



Notice of a public meeting of

Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee

- To:** Councillors Nicholls (Chair), Clarke (Vice-Chair),
Crawshaw, Cullwick, Cuthbertson, Knight, Nelson,
K Taylor, Waller, and Wilson
- Date:** Tuesday, 1 October 2024
- Time:** 5.30 pm
- Venue:** West Offices - Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

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 - 8)
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2024.

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, 27 September 2024.

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 and Performance Q1 (Pages 9 - 30)

This report sets out the projected 2024/25 financial position and the performance position for the period covering 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024.

5. School Attendance (Pages 31 - 42)

This report updates the current picture of Attendance across the secondary and primary phase in York and indicates key priority areas for the future and current support work.

6. **Early Years and Childcare Reforms** (Pages 43 - 68)
This report updates members of progress on the implementation of the Early Years and Childcare Reforms.
7. **Virtual School Annual Report** (Pages 69 - 86)
This report introduces the Virtual School Annual Report 2023/2024.
8. **Work Plan** (Pages 87 - 90)
Members are asked to consider the Committee's work plan for the 2024/25 municipal year.
9. **Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democratic Services Officer

Reece Williams

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

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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 własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (ہولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

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.

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	3 September 2024
Present	Councillors Nicholls (Chair), Clarke (Vice-Chair), Crawshaw [from 5:34pm to 6:12pm, and from 7:11pm), Cuthbertson, K Taylor, Waller, Melly (Substitute for Cllr Nelson), Runciman (Substitute for Cllr Cullwick), Healey (Substitute for Cllr Knight), and Whitcroft (Substitute for Cllr Wilson)
Apologies	Councillors Knight, Cullwick, Nelson, and Wilson
In attendance	Councillor Webb – Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education Councillor Pavlovic – Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities
Officers in attendance	Richard Hartle – Head of Children and Education Finance Martin Kelly – Corporate Director of Children and Education Maxine Squire – Assistant Director, Education and Skills Pauline Stuchfield – Director of Housing and Communities Niall McVicar – Head of Service – Innovation and Children’s Champion Joe Micheli – Head of Communities

The Chair reported that Councillor Moroney was not a member of the Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee and that his inclusion on the agenda was an administrative error.

8. Declarations of Interest (5:34pm)

Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on the agenda if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. Councillor Crawshaw declared a private interest in relation to item 5, SEND Update, and noted that he would not participate in debate during its' discussion.

9. Minutes (5:34pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings of the committee held on 2 July 2024 and 7 May 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

10. Public Participation (5:34pm)

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

11. Finance and Performance Q4 (for information) (5:35pm)

The Head of Children and Education Finance presented the report and in response to questions from members, the Head of Children and Education Finance, Corporate Director of Children and Education, and Assistant Director, Education and Skills, confirmed that:

- The saving acquired in relation to the Virtual School did not impact provision, this took advantage of available Government grants.
- Direct Payment savings resulted from a review into spending that was not required, and therefore savings would not have effected provision.
- The Outturn for the safety valve agreement 2023/24 was on track financially, but would become more challenging through future years.
- The School Transport team had had success in reducing the deficit through sourcing different transport types for individuals, for example ongoing savings had been achieved via the obtaining of fleet vehicles rather than individual taxis.

- The budget reduction of £4.5 million over two years for transport had resulted in a necessity to change behaviours, as external provision had become costly through inflation.
- In relation to paragraph 44 of the report, focus was also being applied to the wellbeing of children and families as well as academic outcomes following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Safeguarding Interventions and Assessment Teams budget underspend resulted from over-recruitment in the past, and the lack of a need to fill vacancies immediately. Vacancies would be filled depending on demand.
- Due to changes in the way teacher assessments were completed during the year 2021-22, the percentage-point gap between Free School Meal (FSM) and non-FSM pupils at 15, who attain a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19, was not directly comparable with years before or after.
- York had an embedded gap between advantaged and disadvantaged pupils, and as York had a high performing non-SEN cohort this gap was wider than national averages.

Resolved:

- i. That Councillor Pavlovic, the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities, would share with members information relating to children in temporary accommodation who were presented as homeless or in overcrowded accommodation.
- ii. That the committee noted the finance and performance information.

Reasons: To ensure expenditure was kept within the approved budget.

12. SEND Update (6:12pm)

The Assistant Director, Education and Skills, presented the report and noted that following the last SEND update received by the committee on 5 March 2024, a SEND Area Health Needs Assessment had now been completed (Annex A to the report).

The Assistant Director, Education and Skills, reported that there was a growing national narrative that the current framework was not working, and a recent independent report by ISOS Partnership investigated evidence demonstrating this and found four key points which resonate with CYC's experiences.

The Assistant Director, Education and Skills, noted that a decision to create a dedicated SEND Family Hub was scheduled to be taken by the Executive on 12 September 2024.

The Assistant Director, Education and Skills, reported that the former Head of Service for CYC's SEND team had left the authority through retirement and the SEND team had a backlog of statutory assessments due to difficulty with employing child psychologists. It was noted that the employment of a new SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) manager had started and experienced staff were taking on higher leadership roles to support the team – it was expected that a new Head of the SEND Service would be in position by January 2025.

The Corporate Director of Children and Education reported that the SEND system was pressured nationally, and that it was predicted that within two years demand for EHCPs (Education, Health, and Care Plans) would lead to an increase in expenditure.

In response to questions from members, the Corporate Director of Children and Education, and Assistant Director, Education and Skills confirmed that:

- According to ISOS Partnership's data, there was no correlation between affluency and SEND.
- EHCP investigations were ongoing to consider how schools vary in similar areas to understand localities and stop variations.
- It was important to change the narrative that a diagnosis was needed in order to receive support, and as such providing support at the earliest point was a priority.
- Changes from September 2024 would help to equalise workloads for SEND teams, and investments were being made into professional development for staff.
- Emphasising the voice of families and children was a priority, and working alongside families increases trust in the system.

Resolved: That the committee noted both the progress made but also the continuing financial and reputational challenges that SEND posed for the local authority, partners, and stakeholders.

Reason: To ensure that the members had an understanding and oversight of the on-going opportunities and challenges to improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families.

13. Youth Strategy Update (7:11pm)

The Head of Service - Innovation and Children's Champion, and Head of Communities presented the report, and it was reported that they would be meeting with the Youth Network following this meeting to discuss switching to more practical ways of working together.

In response to questions from members, the Head of Service - Innovation and Children's Champion, and Head of Communities confirmed that:

- The Youth Strategy was required to attract additional funding to sustain local provision for young people.
- It was a priority for young people to feel a sense of belonging in York, and as a result discussions were ongoing in involving the Youth Council with the Local Youth Partnership.
- The Youth Strategy would change behaviours of partners as they would now work to receive funding together, rather than compete individually for funding. More tangible outcomes of this would be better demonstrated later on in the process.

Members discussed the report, and the following feedback to Officers was provided:

- More efforts were needed to demonstrate the involvement of those aged 12-17 within the strategy.
- It was important for young people to be consulted on when naming the Local Youth Partnership.

Resolved:

- i. That Councillor Webb, the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education would share with members information of the decision of the York Youth Strategy scheduled to be taken by Executive on 14 November 2024.
- ii. That the committee noted and commented on the development of the York Youth Strategy and associated Local Youth Partnership.

Reason:

To support the successful development and implementation of the York Youth Strategy.

14. Work Plan (7:45pm)

Members discussed the committee's workplan and were advised that the School Attendance report originally due for this meeting had been deferred to the meeting scheduled for 1 October 2024.

Councillor Crawshaw proposed that the committee receive a report on the Locality Model during the meeting scheduled for 5 November 2024, this was seconded by Councillor Clarke, and it was;

Resolved:

- i. That the committee would receive a report on the Locality Model during the meeting scheduled for 5 November 2024.
- ii. That Members considered the committee's work plan for the 2024/25 municipal year.

