Chess, Connect 4, Jenga, Snakes and Ladders, Bowls, and Hopscotch - for everyone to enjoy on Library Lawn at York Explore. The games were all very popular, especially the chess set. We had great feedback from families saying how much they enjoyed the games and how much fun they had. Over the summer, lots of families visited the garden and also took advantage of the picnic tables donated by York Bid, which enabled them to stay longer and enjoy their lunch.

Future Libraries Investment Programme

Further evidence of CYC's continued support of Explore and what it provides for the City of York is demonstrated in the commitment to further developments of the city's libraries through the Future Libraries Investment Programme.

Haxby and Wigginton library closed 28 May and work started on the development of Oaken Grove Community Centre. Focus groups were held with partners, residents, and key stakeholders

directly informing the internal and external design and layout. The new Haxby and Wigginton Library within the Oaken Grove Community Centre opened on 4 January and has already proved to be a fantastic success, attracting over 8000 visitors, and receiving great PR and press attention.

As part of our continued commitment to working with and listening to our communities during 2022-23 we consulted customers, residents, and other stakeholders about the City's forthcoming library developments at Acomb and Clifton.

In May and June 2022, we ran a series of focus groups and informal discussions for the third phase of the Clifton consultation. The purpose of this third phase was to enable creative customer-led solutions around layout, design etc.; to identify problems/gaps in the proposed plans; and to learn more about the needs of specific audiences.

In March 2023 we ran a survey regarding the forthcoming development work at Acomb. Previous consultation exercises addressing the Future of Front Street (Spring 2021) and Library Satisfaction (Autumn 2021) had already given us a flavour of what residents and customers want, particularly around plants and trees; pedestrian areas; outdoor café areas; independent businesses and speciality markets; quiet study areas; better protection from draughts; and improvements to the library's appearance. Building on this, the March survey asked residents to rank their priorities for the work, and invited them to add their own comments.

Cost of Living

Explore responded to the need to raise awareness of various government funds available to residents to mitigate the cost-of-living increase. We partnered with City of York Council, Citizens Advice York and Age UK to provide one-to-one support to targeted households within the Tang Hall area. Twice a month, the mobile library stopped in 2 key locations within Tang Hall, and local residents could hop on and work with Citizens Advice staff to access the financial support they were entitled to. We have also held a number of free or low-cost activities over the year including live music, and theatre. Every library hosted a programme of free

activities before Christmas, to support families looking for low-cost high-quality experiences.

Joy of Reading

Reading is vital because it enriches our lives intellectually, emotionally, and socially. It opens doors to new knowledge, perspective and experiences, making it an essential activity for personal growth and wellbeing.

Reading can make a significant difference in the development of children, nurturing their cognitive, language and social skills while fostering a lifelong love of learning.

Explore delivered two major events in 2022-23 which ensured the joy of reading was illuminated to our communities.

The Summer Reading Challenge

The theme for the Summer Reading Challenge 2022 was Gadgeteers, with an aim to not only encourage reading for pleasure over the long summer holidays but also to inspire children to get hands on with invention and discovery. We had 2998 participants, with 152 taking part from nurseries in targeted areas. To ensure our activities and events remained accessible for all families, for the first time we had a range of free and/or pay as you feel events, so everyone was able to attend, regardless of their financial situation.

In addition to the above we continue to support reading in children with our work on early years development. A priority focus for Early Talk for York is to extend their work to focus on targeted areas where more help and support is needed to help get children ready for school. We worked with them to launch a Stay and Play session at Acomb, using ward funding.

The Bloodaxe Reading Challenge ran from 26 November 2022 to 28 January 2023. There was an increase of 8.5% of children starting the challenge this year compared to 2021/22, and 46% of children finished the challenge this year compared to 35% in 21/22.

The Big City Read

Our work bringing adults together to share the joy of reading is highlighted in the successful launch of the Big City Read, Kate Atkinson's Behind the Scenes at the Museum at the end of September 2022. We worked with partners and other cultural providers to bring audiences together around the themes of the book. The programme ranged from traditional author events and pop-up readers' groups across all libraries and reading cafes, to theatre performances in libraries and targeted work with residents of The Groves area of the York where much of the book is set. A total of 679 people took part in 40 events, with many more engaging with the book.

