

Children & Young People's Plan 2009 – 2012: **2010 Review**

Introduction

We are now one year into the lifetime of York's latest Children and Young People's Plan, which is available, along with the full range of supporting documentation, on the YorOK website www.yor-ok.org.uk.

The YorOK Board agreed that we needed to review our Plan every year; this is also now a national requirement. We have approached the 2010 review as follows: we looked back at all of the priority actions and targets we set out in the Plan; we listened again to the voices of young people; we consulted our partners across the YorOK community; and we challenged ourselves as to whether the actions we agreed and the outcomes we measure in our performance scorecard were being delivered. This review also takes into account the recent review of the Local Area Agreement.

The 2009 -12 Plan includes 27 performance indicators that we have routinely monitored through the YorOK Board and Integrated Commissioning Group. Of these, approximately two thirds are either hitting targets or showing improvement. Our performance against the remaining third shows that we still face challenges in some areas. In addition, we have introduced a further 26 new indicators which we expect to be able to monitor over the course of the next year. The full YorOK performance scorecard can be found on the YorOK website.

Our reflections have led us to conclude that, for the most part, the picture is a very positive one. We are confident that we will be able to meet the great majority of our targets. In the last year, YorOK partners won over £5 million of new money to spend on children and young people in York. We also received many awards and accolades, not least the Comprehensive Area Assessment judgment that children's services in York were performing "excellently" – one of only two children's services outside London to achieve this rating.

But we are never complacent in York, and we have been open about those areas where we still need to do better. We have also suggested a few areas where our priorities might need to be amended or expanded.

We know that the year ahead will bring many new challenges, including serious pressures on public expenditure that will affect many of the providers of services to York's children and young people. Both the local authority and the PCT will be reorganising, partly as a response to those pressures.

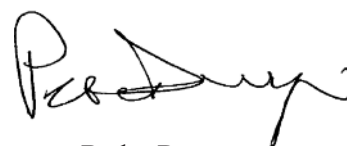
But the needs and dreams of the children, young people and families of York will remain paramount at all times. The forthcoming changes will bring opportunities as well as challenges. We are confident that if we stick to the underlying principles we set out in the Plan, we can do even better than before, and truly make York one of the best places in the country in which to grow up.



Sue Metcalfe
Chair of the YorOK Board



Cllr. Carol Runciman
Executive Member for
Children and Young
People's Services



Pete Dwyer
Director, Adults, Children
and Education



Working together with Children,
Young People and Families

How are we doing, one year on from the launch of York's new Children and Young People's Plan?

These are some of the highlights, and the things we still need to do.

Outcome One – Being Healthy

Highlights

- ▶ We have introduced many new ideas to help children and their families stay healthy and lose weight.
- ▶ The Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme has been extended to secondary schools and has been embedded across the curriculum in primary schools.
- ▶ The most recent data shows a welcome 20% reduction in teenage pregnancy rates in York, to 34 per 1000 15-17 year olds. Chlamydia screening is now available in many non-health settings, making it more accessible to young people. YorScreen is making good progress towards its targets by developing innovative ways to promote the service.
- ▶ We have worked particularly hard to support disabled children and their families, and have won a national award for this.
- ▶ Our children's centres now cover every area of the city.
- ▶ More children than ever (87% aged between 5 -16) have taken part in 2 hours of PE per week and Street Sport. We have opened the new "Energise" Swimming Pool at Oaklands and are now offering free swimming to the under 16s and over 60s.
- ▶ In the first year of the "Playbuilder" Initiative, we have successfully installed or upgraded 11 of the 22 play areas planned for the city.

Things we still need to do

- ▶ While there has been a welcome reduction in obesity levels amongst Reception age children, there has been a small increase (0.04%) at Year 6. Reducing childhood obesity will remain a key priority for us. We need to communicate better about the healthy eating and weight management programmes that are available.
- ▶ We need to continue to develop new ways to tackle substance misuse, especially so-called "legal highs", given that there has been an increase in hospital admissions related to these causes. We will make the most of the decision to place a York-specific Drug Action Team within the City Council, and will give particular priority to tackling misuse of alcohol by young people.
- ▶ We must continue to listen to what children and young people are telling us about their emotional health through the Tellus survey and other feedback, and respond accordingly. One particular issue arising from the latest survey is that some primary school children say they feel unable to talk to an adult other than their parents – we need to respond to this.
- ▶ Our teenage pregnancy strategy is working but needs time to achieve its goals. Similarly, we want to increase further the rate of Chlamydia screening, recognising that this is likely to result in an increase in the number of recorded infections in the short term.
- ▶ We have recently improved our communications with the city's GPs, and need to do more work to reap the benefits of this.