Reason: To have kept the committee's work plan for the 2024/25 municipal year updated.

Cllr Nicholls, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.34 pm and finished at 7.54 pm].



Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee 1 October 2024

Report of Richard Hartle, Head of Children & Education Finance and Ian Cunningham, Head of Business Intelligence

2024/25 Finance and Performance Monitor 1

Summary

1. This report sets out the projected 2024/25 financial position and the performance position for the period covering 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024, 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 challenging financial position with a forecast overspend for 2024/25 of £3.4m. This is a huge improvement on the £11.4m forecast overspend we have previously seen at this stage in the financial year and is a direct result of the significant work undertaken by officers across all parts of the Council to identify savings and mitigations.
3. However, there is still a forecast overspend and therefore, whilst it is incredibly positive that the position is much improved, there remains a great deal of work still to do. It remains 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 overspending will quickly see the Council exhaust its reserves.
4. The existing cost control measures remain in place, and further action is needed to bring spending down to an affordable level, both within the current financial year and over the next 3 years, to safeguard the Council's financial resilience and stability. The impact that this work is having can be clearly seen in this latest forecast and the Council's track record of delivering savings, along with robust financial management, provides a sound platform to continue to be able to deal with future challenges.

5. If we continue to take action and make any 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 mitigations are delivered, and the forecast overspend is reduced.

Background

Financial Summary and Mitigation Strategy

6. The current forecast is that there will be an overspend of £3.4m. This is despite the additional budget allocated through the 2024/25 budget process and ongoing 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 continue the work started in the previous financial year to identify and take the necessary actions to reduce expenditure.
7. 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 2024 also included an assessment of risks associated with the budget, which included the need to secure further savings and effectively manage cost pressures.
8. 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 continue the work started last year to reduce our expenditure down to a sustainable level both within the current financial year and over the medium term.
9. 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.

10. Corporate control measures are in place, but it is unlikely they will deliver the scale of reduction needed within the year. Other savings proposals, including service reductions, may also be needed. 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.
11. The delivery of savings plans continues to be a clear priority for all officers during the year. Corporate Directors and Directors will keep Executive Members informed of progress on a regular basis.

Financial Analysis

12. The Council's net budget is £149m. Following on from previous years, the challenge of delivering savings continues with c£14m to be achieved to reach a balanced budget. Early forecasts indicate the Council is facing net financial pressures of £3.4m and an overview of this forecast, on a directorate by directorate basis, is outlined in Table 1 below.

Service area	Net budget £'000	2024/25 Forecast Variation £'000
Children & Education	28,659	1,359
Adult Social Care & Integration	45,307	2,361
Transport, Environment & Planning	23,464	-547
Housing & Communities	6,614	792
Corporate & Central Services	44,724	-69
Sub Total	148,768	3,896
Contingency	500	-500
Target for further mitigation		
Total including contingency	149,268	3,396

Table 1: Finance overview

Detailed Analysis

Children, Culture & Communities

13. The forecast outturn position is an overspend totalling £1,692k and the table below summarises the latest forecasts by service area.

2023/24 Outturn Variation £000		2024/25 Latest Approved Budget			2024/25 Projected Outturn Variation	
		Gross Spend £000	Income £000	Net Spend £000	£000	%
	Children & Education					
+2,863	Children's Safeguarding	25,628	1,149	24,479	+1,396	+5.7%
+272	Education & Skills	21,095	5,039	16,056	+3	+0.0%
-103	School Funding & Assets	170,894	178,535	-7,641	-19	-0.2%
-423	Director of C&E & Central Budgets	1,616	5,851	-4,235	-22	-0.5%
+2,609	C&E Directorate Total	219,233	190,574	28,659	+1,359	+4.7%
-286	Culture & Communities	13,262	6,479	6,783	+333	+4.9%
+2,323	CC&C Scrutiny Total	232,495	197,053	35,442	+1,692	+4.8%

14. 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 243, at the end of May it was 246. Placement budgets are predicted to be overspent by a total of £1,363k. The pressure on this budget 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 continue to worsen the position. Total growth of £1,647k has been allocated to the placements budgets in 2024/25.
15. Safeguarding Interventions is predicted to underspend by 59k due to staffing vacancies. In addition, legal fees are predicted to overspend by £135k.

16. An overspend in Disabled Children's Services of £473k is mainly overspends on direct payments. A specific project for direct payments is being carried out, and this is predicted to clawback some of previous payments made and reduce ongoing costs.
17. Innovation and Children's Champion is predicted to underspend by - £187k (-£137k in 2023/24). This is due to the ability to fund some expenditure from the Family Hubs grant & Family Seeing Grant.
18. The Home to School Transport budget, which has been in an overspend position for a number of years, has been allocated £730k of growth for demographic pressures and contract inflation.
19. At this point in the financial year, no variance is predicted, however, the projected outturn includes an estimate of likely contractual inflation from 1st September 2024, and the final increase will be dependent on the relevant indices at that point. In addition, at this point in the financial year, the financial impact of changes for the new academic year are not known until all eligible pupils have their travel arrangements confirmed in September so this position could change once all new academic year information on cost is available.
20. Staff resourcing issues and turnover in the SEND Statutory Services Team, and the need to resource work to progress the Safety Valve targets have continued and resulted in the need to appoint a number of agency staff and also increase supporting resources, resulting in a predicted overspend of £52k based on current staffing assumptions.
21. The Educational Psychologists Service is predicted to underspend by £65k, mainly due to continuing vacancies in the team.
22. The Effectiveness and Achievement Service is predicted to overspend by £18k in 2024/25 (+£125k in 2023/24) mainly due to unachieved vacancy factors.
23. An overall underspend of £12k is predicted within the Virtual School and Inclusion service, due to a vacancy and one-off savings in non-staffing expenditure.
24. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is ahead of the target position set out in the Safety Valve recovery plan agreed with the DfE. The local authority is now in the third year of this four year agreement and has exceeded the financial targets for the first two years.

25. The brought forward balance on the DSG at 1 April 2024 was a deficit of £291k. The initial year end projection for 2024/25 is for a cumulative deficit of approximately £780k, although this is subject to change as new academic year details of provision are confirmed. This increased deficit is despite the LA expecting to receive almost £1.5m of further Safety Valve funding during the year and is indicative of the increasing pressures and demands being placed on LAs to provide for High Needs pupils.
26. In common with the national picture, York is continuing to experience an increase in High Needs pupils together with an increasing complexity of need, often requiring expensive provision, especially in Post 16 and Post 19 provision and the education element of Out of Authority placements. In particular York is facing a significant increase in demand for special school places, often exacerbated by tribunal decisions.
27. In addition, due to the significant pressures on mainstream school budgets, it is becoming increasingly difficult for High needs pupils to be supported in these settings. This situation is particularly difficult in York due to the low level of school funding which has a significant impact on these schools ability to adequately meet the needs of High Needs pupils.
28. 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.
29. As a result of the above, this third year of the Safety Valve agreement is likely to be the most difficult to date, with an increasing risk of the LA being unable to meet the target of eliminating the cumulative deficit by the end of 2025/26 as set out in the original agreement. Officers are working hard to avoid this position but it is becoming increasingly challenging to achieve.

30. Within Communities the main potential pressure relates to the £300k library saving. The council is undertaking due process to work with Explore to consider options that can be included into the contract that will deliver a saving. The process does require time to review provision levels as well as consultation and agreement from the partners. There remains an aspiration to gain a full saving from the process but the timeline and level of in year saving is in question.

Performance – Service Delivery

31. This performance report is based upon the city outcome and council delivery indicators included in the Performance Framework for the Council Plan (2023-2027) which was launched in September 2023. Wider or historic strategic and operational performance information is published quarterly on the Council’s open data platform; www.yorkopendata.org.uk
32. The Executive for the Council Plan (2023-2027) agreed a core set of 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. A summary of the city outcome and council delivery indicators by council plan theme are shown in the paragraphs below along with the latest data for the core indicator set.