5000 print copies were distributed in libraries and reading cafes, via partner organisations, and at pop-up sessions. They were also given out at all of the events. We also purchased unlimited simultaneous downloads of the title as an e-book and e-audio for the period of the Big City Read.

Feedback received demonstrates the importance of continuing to promote the joy of reading to our communities with comments such as:-

“The Big City Read encouraged me to pick up a book and start reading again!”

“The Big read got me to visit my local library for the first time”

“The Big City Read put me in touch with other people who have a joy of books and helped me feel part of a wider community.”

Support Digital inclusion and Information Literacy

Libraries are universal spaces; places of social inclusion offering safe spaces for communities to connect and engage. We can bridge the digital divide by offering access to information, free internet access and digital training.

Digital Inclusion

We secured funding for a 100% Digital York Partnership coordinator for 18.5hpw for 18 months. Digital Café drop-in

sessions were provided in partnership with Keeping Digital at Tang Hall Explore and in community venues in Acomb at Sanderson House and St Wulstan's in Heworth supported by local ward fund. Over the course of the year, we have developed our approach towards a more targeted focus on communities within Acomb, working with community groups and organisations to introduce digital inclusion as a tool to achieve their aims and to support identified outcomes and impact. We have supported specific groups city-wide, for example supporting food banks with sim cards.

We re-focused and developed Explore's digital offer which was launched in Get Online Week in October. Supported by a team of volunteers, we delivered one-to-one and small group sessions on the basics of getting online. We continued to support customers needing one-to-one support to request and access Household Support Fund and Energy Rebate Payments online, with 42 customers supported in Acomb alone.

Access to quality information

We worked with partner organisations to provide communities with local access to specific information, advice and guidance in all of our Explore Centres including National Careers Service, Healthwatch York and Wilberforce Trust. To support sustainability, York Explore launched a climate corner, bringing library resources and City of York staff together as they consulted on the city's climate strategy. This was supported by other partner organisations who provided advice on energy saving and cutting energy bills at home, helping residents cope with the rise in cost of living.

Challenge Imaginations

Libraries are places to access culture and creativity providing a bridge to broader cultural participation.

“Not only is the library an arts venue it's an arts venue where new and unique things can happen. We are very grateful that it's on our doorstep.”

Explore received the fantastic news in November that we would be an Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisation

(NPO), one of only 16 libraries in the country. Demonstrating our continued commitment to bringing in additional funding streams this will bring in £660,000 to Explore over three years. The programme builds on our excellent Explore Labs programme and uses our own magical mix of communities, the Archive and local artists to create amazing creative content. The programme will focus on a different Explore Centre each year starting with Burnholme, Acomb and finishing at the new Explore Centre at Clifton.

What is particularly significant about this award is the importance ACE have given to the partnership working between the six core NPO organisations (York Museums Trust, York Theatre, Next Door But One, National Centre for Early Music and Pilot Theatre) and the strength Explore can bring supporting those organisations in taking culture to communities. These partnerships are core to the delivery of Yorks Cultural Strategy.

Key Cultural Highlights of 2022-23

Children and families: The Firework-Makers Daughter performance

Working with Next Door But One (NDB1) eight performances of The Firework-Maker's Daughter were delivered in October half-term in Acomb, York, Tang Hall and New Earswick Libraries. Tickets were priced as low as possible to help ensure it was an affordable family activity. All were fully booked with 173 people attending the performances. The audience was 60% children and 40% adults.

- 20% of audience members had a disability.
- 12% of audience members had never been to the theatre before this performance. With only 4% of the total audience saying they were frequent theatregoers.
- Key reasons the audience chose to attend included: trusted family friendly activity (96%), familiarity of venue (68%) and an affordable price-point (64%).
- 92% of audience members would 'definitely' attend a future NDB1 performance and the remaining 8% would 'almost certainly' attend.

"A brilliant story that was adapted perfectly for the age of my children. The fact that all of us were giggling throughout is

evidence of lovely storytelling. Also love the inclusion of Makaton - spot on!"

"A beautiful story that takes you on an adventure and shows you the importance of friendship. Great for children's and adults' imagination."