Outcome Two – Staying Safe

Highlights

- ▶ We are pleased that children in York generally feel safer and happier than in many other places (so they tell us) and we will try to make sure this is always the case.
- ▶ We have worked hard to make sure that the arrangements for protecting children are well understood by everyone. Our schools have improved their safeguarding arrangements, including advice to help children and young people stay safe online.
- ▶ There are now more children (13%) in the council's care than there were last year, as is the case in many other cities. We have put more money into supporting these children so they have the best possible experience. In particular, their placements are more stable than before, and the great majority are cared for by local families.
- ▶ Integrated working across the YorOK partners has improved, with an increased number of calls to the Child Index and a greater number of common assessments being completed.



Things we still need to do

- ▶ We will update our safeguarding arrangements to take account of the unannounced inspection of our services that took place in April 2010. This found that our overall arrangements were secure, and confirmed for us that we are focussing on the right areas for development in the coming year.
- ▶ We need to understand better the issues about child neglect in York, because it can be just as serious as other types of abuse. We need to make sure all of our staff are trained to recognise neglect in all its forms.
- ▶ We will not accept bullying in any form and we will be asking children about this again in the coming year to ensure our knowledge about it is up-to-date.
- ▶ We have no reason to believe that violent extremism is a serious problem for York at the moment, but it is important that our safeguarding arrangements recognise the potential for influencing vulnerable young minds in this direction, and that our schools positively promote better understanding of other communities and mature discussions about controversial topics.
- ▶ Over time, we want to see fewer young people who need to be in the council's care, or placed outside York. We have plans to achieve this, particularly by supporting parents and carers at the earliest point when they may be facing difficulties, and making it easier for people to get the right help at the right time when they make contact with us.
- ▶ We also need to improve further our integrated working arrangements to make sure that everyone who works with children is familiar with the "Common Assessment Framework" and the concept of the "lead practitioner", as well as with the services that can be made available to help families in need.
- ▶ We need to work harder to make sure that we review the care plans for our Looked After Children in a timely way, building on the initiative to get the children themselves more involved in these reviews.
- ▶ In the coming year we will review our arrangements for handling young runaways to ensure that our services are working together to assist young people in this position, and we will also work with colleagues to ensure that the welcome reductions in youth homelessness are maintained.



Outcome Three – Enjoying and Achieving

Highlights

- ▶ We are very proud of the achievements of York’s students. Last year they got excellent results at age 11, age 16, and at A level - and did much better than the national average. We saw a particularly significant increase in the number of pupils who achieved 5 A*-C grades (including English and maths) at GCSE (up from 53.8% to 59.2%) and this gave us a ranking of 15th nationally.
- ▶ Primary school absence rates are now amongst the best nationally and we are on track to meet the national target for secondary schools. This has come about as a result of a range of work with individual children and their parents and carers.
- ▶ Similarly, we have continued to reduce the number of children being excluded from school, both for a few days and permanently, and we will carry on with our work to support those children who might otherwise be at risk of exclusion.



- ▶ We are working more closely with families living in the parts of the city where extra support may be needed: we call this our Community Partnership Project. This is because we recognise that some children may have problems that cannot be solved by the schools alone. All the YorOK partners are helping with this initiative.
- ▶ We have successfully piloted the Extended Services Disadvantage Subsidy, which we call “Me Too” in York, which provides economically disadvantaged children and young people with opportunities to take part in a range of out-of-school activities. We are now rolling this out to all schools in the city.

- ▶ We have devised a cultural entitlement programme for all our young people aged 0-19. One particular highlight of 2009 was when 500 York primary school children sang a piece at the Schools Prom in the Royal Albert Hall.
- ▶ We have greatly improved the quality of early years settings through a series of capital grants using Government money, which will help the youngest of York’s citizens to get the best possible start in life.
- ▶ We are working to turn more of our libraries into “Explore” learning centres, to match the successful one at Acomb, which is immensely popular with local children and their families.

Things we still need to do

- ▶ We will concentrate our support for schools and for children on the few areas where our performance is not as strong as we would wish. These include maths and English results at age 11. We also still have a significant gap in the results for children at this age who get free school meals, compared with those who do not; we will work harder with York’s primary schools to narrow this gap. The achievement of children in our care will always be a priority for us.
- ▶ We have developed exciting new plans to make all of York’s primary and secondary schools “world class”. Some of our most successful schools, or schools with particular strengths, are working with other schools in the city to help them improve further.
- ▶ We hope to improve further the attendance of students at our secondary schools.
- ▶ We need to continue to help schools to access the full benefits of being part of the YorOK community by working with a wide range of agencies to support children and their families.