Health and wellbeing: A health generating city (City)						
	Previous Data	Latest Data	DoT	Frequency	Benchmarks	Data Next Available
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)	0.12 (2022/23)	0.1 (2023/24)	➡	5 yearly	National Rank 2023/24: 253	2024/25 data available in October 2024
Number of children in temporary accommodation - (Snapshot)	63 (2022/23)	45 (2023/24)	⬇️ Good	Quarterly	Not available	Q1 2024/25 data available in November 2024
%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	32.00% (2021/22)	43.60% (2022/23)	⬆️ Bad	Annual	National Data 2022/23 43.30%	2023/24 data available in December 2024
% of reception year children recorded as being overweight (incl. obese) (single year)	22.70% (2021/22)	19.90% (2022/23)	➡	Annual	National Data 2022/23 21.31%	2023/24 data available in November 2024
% of adults (aged 16+) that are physically active (150+ moderate intensity equivalent minutes per week, excl. gardening)	70.4% (2022/23)	69.8% (2023/24)	➡	Annual	National Data 2023/24 63.4%	2024/25 data available in April 2025

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. **Number of children in temporary accommodation** – at the end of 2023-24, there were 45 children in temporary accommodation in York which, although an increase from 39 children the previous quarter, is a reduction from 63 at the end of 2022-23. The majority of these children are in stable family setups, do not show evidence of achieving worse outcomes, and York continues to report no households with children housed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation.
35. **%pt gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers achieving 9-4 in English and Maths at KS4** – The gap at age 16 widened in York and Nationally to 43% in summer 2023. A legacy of Covid-19 is that school attendance of disadvantaged groups has been slower to recover, and has been worse than for the same group nationally. The work currently being undertaken through the Attendance Graduated Response is seeing improvements in attendance. Data for 2023-24 will be available in December 2024.
36. **% of reception year children recorded as being overweight (incl. obese)** – The participation rates for the National Child Measurement Programmes (NCMP) in York for 2022-23 were 97.2% for reception aged children and 95.1% for Year 6 pupils. Data for 2023-24 will be available in November 2024.
- The 2022-23 NCMP found that 19.9% of reception aged children in York were overweight (including obese), compared with 21.3% in England and 22.5% in the Yorkshire and Humber region. York has the second lowest rate of overweight (including obese) for reception aged children in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
 - Of Year 6 children in York, 32.5% were overweight (including obese) in 2022-23 compared with 36.6% in England and 38.1% in the Yorkshire and Humber region. York has the lowest rate of overweight (including obese) for Year 6 children in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

37. **% of adults (aged 16+) that are physically active** – The latest data from the Adult Active Lives Survey for the period from mid-November 2022 to mid-November 2023 was published in April 2024. Data for 2024-25 will be available in April 2025. In York, 515 people aged 16 and over took part in the survey, and they reported higher levels of physical activity, and lower levels of physical inactivity, compared with the national and regional averages. Positively:

- 69.8% of people in York did more than 150 minutes of physical activity per week compared with 63.4% nationally and 61.7% regionally. There has been no significant change in the York value from that 12 months earlier.
- 18.8% of people in York did fewer than 30 minutes per week compared with 25.7% nationally and 27.7% regionally. There has been no significant change in the York value from that 12 months earlier.

Health and wellbeing: A health generating city (Council)						
	Previous Data	Latest Data	DoT	Frequency	Benchmarks	Data Next Available
Number of children in care, excluding Short Breaks - (Snapshot)	243 (2023/24)	245 (Q1 2024/25)	⇒	Quarterly	National Data 2022/23 71	Q2 2024/25 data available in October 2024
Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan - (Snapshot)	142 (2023/24)	138 (Q1 2024/25)	⇒	Quarterly	National Data 2022/23 43.2	Q2 2024/25 data available in October 2024

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. **Children and young people in care per 10k, excluding short breaks** – At the end of June 2024, 245 children and young people were in York’s care, with a steady reduction from 262 in March 2023. As a rate per 10k population, this is just below the national average and within York’s expected range. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), a sub-group of children in care, are expected to increase in number in York. At the end of June, 19 of York’s children in care were UASC, compared to 14 in March 2023. The National Transfer Scheme now mandates that “the Home Office will not transfer UASC to an authority that is already looking after UASC in line with, or greater than, 0.1% of their child population”. For York, this is equivalent to approximately 34 young people.

39. **Children subject to a Child Protection Plan –** 138 children were the subject of a Child Protection Plan at the end of June 2024. As a rate per 10k population, York is currently below the most recently released National average. The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan in York has been within our expected range (133-150 for 2024-25) for over a year.

Education and Skills: High quality skills and learning for all (City)						
	Previous Data	Latest Data	DoT	Frequency	Benchmarks	Data Next Available
% of working age population qualified - to at least L2 and above (New methodology from 2022/23)	94.2% (2022/23)	90% (2023/24)	➡	Annual	National Data 2023/24: 86.5%	2024/25 data available in May 2025
% of working age population qualified - to at least L4 and above (New methodology from 2022/23)	60.3% (2022/23)	53.8% (2023/24)	➡	Annual	National Data 2023/24: 47.3%	2024/25 data available in May 2025
% of pupils achieving 9-4 or above in English & Maths at KS4 (C or above before 2016/17)	75.30% (2021/22)	70.20% (2022/23)	➡	Annual	National Data 2022/23 65.30%	2023/24 data available in December 2024

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

40. **% of working age population qualified to at least L2 and above –** In 2023-24, 90% of the working age population in York were qualified to at least L2 and above (GCSE grades 9-4), which is higher than the national and regional figures (86.5% and 85.1% respectively). This result ranks the city of York first regionally. This latest figure is a slight decrease from 2022-23 (94.2%). It should be noted that there has been a slight change in methodology from 2022-23. Data for 2024-25 will be available in May 2025.
41. **% of working age population qualified to at least L4 and above –** In 2023-24, 53.8% of the working age population in York were qualified to at least L4 and above (certificate of higher education or equivalent), which is higher than the national and regional figures (47.3% and 41.2% respectively). This result ranks the city of York fourth regionally. The 2023-24 figure is a decrease from 2022-23 (60.3%) but higher than in previous years. Data for 2024-25 will be available in May 2025.
42. **% of pupils achieving 9-4 or above in English and Maths at KS4 –** DfE data shows strong performance for York pupils when compared with National averages. In 2022-23, 70.2% of York's Year 11s achieved grades 9-4 in English and Maths (considered a standard pass), compared to 65.3% Nationally. Data for 2023-24 will be available in December 2024.

Education and Skills: High quality skills and learning for all (Council)						
	Previous Data	Latest Data	DoT	Frequency	Benchmarks	Data Next Available
% of children who have achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) at Foundation Stage - (Snapshot)	70.90% (2021/22)	69.70% (2022/23)	→	Annual	National Data 2022/23 67.20%	2023/24 data available in December 2024
Number of children who are eligible for a free school meal in the primary sector (excluding Danesgate) - (Jan Census snapshot)	2,197 (2022/23)	2,320 (2023/24)	→	Annual	Not available	2024/25 data available in July 2025
% of children who are eligible for a free school meal in the primary sector (excluding Danesgate)	15.88% (2022/23)	16.99% (2023/24)	→	Annual	National Data 2023/24 24.29%	2024/25 data available in July 2025
Number of children who are eligible and taking a free school meal in the primary sector (excluding Danesgate) - (Jan Census snapshot)	1,760 (2022/23)	1,938 (2023/24)	→	Annual	Not available	2024/25 data available in July 2025
% of children taking a free school meal in the primary sector (excluding Danesgate) - (Jan Census snapshot)	12.72% (2022/23)	14.19% (2023/24)	→	Annual	Not available	2024/25 data available in July 2025
Number of children who are eligible for a free school meal in the secondary sector (excluding Danesgate) - (Jan Census snapshot)	1,621 (2022/23)	1,729 (2023/24)	→	Annual	Not available	2024/25 data available in July 2025
% of children who are eligible for a free school meal in the secondary sector (excluding Danesgate)	14.26% (2022/23)	15.15% (2023/24)	→	Annual	National Data 2023/24 24.12%	2024/25 data available in July 2025
Number of children who are eligible and taking a free school meal in the secondary sector (excluding Danesgate) - (Jan Census snapshot)	1,159 (2022/23)	1,299 (2023/24)	→	Annual	Not available	2024/25 data available in July 2025
% of children taking a free school meal in the secondary sector (excluding Danesgate) - (Jan Census snapshot)	10.20% (2022/23)	11.38% (2023/24)	→	Annual	Not available	2024/25 data available in July 2025
Total number of children who are eligible for a free school meal - (York LA Local Measure) - (Jan Census snapshot)	3,985 (2022/23)	4,246 (2023/24)	→	Annual	Not available	2024/25 data available in July 2025
Total number of children who are eligible and taking a free school meal - (York LA Local Measure) - (Jan Census snapshot)	2,987 (2022/23)	3,289 (2023/24)	→	Annual	Not available	2024/25 data available in July 2025
Total number of active EHCPs overseen by SEND Services (Snapshot)	1,400 (2023/24)	1,432 (May 2024)	→	Monthly	Not available	Q1 2024/25 data available in August 2024