Adults: Sonic Traces at Hungate Reading Café

Sonic Traces brought together a diverse group of artists. Throughout the day, a large-scale collaborative drawing was created in response to a continuously changing soundscape, encompassing environmental sounds through to experimental music. Artists interpreted the sounds they heard by translating their sensory experiences of sonic textures and atmospheric vibrations into marks on paper. The meeting area was turned into an exhibition white space. The artists that took part gave overwhelmingly positive feedback with interest about using the space.

The event also gave us the opportunity to use the Hungate Café Instagram platform to promote a creative event using short videos (reels).

Children and families: English Touring Opera: The Wish Gatherer

We hosted the English Touring Opera at Acomb Explore. They performed a children's opera, the *Wish Gatherer*. At only £4.50 a ticket it was a low-cost opportunity for the children of Acomb to encounter a cultural experience which would normally be out of reach. In addition, we provided 20 free tickets for disadvantaged families identified through our local contacts i.e., Local Area Co-ordinator. The event was popular and sold out really quickly. There were 71 attendees in total.

Wellbeing

Our libraries play a key role in supporting the health and wellbeing agenda by offering a wide range of resources, from books on mental health and self-help to activities and events that promote creativity and social inclusion. Additionally, we provide spaces

where communities can access information and connect with others.

York's Dead Good Festival

The festival aims to encourage people to be more open about dying, death and bereavement. The launch day was hosted at York Explore. Events and activities supported people to express themselves in different ways, whilst offering advice and support on practical matters.

World Mental Health Day

On 10 October 2023 World Mental Health Day was promoted on social media and we held a targeted Big City Read giveaway at Foss Park hospital. Reading Well for Teens new collection was launched at Explore Centres.

Big City Read Artist in residence

A major new element of the Big City Read was to host an artist in residence. In partnership with Supporting Live Art and Performance (SLAP) we hosted an artist as part of their Arts Council funded artist incubation programme during the Big City Read. We worked with Tabitha Grove to support her to develop her solo piece Them There Then That which included themes of loss, grief and mental health issues. As part of the development process, we hosted four workshops at Explore centres, followed by performances at five libraries including one at Hungate Reading Café. Audience sizes were small initially but grew as the mini tour progressed. Many people who booked had opted to book a free ticket but wanted to donate after the performance, testament to how much the audiences enjoyed and were moved by it. Tabitha will be touring the show nationally in 2023.

Archives

Explore is responsible for acquiring, preserving and promoting the Archive and Local History collections relating to the City of York council area. We hold just over 500m3 of records, over half of which are council records, and 5GB of born-digital records; two thirds of our records are held offsite at a depository in Cheshire.

Explore York Archives (EYA) holds collections of national and even international significance. York's position as the second largest city in medieval England and its ongoing role in civic and community life leave an invaluable archival legacy, enabling The City Archive to tell the story of over 850 years of York's history, the most significant civic record outside of London. We applied for and were awarded provisional Archive Service accreditation in 2018 and were moved to fully accredited in 2020, maintaining this at review stage in 2021. We are due to submit a reapplication in June 2024.

Archives Accreditation focuses on three core areas of archives activity: the overall health of the organisation, its collections management and its engagement activities with stakeholders. EYA has a strong focus on engagement and collaboration which is clearly demonstrated in our activity over the year. EYA had over 130,00 engagements during the year; a proportion of those are staff mediated including researchers in the reading room plus attendees at events (be they on site, off-site or online; for adults or for children; public facing or for targeted audiences) but the great majority are self-directed which includes: Flickr views, sessions on the Images website, Ancestry Documents retrieved, and Find My Past records viewed.

Great examples of our engagement work within EYA include our work with York Museums Trust (YMT) on their Heritage Hunters programme. We worked with YMT to develop and deliver two archive sessions for participants of the group who are all from the Groves area in York. In addition, as part of the city-wide Residents Festival, in January we held two events focused on the theme of historical maps in York. The first event – Map Attack! Lego City of Wonder – invited families to build structures out of Lego, inspired by an historic map of York printed onto a large floor mat. The second event – Mapping Historic York - was an exhibition of original maps and plans of the city.