Outcome Four – Making a Positive Contribution

Highlights

- ▶ We have set up a new York Youth Council and sent representatives to the UK Youth Parliament, as part of the "Take Part" Pathfinder. The Youth Council has been increasingly influential in the city.
- ▶ We were awarded £1.4 million of Government money to provide volunteering opportunities for all 14-16 year olds in York.
- ▶ More young people than ever took part in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.
- ▶ A youth club has been established in the old library at New Earswick and a new club for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities was established at Fulford Youth centre.
- ▶ We now run an even wider range of targeted parenting programmes, with consistently high numbers of mums, dads and carers accessing these. We also now have parenting workers who are able to work with parents on a one to one basis. We aim to support parents but also to help them accept their responsibilities.
- ▶ Training has been delivered to head teachers to support schools in meeting their legal duty to promote community cohesion.
- ▶ Plans are in place for the first Youth Festival on 26 June 2010.
- ▶ The number of young people getting a criminal record for the first time has continued to fall, reducing by nearly 25%, compared with 11% in similar areas. Similarly, the amount of repeat offending committed by young people has fallen by over 14%, compared with nearly 10% in similar areas.



Things we still need to do

- ▶ We need to make it clearer that the principles underpinning the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child apply to all of our work. We are working with York St John University on their "Rights Respecting School" programme, and even trialling this in early years settings.
- ▶ We need to deliver over 4000 volunteering opportunities for 14-16 year olds in the next year as part of the York Youth Community Action Pilot.
- ▶ We hope to launch a city centre youth café when funds are secured and are working with the Youth Council to achieve this. We know this is a priority for young people.
- ▶ We need to give primary age children, who are not old enough to sit on the Youth Council, the opportunity to demonstrate that they too can, and do, make a positive contribution to the life of the city.
- ▶ We will experiment with extending and strengthening the connection between the Youth Council and elected Members of the Council, as well as with partner agencies.
- ▶ We will take the principles of restorative justice into new situations, including schools, in order to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system unnecessarily.

Outcome Five - Achieving Economic well-being

Highlights

- ▶ We have worked hard to make sure that as many of our 16 and 17 year olds as possible are able to get jobs or to take up educational courses or training. Around 4.3% of York's 16-18 year olds are currently not in education, employment or training, around the same as last year, which is a commendable performance in difficult economic times.
- ▶ All young people aged 14-19 in York will benefit from our new vision for education across this age range. We have published a paper called "Achieving Excellence" which sets out our plans and which is supported by all the schools and colleges in York. These include new Foundation Learning courses, facilities for teaching Hospitality and Catering in three secondary schools, and an exciting new Creative and Media Centre for all learners in the City of York. This is hosted by Manor School and will be one of only three in the country.
- ▶ Children and young people in York have been encouraged to take part in competitions, displays and other events about "enterprise", to help them learn skills for life and be better prepared for their future employment.
- ▶ We have been taking steps to tackle child poverty: there is now a support worker from Job Centre Plus working directly with families in children's centres, and the new Catalyst Family Intervention Project will be working with some of the families who need most support. There has been a welcome reduction in the number of households with dependent children living in temporary accommodation (41 in December 2009).
- ▶ The 92 Project is working hard to reach young people in hostel accommodation to help them with money skills and sexual health education.



Things we still need to do

- ▶ We will be further developing our Child Poverty Strategy this coming year, and will concentrate particularly on raising family aspirations, helping to break the cycle of inter-generational poverty.
- ▶ There has still been little improvement in the number of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities getting into employment and this will remain an area of focus for us.
- ▶ We are working, along with the Universities, Colleges and schools in York, to encourage more of York's young people to go on to Higher Education, building on their excellent exam results.
- ▶ We are working on a strategy to engage York's employers with our work, so that their future skills needs can inform the courses available and they can support schools to develop York's future workforce.

Service Management

Highlights

- ▶ Progress has been made in aligning the budgets of the YorOK partners, who collectively spend £270 million every year on children and young people in the city. The Integrated Commissioning Group is now well established and significant decisions are being made by this multi-agency group.
- ▶ We have launched our first YorOK Workforce Strategy and we are developing induction standards for all members of the Children's Trust workforce.
- ▶ The new Joseph Rowntree school has opened on time and within budget, and has received a prestigious design award.
- ▶ The development of the ninth Children's Centre at Knavesmire Primary School is now well advanced and work will be completed in May 2010.
- ▶ The Primary Capital Programme is going well, with planning applications submitted for two new schools: Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School and the amalgamation of English Martyrs' RC Primary School and Our Lady's RC Primary School.