The DoT (Direction of Travel) is calculated on the latest three data points whether they are annual or quarterly.
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43. **% of children who have achieved a Good Level of Development at Foundation Stage** – In 2022-23, 69.7% of our 5-year-olds achieved a Good Level of Development compared to 67.2% Nationally, and 66.2% in Yorkshire and Humber. Data for 2023-24 will be available in December 2024.

Housing: Increasing the supply of affordable housing (City)						
	Previous Data	Latest Data	DoT	Frequency	Benchmarks	Data Next Available
Number of homeless households with dependent children in temporary accommodation - (Snapshot)	35 (2022/23)	29 (2023/24)	↓ Good	Quarterly	Not available	Q1 2024/25 data available in October 2024

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

44. **Number of homeless households with dependent children in temporary accommodation** – The overall number of households in temporary accommodation has reduced during 2023-24, from 73 in Q1 to 63 at the end of Q4. The number of those with dependent children has fluctuated between 26 and 30 households throughout the year and was 29 households at year-end. Although the council would like these to reduce further, some progress has been made from the peaks seen at the end of 2022-23.
45. Of the 29 households with children in temporary accommodation at quarter end, 27 were recorded as accommodated in hostels and two within Local Authority or Housing Association housing stock. York continues to report no households with children housed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation at quarter end.
46. During 2023-24, an upward trend in overall numbers can be seen both nationally and regionally, however York has been moving in the opposite direction. When looking at the total number of households in temporary accommodation per households in area (000s), York continues to perform positively compared to benchmarks (0.71 in York compared to 4.9 Nationally, 1.4 Regionally and 17.8 in London). It should be noted that these figures are snapshot figures and therefore may fluctuate between the snapshot dates.

Sustainability: Cutting carbon, enhancing the environment for our future (City)						
	Previous Data	Latest Data	DoT	Frequency	Benchmarks	Data Next Available
% of Talkabout panel satisfied with their local area as a place to live	79.68% (Q3 2023/24)	81.00% (Q1 2024/25)	➡	Bi-annual	Community Life Survey 2021/22 76%	Q3 2024/25 data available in January 2025
% of Talkabout panel who give unpaid help to any group, club or organisation	60.17% (Q3 2023/24)	64.42% (Q1 2024/25)	⬆ Good	Bi-annual	Community Life Survey 2021/22 55%	Q3 2024/25 data available in January 2025
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						

47. **% of Talkabout panel satisfied with their local area as a place to live** - The first biannual resident satisfaction survey taken by the Talkabout panel took place during Q1 2024-25. Results from the Q1 2024-25 Talkabout survey showed that 85% of the panel were satisfied with York as a place to live, up 5% from the previous survey. 81% were satisfied with their local area, consistent with results from Q3 2023-24. A slight decline in satisfaction with the local area can be seen over recent years but York continues to perform well against the latest national figure of 76% (Community Life Survey 2021-22).

48. **% of Talkabout panel who give unpaid help to any group, club or organisation** - Results from the Q1 2024-25 Talkabout survey found that 64% of panellists had given unpaid help to any group, club or organisation within the last 12 months. This is a slight increase from Q3 2023-24 (60%), and higher than the latest national figure of 55% taken from the government's Community Life Survey 2021-22.

Consultation

49. Not applicable.

Options

50. Not applicable.

Analysis

51. Not applicable.

Council Plan

52. Not applicable.

Implications

53. The recommendations in the report potentially have implications across several areas. However, at this stage
- **Financial implications** are contained throughout the main body of the report. The actions and recommendations contained in this report should ensure the continued financial stability and resilience of the Council both in the current year and in future years.
 - **Human Resources (HR)**, there are no direct implications related to the recommendations.
 - **Legal** The Council is under a statutory obligation to set a balanced budget on an annual basis. Under the Local Government Act 2003 it is required to monitor its budget during the financial year and take remedial action to address overspending and/or shortfalls of income.
 - **Procurement**, there are no specific procurement implications to this report.
 - **Health and Wellbeing**, there are no direct implications related to the recommendations.

- **Environment and Climate action**, there are no direct implications related to the recommendations.
- **Affordability**, there are no direct implications related to the recommendations.
- **Equalities and Human Rights**, there are no direct implications related to the recommendations.
- **Data Protection and Privacy**, there are no implications related to the recommendations.
- **Communications**, there are no direct implications related to the recommendations.
- **Economy**, there are no direct implications related to the recommendations.

Risk Management

54. An assessment of risks is completed as part of the annual budget setting exercise. These risks are managed effectively through regular reporting and corrective action being taken where necessary and appropriate.
55. The current financial position represents a significant risk to the Council's financial viability and therefore to ongoing service delivery. It is important to ensure that the mitigations and decisions outlined in this paper are delivered and that the overspend is reduced.

Recommendations

56. The Committee is asked to:
 - i. Note the finance and performance information.
 - ii. Note that work will continue on identifying the savings needed to fully mitigate the forecast overspend.

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

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Ian Floyd
Chief Operating Officer

**Report
Approved**



Date 20 September 2024

Ian Cunningham
Head of Business
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Ext 5749

Ian Floyd
Chief Operating Officer

**Report
Approved**



Date 20 September 2024

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

None.