A significant part of the work of the EYA team involves managing the archive collections, especially in relation to processing new accessions to the archive, and then cataloguing those accessions to international standards to make them accessible to the public.

EYA has experienced a significant staff turnover over the last 10 years with the current team being very new in post with the Civic Archivist appointed in April 2022 and the Community and Digital Engagement Archivist in August 2022. The focus of the new team has been on getting a sound understanding of the collections against the standards and ambitions as set out in the last Archives Accreditation submission. This work will form the basis of the resubmission in March 2024. As part of that work EYA carry out annual collections audit, in 2022-23 this was focussed on the Archive Pod.

During 2022-2023, EYA took in 28 new accessions. Processing new accessions involves liaising and negotiating with depositors and CYC officers about the material that they have, making appraisal decisions in line with our collections policy, physically taking in those items or digitally storing them, and then creating an accessions entry which provides basic information about the collection.

Once the collection has been accessioned, it must then be organised, re-packaged, and catalogued. This can be a lengthy and time-consuming process, and EYA has a considerable backlog of collections which are yet to be catalogued. These uncatalogued collections remain inaccessible to the public.

Confirmation was received in Q3 that a decision had been reached within City of York Council to finance and project-manage the implementation of Preservica enabling Explore to manage born-digital archives and securing the future of the archive holdings. A project team has been convened with Officers from CYC to ensure systems and methodologies are in place for the management of born-digital records.

Looking Ahead

There is so much to look forward to! Explore will deliver its first year of cultural activities linked to our ACE National Portfolio Organisation status; these activities will be centred around Burnholme working with the communities there to produce creative outcomes rooted in their knowledge of what Burnholme means to them. We are working in partnership with the Childrens Services department within CYC as part of the pilot for Family Hubs with our

three main Explore Centres participating. In addition, we will be developing our vision for the next five years building on all the great work that we have done to date and ensuring we continue to support the key priorities for the City of York.

Author of report:

Jenny Layfield, Chief Executive, Explore York Libraries and Archives Mutual Limited (Explore)

Contact details: jenny.layfield@exploreyork.org.uk

**Children, Culture & Communities Scrutiny Committee
Work Plan 2023/24**

Date	Agenda Item
05 September 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SEND Update 2. School Attendance
17 October 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finance & Performance Q1 2. York Learning 3. York Explore
07 November 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family Hubs 2. Digital Inclusion 3. Safeguarding Report – For information
05 December 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finance & Performance Q2 2. Looked After Children, Virtual School & related items 3. Corporate Parenting Annual Report
23 January 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SACRE Annual Report 2. Attainment Gap 3. Early Years Childcare Reforms
05 March 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finance & Performance Q3 2. Safer York Partnership 3. Targeted Youth Provision
09 April 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YMT Annual Report 2. York Theatre Trust Annual Report 3. REACH – Report on disadvantaged young people’s access to culture

Agenda items for consideration

- York Citizens’ Theatre Trust Review – reported 07/03/23
- REACH (York Cultural Education Partnership) - reported 07/03/23
- York Museums Trust – reported 07/03/23
- Public Health School Survey – Biennial, reported 23/06/22 – Expected publication in new year, possible reporting date 23/01/24, 05/03/24, 09/04/24

**Children, Culture & Communities Scrutiny Committee
Work Plan 2023/24**

Task & Finish Groups

- Food Insecurity Task & Finish Group
- Education, Health, and Care Plan Task & Finish Group

Committee Remit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop & maintain close working with Corporate Parenting Board and York Schools & Academies Board and deliver complimentary agendas where appropriate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Social Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Virtual School for children in care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years and childcare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School effectiveness and achievement, including school attendance and school safeguarding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School services: School place planning and capital maintenance; School transport; Admissions; The School governance service and SENDIASS; Behaviour and attendance; Elective home education; Children missing education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEND services & Educational Psychology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills, including monitoring of York Skills Board; York Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Area Teams, Neighbourhood Working, Community Centres
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People & Neighbourhoods Strategy & Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety including Safer York Partnership, Substance Misuse, Anti-Social Behaviour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention, prevention, and community development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture, including York Theatre Royal, Museums, Music Venues Network (& elements of MIY?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary Sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries & Archives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital inclusion strategy