- ▶ The number of Green flags for open spaces has increased from 3 to 4, with Rawcliffe Country Park having just been awarded a flag.
- ▶ The YorOK website has been improved and now has a section giving advice to partners about meeting their equalities commitment. This includes advice on how equalities should be a fundamental part of the commissioning process.
- ▶ There continues to be support for development in the voluntary sector through the CVS Capacity Building Project and Funding Advice project.

Things we still need to do

- ▶ We will need to work even harder to ensure we spend every penny wisely, which is a priority for our young people as well as an economic necessity.
- ▶ We must ensure we take advantage of the organisational changes at City of York Council, the local Primary Care Trust and potentially four individual schools to deliver even better services for children, young people and their families, and to "work smarter" across organisational boundaries.
- ▶ We will start the actual building work on the two new primary schools.
- ▶ We recognise that increasing numbers of families have recently arrived in York for whom English is not their first language. Our services need to adapt to this.
- ▶ We need to do still more to encourage schools and other YorOK facilities to reduce their carbon footprint. We need to encourage young people to develop the habit of recycling from an early age. We will also encourage schemes that inspire young people to help grow their own food.



The Children and Young People's Plan 2009 - 2012 for the City of York

VISION

York is a city making history and its children are our future. Every child and young person in York deserves the chance to reach their full potential and live their dreams. We will stretch the most able, support those who start at a disadvantage, and protect and nurture the most vulnerable.



TEN PRINCIPLES

Underpinning our vision are ten principles that will determine the way in which we will all work together to achieve our goals:

1. Children are children first and foremost.
2. Every single child needs the chance to reach their full potential.
3. Families are at the heart of all our policies.
4. Intervening early is our motto.
5. We need to take special steps to reach out to those children, young people and families who may be struggling against disadvantage or discrimination.
6. Education is the greatest liberator in our collective battle to eliminate, or at least minimise, the impact of child poverty.
7. We need to ensure that we involve and engage children, young people, families and communities in the design and delivery of the services they receive.
8. There must be 'no wrong door' when people access our services.
9. We need to recognise the dedication and professionalism of our workforce.
10. We will need trusting and innovative partnerships.

TWENTY-FIVE YorOK PRIORITIES

Being Healthy	Staying Safe	Enjoying & Achieving	Making a Positive Contribution	Achieving Economic Well-being	Service Management
<p>1. Promote positive health choices from conception onwards.</p> <p>2. Develop specific programmes to tackle obesity, substance misuse, unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections.</p> <p>3. Support emotional well-being.</p> <p>4. Bring integrated health services closer to local communities.</p>	<p>5. Protect children and young people to the highest possible standards.</p> <p>6. Recognise and address wider safeguarding issues.</p> <p>7. Promote a safer city through the delivery of outstanding, integrated services.</p> <p>8. Provide stable, secure, local placements for our Looked After Children.</p>	<p>9. Aim for world-class standards of leadership and ensure that all children and young people enjoy and achieve.</p> <p>10. Implement best practice to improve behaviour and attendance.</p> <p>11. Ensure that we 'narrow the gap' in outcomes for vulnerable groups.</p> <p>12. Continue to ensure a high quality Early Years experience.</p> <p>13. Ensure that children and young people make best use of York's unique culture and heritage to participate fully in their cultural entitlement.</p>	<p>14. Provide more things for children and young people to do and places for them to go.</p> <p>15. Strengthen communities through innovative family involvement.</p> <p>16. Value children and young people's contribution and celebrate their successes.</p> <p>17. Further reduce the likelihood of offending and its impact on communities.</p>	<p>18. Increase the quality and range of opportunities for young people to realise their dreams and ambitions.</p> <p>19. Support children and young people through key transitions in their lives.</p> <p>20. Further reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training.</p> <p>21. Reduce child poverty and homelessness.</p>	<p>22. Make sure that a commitment to equalities underpins everything we do.</p> <p>23. Further develop a well-qualified, creative and integrated workforce.</p> <p>24. Invest in sustainable buildings and open spaces.</p> <p>25. Spend every penny wisely through 'integrated commissioning'.</p>



To view the Children & Young People's Plan, please visit our website: www.yor-ok.org.uk