Annexes

Annex A: CCC Q1 24-25 Scrutiny Committee Scorecard

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		Collection Frequency	Previous Years			2024/2025				Target	Polarity	DOT
			2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
117c	% of Year 12-13 (academic age 16-17) young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) - (Snapshot)	Monthly	1.10%	0.80%	1.40%	1.40%	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	◄ Neutral ►
	Benchmark - National Data	Quarterly	2.70%	3.00%	3.40%	3.50%	-	-	-	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Quarterly	3.10%	3.50%	4.00%	4.30%	-	-	-	-		
	Benchmark - Comparator Data	Quarterly	2.40%	2.90%	3.50%	3.50%	-	-	-	-		
148	% of care leavers aged 19-21 in employment, education or training at last birthday (DFE measure) - (Snapshot)	Monthly	60.76%	69.44%	60.81%	60.27%	-	-	-	75%	Up is Good	◄ Neutral ►
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	55.00%	56.00%	(Avail Dec 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2025)	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	54.00%	54.00%	(Avail Dec 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2025)	-		
	Benchmark - Comparator Data	Annual	54.20%	56.50%	(Avail Dec 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2025)	-		
81	%pt gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils at 15, who attain a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 - (Snapshot)	Annual	24.04%	33.78%	(Avail Apr 2025)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2026)	-	Up is Bad	◄ Neutral ►
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	24.93%	25.22%	(Avail Apr 2025)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2026)	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	24.88%	25.27%	(Avail Apr 2025)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2026)	-		
	Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	9	15	(Avail Apr 2025)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2026)	-		
82	%pt gap between FSM and non-FSM pupils at 15, who attain a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19 - (Snapshot)	Annual	19.05%	23.60%	(Avail Apr 2025)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2026)	-	Up is Bad	◄ Neutral ►
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	21.39%	20.65%	(Avail Apr 2025)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2026)	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	24.07%	23.13%	(Avail Apr 2025)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2026)	-		
	Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	3	9	(Avail Apr 2025)	-	-	-	(Avail Apr 2026)	-		
CJGE17	% of working age population qualified - No qualifications (New methodology from 2022/23)	Annual	3.70%	3.00%	4.90%	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▲ Red
CJGE18	% of working age population qualified - to at least L2 and above (New methodology from 2022/23)	Annual	87.90%	94.20%	90.00%	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄ Neutral ►
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	78.20%	85.80%	86.50%	-	-	-	-	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	76.40%	84.50%	85.10%	-	-	-	-	-		
	Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-		
CJGE20	% of working age population qualified - to at least L4 and above (New methodology from 2022/23)	Annual	59.30%	60.30%	53.80%	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄ Neutral ►
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	43.50%	45.70%	47.30%	-	-	-	-	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	38.00%	38.90%	41.20%	-	-	-	-	-		
	Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	1	3	4	-	-	-	-	-		
EH7	% of children who have achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) at Foundation Stage - (Snapshot)	Annual	70.90%	69.70%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄ Neutral ►
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	65.20%	67.20%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	64.40%	66.20%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
ES8	% of After School Clubs achieving 'Outstanding', 'Good' or 'Met' - (Snapshot)	Annual	100.00%	100.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄ Neutral ►
ES9	% Take up of early education places by eligible two year olds - (Snapshot)	Annual	93.10%	91.50%	91.00%	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄ Neutral ►

			Previous Years			2024/2025						
		Collection Frequency	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT
KS4a	Average Progress 8 score from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4	Annual	0.26	0.12	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	▼ Red
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	-0.02	-0.03	-	-	-	-	-	-		
KS4c	% of pupils achieving 9-4 or above in English & Maths at Key Stage 4 (C or above before 2016/17)	Annual	75.30%	70.20%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄► Neutral
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	56.10%	65.30%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
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	32.00%	43.60%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▲ Red
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	28.20%	43.30%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
NEET02c	% of Year 12-13 (academic age 16-17) NEET who possess less than a L2 qualification (New definition from Jan 2017) - (Snapshot)	Monthly	85.40%	87.10%	88.20%	88.50%	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	◄► Neutral
PriFSM	% of children who are eligible for a free school meal in the primary sector (excluding Danesgate)	Annual	15.47%	15.88%	16.99%	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	23.70%	23.99%	24.29%	-	-	-	-	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	24.50%	25.86%	26.11%	-	-	-	-	-		
	% of children taking a free school meal in the primary sector (excluding Danesgate) - (Jan Census Snapshot)	Annual	12.30%	12.72%	14.19%	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral
SecFSM	% of children who are eligible for a free school meal in the secondary sector (excluding Danesgate)	Annual	12.60%	14.26%	15.15%	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	20.90%	25.39%	24.12%	-	-	-	-	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	23.70%	22.69%	26.92%	-	-	-	-	-		
	% of children taking a free school meal in the secondary sector (excluding Danesgate) - (Jan Census Snapshot)	Annual	8.70%	10.20%	11.38%	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral
SEN05Gi	Total number of active EHCPs overseen by SEND Services - (Snapshot)	Monthly	-	-	1,400	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral
	Number of active EHCPs overseen by SEND Services - where subjects are aged 0-4 - (Snapshot)	Monthly	-	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral
	Number of active EHCPs overseen by SEND Services - where subjects are aged 5-11 - (Snapshot)	Monthly	-	-	528	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral
	Number of active EHCPs overseen by SEND Services - where subjects are aged 12-16 - (Snapshot)	Monthly	-	-	514	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral
	Number of active EHCPs overseen by SEND Services - where subjects are aged 16+ - (Snapshot)	Monthly	-	-	321	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄► Neutral
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	2.78%	0.46%	3.42%	4.26%	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▲ Red
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	3.70%	3.90%	(Avail Nov 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Nov 2025)	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	3.80%	3.80%	(Avail Nov 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Nov 2025)	-		
	Benchmark - Comparator Data	Annual	4.30%	3.80%	(Avail Nov 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Nov 2025)	-		
65	% of children becoming subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time - (YTD)	Monthly	29.11%	37.06%	28.57%	45.83%	-	-	-	23%	Up is Bad	▲ Red
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	23.30%	23.60%	(Avail Nov 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Nov 2025)	-		
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	28.00%	23.30%	(Avail Nov 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Nov 2025)	-		
	Benchmark - Comparator Data	Annual	22.00%	24.10%	(Avail Nov 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Nov 2025)	-		

			Previous Years			2024/2025							
		Collection Frequency	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT	
02. Childrens Social Care	DOD08	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)	Five Years	0.13 (2010)	0.12 (2015)	0.1 (2019)	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	◄◄ Neutral
		National Rank (1 is Bad) (Rank out of 317)	Five Years	211 (2010)	238 (2015)	253 (2019)	-	-	-	-	-		
	EFL1	Children in care per 10k, excluding Short Breaks - (Snapshot)	Monthly	74.59	74.86	69.43	69.43	-	-	-	60-70	Neutral	◄◄ Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	70	71	(Avail Dec 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2025)	-		
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	81	81	(Avail Dec 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2025)	-		
		Benchmark - Comparator Data	Annual	63.6	67.2	(Avail Dec 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Dec 2025)	-		
		Number of children in care, excluding Short Breaks - (Snapshot)	Monthly	276	262	243	243	-	-	-	222-260	Neutral	◄◄ Neutral
	EFL2	Children subject to a Child Protection Plan per 10k - (Snapshot)	Monthly	34.05	30	40.57	40	-	-	-	38-43	Neutral	◄◄ Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	42.1	43.2	(Avail Nov 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Nov 2025)	-		
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	48.5	50.8	(Avail Nov 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Nov 2025)	-		
		Benchmark - Comparator Data	Annual	39.3	38.3	(Avail Nov 2024)	-	-	-	(Avail Nov 2025)	-		
		Number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan - (Snapshot)	Monthly	126	105	142	140	-	-	-	133-150	Neutral	◄◄ Neutral
	HOU102	Number of homeless households with dependent children in temporary accommodation - (Snapshot)	Quarterly	28	35	29	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▼ Green
		Number of children in temporary accommodation - (Snapshot)	Quarterly	51	63	45	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▼ Green
	MIPack1	Number of Referrals to Children's Social Care - (YTD)	Monthly	1,588	1,700	1,574	401	-	-	-	1480-1700	Neutral	◄◄ Neutral
	03. Public Protection	CSP01	All Crime	Monthly	14,235	14,759	14,208	3,759	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad
CSP13		NYP Recorded ASB Calls for Service	Monthly	6,394	4,741	4,644	1,197	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	◄◄ Neutral
CSP15		Overall Violence (Violence Against Person Def.)	Monthly	5,675	5,746	5,226	1,252	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▼ Green
		IQUANTA Family Grouping (1 is good) (Rank out of 15)	Monthly	10	7	5	2	-	-	-	-		
CSP23		Hate Crimes as Recorded by NYP	Monthly	233	168	199	55	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▲ Red
		IQUANTA Family Grouping (1 is good) (Rank out of 15)	Monthly	15	12	8	5	-	-	-	-		
CSP28		Number of Incidents of ASB within the city centre ARZ	Monthly	1,276	994	1,149	336	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▲ Red
CSP29a		Number of Incidents of ASB within the CIZ	Monthly	656	423	625	181	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▲ Red
CYPL2c		Number of Early Help Assessments initiated	Monthly	517	333	331	84	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄◄ Neutral
PP08		% of births registered within 42 days	Monthly	87.00%	93.00%	98.00%	95.00%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄◄ Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Monthly	74.00%	88.00%	92.00%	91.00%	-	-	-	-		
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Monthly	65.00%	91.00%	93.00%	92.00%	-	-	-	-		
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	97.00%	97.00%	98.00%	97.00%	-	-	-	-			
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Monthly	97.00%	97.00%	97.00%	95.00%	-	-	-	-			
PP10	% of deaths registered within 5 days	Monthly	72.00%	47.00%	47.00%	35.00%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄◄ Neutral	
	Benchmark - National Data	Monthly	60.00%	47.00%	48.00%	42.00%	-	-	-	-			
	Benchmark - Regional Data	Monthly	59.00%	48.00%	50.00%	38.00%	-	-	-	-			

			Previous Years			2024/2025							
			Collection Frequency	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT
04. Health and Wellbeing	CHP30	Hospital admissions for asthma (0-18 years), per 100,000 population	Annual	80.2	106.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▲ Red
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	131.5	122.2	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	130.7	112.9	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	NCMP01	% of reception year children recorded as being obese (single year)	Annual	8.90%	7.80%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	◀▶ Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	10.11%	9.15%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	10.96%	9.90%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	NCMP02	% of children in Year 6 recorded as being obese (single year)	Annual	18.87%	18.70%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	◀▶ Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	23.45%	22.65%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	24.89%	24.10%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	NCMP03	% of reception year children recorded as being overweight (incl. obese) (single year)	Annual	22.70%	19.90%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	◀▶ Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	22.25%	21.31%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	23.73%	22.50%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	PHOF01a	% of adults (aged 19+) that meet CMO recommendations for physical activity (150+ moderate intensity equivalent minutes per week)	Annual	75.20%	73.60%	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◀▶ Neutral
		Benchmark - National Data	Annual	67.30%	67.10%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Benchmark - Regional Data	Annual	66.10%	65.70%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Regional Rank (Rank out of 15)	Annual	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	PHOF06a	Under 18 conceptions (per 1,000 females aged 15-17) (Rolling 12 Months)	Quarterly	12.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	▲ Red
		Benchmark - National Data	Quarterly	13.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Benchmark - Regional Data		Quarterly	17.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
PHYS06	% of adults (aged 16+) that are physically active (150+ moderate intensity equivalent minutes per week, excl. gardening)	Annual	66.50%	70.40%	69.80%	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◀▶ Neutral	
	Benchmark - National Data	Annual	61.40%	63.10%	63.40%	-	-	-	-	-			
05. Tourism	LIB01	Library Visits - All Libraries	Monthly	617,771	864,963	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	▲ Green
	LIB02	Books Borrowed - All Libraries	Monthly	942,896	1,057,839	-	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	▲ Green
	TOU01	Hotels: Room Occupancy (%)	Monthly	65.13%	80.10%	83.71%	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	▲ Green
	TOU04	Hotels: Average Room Rate (£)	Monthly	£100.11	£100.28	£105.92	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◀▶ Neutral
	TOU08	Visits to Attractions: Big Attractions (Within City of York) - (New definition from 2022/23)	Monthly	1,830,597	2,692,054	2,779,480	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	▲ Green
	TOU09	Visits to Attractions: Small Attractions (Within City of York) - (New definition from 2022/23)	Monthly	136,032	189,889	219,473	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	▲ Green
	TOU14	Parliament Street Footfall	Monthly	6,955,548	6,869,593	7,329,462	1,765,712	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◀▶ Neutral
	TOU15	Visitor Information Centre Footfall	Discontinued	155,476	165,408	NC	-	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◀▶ Neutral
TAP01	% of Talkabout panel satisfied with their local area as a place to live	Quarterly	84.38%	82.18%	79.68%	81.00%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◀▶ Neutral	
	Benchmark - Community Life Survey	Annual	76.00%	(Due 2024)	-	-	-	-	-	-			
	Benchmark - LG Inform	Quarterly	80.00%	79.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-			

			Previous Years			2024/2025							
		Collection Frequency	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Target	Polarity	DOT	
06. Resident Surveys	TAP11	% of Talkabout panel who agree that they can influence decisions in their local area	Quarterly	24.26%	20.94%	21.37%	22.11%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	▲ Green
		Benchmark - Community Life Survey	Annual	27.00%	(Due 2024)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TAP13	% of Talkabout panel who give unpaid help to any group, club or organisation	Quarterly	61.35%	60.64%	60.17%	64.42%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	▲ Green
		Benchmark - Community Life Survey	Annual	55.00%	(Due 2024)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TAP37	% of the panel reporting an 'excellent' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	Quarterly	-	-	8.56%	8.42%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄ Neutral
		% of the panel reporting a 'good' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	Quarterly	-	-	27.35%	22.11%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄ Neutral
		% of the panel reporting a 'satisfactory' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	Quarterly	-	-	27.07%	28.16%	-	-	-	-	Up is Good	◄ Neutral
	% of the panel reporting a 'poor' experience when they last contacted the council about a service	Quarterly	-	-	15.47%	17.37%	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	◄ Neutral	
07. Large Projects	CORP10L	Large Project - Provision of School Places	Discontinued	Amber	Amber	Complete	-	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄ Neutral
		Large Project - Family Hubs Implementation Project	Quarterly	-	Green	Green	Green	-	-	-	-	Neutral	◄ Neutral
08. Finance	BPI110	Forecast Budget Outturn (£000s Overspent / - Underspent) - CYC Subtotal (excluding contingency)	Quarterly	£2,638	£4,887	£3,661	£3,896	-	-	-	-	Up is Bad	◄ Neutral

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Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee 1 October 2024

Report of the School Inclusion Advisor – Inclusion Services

Attendance – Mainstream Primary and Secondary pupils**Summary**

1. This report updates the current picture of Attendance across the secondary and primary phase in York. The report indicates key priority areas for the future and current support work and proposes how this may be developed.

Background

2. This is the third report of this nature since 2019 and comprehensively covers key indicators for Attendance in the city. This includes the statutory oversight roles of the Local Authority with regards to attendance, and updates regarding responses to increased duties in these areas. Critically it gives a clear sense of the current key challenges and support in place or being considered to meet them.

There is new statutory guidance to respond to this area of National Challenge – ‘Working Together to Improve School Attendance’

[Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/125442/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_(applies_from_19_August_2024).pdf)
(publishing.service.gov.uk)

Recommendations

3. Members are asked to note contents of the report and consider plans for ongoing scrutiny of the issues raised within the analysis of the data.

Reason: To ensure that the Committee fully discharges its responsibilities in relation to attendance in schools.

There are no current recommendations for action in this report, but I would draw members attention again to future considerations that may be raised and encourage their ongoing careful scrutiny of the needs in our city that are evidenced by the data in this report.

Consultation

4. The CYC Attendance team have engaged in half termly attendance meetings with a DFE appointed advisor Kevin Burns.

Half termly School Attendance meetings are held with both primary and secondary settings.

Six weekly multiagency meetings are held encompassing Health, Social Care and wider services.

The Attendance Team have presented on multiple occasions to the Safeguarding Partnership and are in the process of compiling provider commitments to the School Attendance agenda from all partnership members. The safeguarding partnership also hosted a multiagency audit of Attendance cases.

The Attendance Team have presented to GPs within the city on School Attendance to establish stronger working partnerships and understanding of each other's processes and practice.

Analysis

5. (All data drawn from first five half terms of the academic year 2023/24 with national comparisons drawn from the most recent full year validated data).

Primary School Absence rates

All Pupil Primary Attendance Summary

	CYC	National	Yorkshire and Humber
Attendance	94.7%	94.6%	94.5%
Persistent Absentee rate	12.7%	15.0%	15.7%

Further Analysis

Primary School Absence	2021/22 (%)	2022/23 (%)	2023/24 (%)	National Average For 2022/23 (%)
All students	7.2	5.2	5.3	5.9
No SEN	5.7	4.8	4.9	5.4
SEN – EHCP	12.4	10.6	12.6	10.5
SEN – Support	9.5	7.9	8.2	7.8
No FSM	12.5	4.4	4.3	5
Free School Meals	10.7	9.3	10.0	8.6

Primary School Persistent Absence analysis:

Categories	CYC Persistent absence 2022/23 (%)	CYC Persistent absence 2023/24 (%)	National Persistent Absence from 2022/23 (%)
All students	12 (16.8 in 2021/22)	12.7	17
No SEN	10.7	11.1	14.9
SEN – EHCP	29.1	33.1	33
SEN – Support	20.7	24.2	25.4
No FSM	8.2	8.2	12
Free School Meals	29.2	33.2	30.5

Secondary School absence rates

All pupil Secondary Attendance

	City of York	National	Yorkshire and Humber
Attendance	90.2%	91.2%	90.4%
Persistent Absentee rate	25%	25.9%	27.8%

Further Analysis

Secondary School Absence	2021/22 (%)	2022/23 (%)	2023/24 (%)	National Average for 2022/23 (%)
All students	10.6	9.6	9.8	9.2
No SEN	8.5	8.7	8.8	8.2
SEN – EHCP	23.4	19.5	23.4	16.8
SEN – Support	16.8	17	17.6	14.1
No FSM	7.9	7.8	7.6	7.4
Free School Meals	18.9	19.1	20.3	14.8

Secondary School Persistent Absence Analysis:

Category	CYC Persistent absence 2022/23 (%)	CYC Persistent absence 2023/24 (%)	National Persistent Absence from 2022/23 (%)
All students	25.1 (26.8 in 2021/22)	25.0%	27.8
No SEN	22.7	22.5%	25.1
SEN – EHCP	44.2	48.6%	43.3
SEN – Support	44.3	44.4%	41.3
No FSM	19.9	18.9%	21.6
Free School Meals	52	52.8%	46.4

6. Key messages:

- For primary school data the absence levels for all pupils continues to be better than national averages and comparable to last year, with strong improvement from 2021/22. Students with Special Educational Needs at SEN support level have shown increased absence levels, and this is even more so for students with EHCP plans. This is also the case for families in receipt of Free School Meals.

- All primary Persistent Absence figures are better than most recent validated national averages aside from those for SEN EHCP children where the figure is in line and for those in receipt of Free School Meals.
- For secondary school data improvements have stalled and there are notable increases in school absence levels for students with an Education Health and Care Plan or in receipt of Free School Meals.
- Persistent Absence data is more positive for secondary students overall and for those without a Special Educational Need or in receipt of Free School Meals. Those with a SEN or in receipt of a Free School Meal show a picture of rising absence levels.
- This is in keeping with the Education Policy Institutes analysis from September 2023/24 data that ‘The absence gap between the most vulnerable schoolchildren and their peers has widened further, increasing “underlying inequalities” across the sector.’

7. Actions taken to date:

- The agreement to maintain the current permanent structure of the attendance team into the new academic year.
- The replacement of the retiring School Attendance Advisor Mark Smith with Stephanie Keenan Logue.
- The elevation of the Attendance Enforcement and Data Officer to a Grade 7.
- The secondment from Ebor Academy of Sam Smart as School Attendance Lead, two days a week for the school year.
- The addition of three days of administrative support to the School Attendance team.
- The strategic leadership of Karron Young, Virtual School Head whilst the School Inclusion Advisor is acting as joint Interim Head of SEND.
- The Data Analysis role has added significant capacity to the strategic use of newly available attendance data within and beyond the Local Authority. This has supported training, multi-agency messaging and the commissioning of additional support for Attendance based issues.
- The Enforcement nature of this role has supported the embedding of a Fast Track response to unauthorised absence in school settings that is not responsive or mitigated by the graduated response and is best served by warnings of, or actual, legal enforcement through fixed penalties or prosecution. This has led to an increase in the use of Fixed Penalty Notices, particularly for

term time holidays, and for a small number of cases of persistent absence when there is no mitigation and significant support has not led to improvements. This continues to be an area approached with great care by the team and schools and is particularly considered carefully for children and young people with an SEN or who are in receipt of a Free School Meal.

- The Early Help role has led to 50 cases being modelled across the city with improvements in 90% cases. The learning from this has been disseminated to schools and to multiagency teams.
- The introduction of half termly primary and secondary Attendance Lead groups to centralise messages and strategy, and to share best practice.
- The introduction of a Graduated Response to Attendance across the city that describes the supportive routes schools should take to improve school attendance.
- The graduated attendance response has been widened to detail work with a range of Multi agency and Voluntary Sector partners including Social Care, SEN, CAMHS and the Learning Support Hub. Variations in the school offer including Alternative Provision are also to be considered and have been utilised in over 40% of severely absent cases.
- Evidence from the Attendance Team was a key element of the successful competitive bid for a new Mental Health Support Team in the East and North East of the city – this team will have a particular focus on CYP who are not in school. This builds on the work of the existing team in the West and North of the city.
- Training has been offered to all members of children’s social care in their annual conference around the importance of school attendance and a single page handout has been prepared for frontline workers.
- An Attendance Action Group with membership across Education, Health and Social Care has been formed and meets each six weeks to look at information sharing and multiagency approaches to school attendance.
- Members of the Action Group are on the RAISE YORK (family hubs) board and look for opportunities to support work that will link to improved School Attendance.
- The safeguarding board have held a working group to establish ‘Partner promises’ from members around their contributions to supporting School Attendance.
- Targeted work in two schools of higher need in the West and North of the city, funded by YSAB, and focussing on safeguarding and

strategies for students below 50% attendance **leading to a reduction in embedded absence in these settings.**

- Regular meetings with CAMHS and designed training for school staff by the Educational Psychology Team on EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance) identification and strategies.
- Ongoing support of the School Wellbeing Service (funded by Schools Forum and the ICB until 2026).
- Access to a wider and centrally quality assured Alternative Provision directory that schools can commission to enhance their mainstream offer.
- Seven meetings with DFE advisors on attendance who describe CYC's attendance approach as being 'in the top quartile' of Local Authority responses, and who have shared the piloted work on Early Help regionally with other LAs – most recent feedback as follows:

'Thanks for your time this morning. Look forward to hearing about the work you are doing with a focus around the early years. There are other areas looking at this too and they may benefit from hearing about your approaches and successes. As I mentioned there are already areas benefitting from the ideas and approaches you have used including the Venn Diagram to focus on specific groups and helping schools and LAs focus on where they can have a strategic focus and impact. I was using the Venn Diagram approach only yesterday in another area and they were inspired! I also often talk about the engagement you have in the City of York with partners, officers, and services to work in partnership with schools as an example of good practice. I'm sure the work you are doing will continue to have a positive impact for the children and young people of the City of York as well as helping other areas see possibilities.'

8. **Impact**

- Increased attendance for 'all pupils' in the primary phase to levels below national averages.
- Continued increased attendance for primary pupils with SEN (with or without an EHCP) to levels in line with national averages.
- Reduced persistent absence in the primary phase to levels below or in line with national averages for all groups of CYP aside from those in receipt of Free School Meals.
- Continue to secure improved attendance figures for CYP without an SEN and/or who are not in receipt of a Free School Meal.

- Maintain persistent absence in the secondary phase for ‘all pupils’ below national averages.
- Increased access to early help mental health support for all students in the city through the School Wellbeing Service.
- Further increased access to such support in the West and North of the city, and now the East and North East of the city through establishing NHS funded Mental Health Support Teams.
- Significant multiagency work to establish an ‘Attendance is everyone’s business’ mindset across and beyond CYC through engagement with other agencies and through the Safeguarding Partnership.

9. Potential further actions:

- Develop further strong multi agency working in areas of city with the highest need.
- Continue to focus on strength of the mainstream offer and appropriate specialist provision carefully commissioned to meet the needs of our young people through the embedding of agreed Ordinarily Available provision across CYC school settings.

Options

10. There are no options for current action for council members in this report.

Council Plan

11. The work taking place on behaviour and attendance supports the Council’s priority to ensure a better start for children and young people by ensuring that children and young people are benefitting both socially and academically from attending school regularly.

In particular the work supports the key priorities of the council:

Affordability – through keeping the majority of CYP in mainstream education and supporting them towards successful adult lives.

Health & Wellbeing – from securing regular successful school attendance with the right levels of support, and access to supportive school settings that make time for meeting universal Health and Wellbeing needs.

Equalities & Human rights – through ensuring that reasonable adjustments (and where necessary more significant adjustments) are in place for a system that understands and invests in the individual child

The Environment – through reducing the risk of anti-social behaviour from CYP who are not in school, and through reducing the number of students travelling long distances to their place of education by keeping them in their local school successfully.

12. **Implications**

Financial

None currently.

Human Resources (HR)

None currently.

Equalities

Vulnerable groups are shown to be underperforming in attendance figures including those with Special Educational Needs and those on Free School Meals.

Legal

There is increased use of Fixed Penalty Notices and a small number of prosecutions to respond to persistent absenteeism that does not have mitigating circumstances.

Crime and Disorder

Increased levels of absence is a risk factor potentially contributing to crime and disorder issues in specific areas of the city.

Information Technology (IT)

Not applicable.

Property

Not applicable.

Other

None.

13. Risk Management

Risks of attendance not recovering:

- Increased families and young people needing support from Child or Adult Social Care.
- Lower outcomes and employability routes for persistently absent students.
- Safeguarding risks for CYP and families not seen regularly due to sever absence.

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Report Approved **Date** 21 August 2024

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Abbreviations

The author has looked to minimise the use of all abbreviations in the report but would like to offer the following clarity:

CYP	Child or Young Person
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEN	Support Special Education Needs without an EHCP
EHCP	Education Health and Care Plan
FSM	Free School Meals
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
DFE	Department for Education
ILACS	Integrated Local Area Children's Services
CPP	Child Protection Plan with Social Care
CIN	Child in Need Plan with Social Care
CLA	A child who is looked after by the local authority

Background Papers.

None.

Annexes.

None.

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Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee 1 October 2024

Report of the Corporate Director of Children and Education

Early Years and Childcare Reforms Progress Update**Summary**

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Scrutiny Committee about progress on the implementation of the Early Years and Childcare Reforms.
2. For members to understand the progress being made to ensure successful local implementation so that families can benefit from the new early education entitlements and extended wraparound care.

Background

3. The Department for Education (DfE) have acknowledged the crucial role local authorities (“LAs”) will play in supporting local early years and childcare markets. From April 2024, eligible working parents of 2 year olds are eligible to access 15 hours early education and care. By September 2025, most working families with children aged between 9 months and 5 will be eligible for 30 hours each week of early education and care. The changes are being introduced gradually to make sure that the providers can meet the needs of more families. The DfE’s 2023-24 Childcare Capital Expansion grant allocation to York is £333.6k. This funding should be used to increase the physical capacity of early years *and* wraparound provision in local areas where demand is likely to exceed existing supply. There are conditions of grant relating to the allocation alongside grant determination and guidance to support LAs how to best use their allocation.
4. The DfE has also allocated £579.2k revenue funding to York to support the creation of wraparound places to make sure all families of primary school children who need it can access childcare between 8am and 6pm. It also supports LA capacity for the delivery of this work. Allocations are administered by a non-ringfenced Section 31 grant. Alongside the allocations there is a programme handbook to give clarity

on the programme expectations so that LAs can begin to plan for the implementation of the wraparound programme, ready to deliver an increase in the availability of high quality, inclusive and sustainable wraparound care.

5. CYC has also been successful in securing £10k from the DfE to support the commissioning of specialist after school provision for children with complex needs. York is the only local authority to successfully secure this funding via a strategic support partner and is the first in the country to test the market for specialist provision, which is sustainable in the longer term. The DfE is keen to capture our learning so that good practice can be shared with other local authorities. As a result of scoping the Early Years and Wraparound Team have revised the timeline for this new specialist provision and aim to commission it to be up and running for families in the latter part of the Spring Term 2025.
6. Regulations for the new entitlements came into force on 1 January 2024 and therefore these are new statutory duties for CYC to deliver.
7. Timescales are very tight and by early June the DfE expected each LA to confirm its Delivery Plan for capital and revenue spend, so that a value for money assessment could be made by the strategic support partner prior to the release of funding. The assessment includes consideration about reach, increased supply of places, costs, addressing of barriers and alignment with the analysis of supply and demand. CYC's delivery plan has been submitted, assessed and Year 1 funding has now been released by the DfE.
8. At its meeting on 23rd January 2024 Scrutiny were informed about the proposed early years and childcare reforms and agreed to receive progress reports about local implementation.
9. It is important to note that the new government have confirmed their commitment to the Early Years and Wraparound childcare reforms and the same delivery timescales. They also have an ambition to open 3,000 high quality nursery places by using spare spaces in primary schools to deliver the extension of the government funded hours. They also confirmed a commitment to Free Breakfast Clubs in every primary school in England. Local Authorities are currently awaiting more detail.
10. An information sheet for parents about early education entitlements is attached at Annex A.

Progress on Implementation

11. Local Authority capacity is in place to support delivery of the reforms. The roles include an Early Years Reforms Programme Lead, Wraparound Programme Officer and Early Years Reforms Programme Support officer.
12. The team is working closely with the DfE's strategic support partner who consider CYC to be light touch due to our knowledge, skills and experience. DfE readiness surveys have been regularly completed with oversight from senior officers. There are also regular meetings with a DfE representative to understand progress in more detail and to escalate emerging challenges.
13. In preparing for the reforms a deep dive into sufficiency has been carried out for both early years and wraparound care.
14. The deep dive analyses inform the development of new sustainable, high quality and inclusive places so that there is most focus on where places are needed and not just where the market can respond more easily. CYC is already aware that there should be a focus on more baby places in the Clifton Green area, after school provision in some areas and for children with complex needs, SEND provision and ensuring eligible two-year-olds of non-working parents are not displaced by the new reforms.
15. A Procurement Project Board has been established with representation from Early Years and Wraparound, Commercial Procurement, Finance and Legal to support this work and work has commenced to develop the competitive grant application process and associated documentation.
16. A report was taken to the Full Executive on 12th September to seek approval to the overall programme of capital and revenue spend to create the new early years places and expanded wraparound care.
17. Other progress includes;

Early Years Places

- An early years funding consultation was undertaken in January 2024 to provide feedback from the sector on the early years funding formulae and proposed funding rates, this included the new rates for 9 months

plus. The rates were agreed at the full council meeting in February 2024.

- Consultation was undertaken in Spring term to move towards monthly payments for funding. Monthly payments for funding were trialled with 8 providers in the summer term and full roll-out has taken place for the Autumn term.
- A refresh of the sufficiency analysis, including intelligence from brokerage cases, is being undertaken throughout the Autumn term to plan for the new places so they can be delivered in a timely way up to September 2025.
- A parent survey to further understand childcare needs in the coming year is being undertaken in the Autumn term and to support preparation for new places.
- Funding sessions / Leaders & Managers briefings have been held regularly to keep the sector informed as the new reforms are being introduced. Weekly updates are sent to providers with information, support and guidance.
- Tax Free Childcare continues to be promoted to parents across the City.
- A national recruitment strategy is underway to support the sector with the ongoing pressure of recruitment / retention and there is also support locally to address this challenge.

Wraparound Places

- A wraparound childcare sufficiency assessment was undertaken to map supply and demand.
- The Wraparound Delivery Plan which details LA proposals to increase availability of wraparound care has been submitted and approved by the DfE.
- Since that time an after school club in the Hempland Without ward has closed and a new provider will be procured on this site. In the meantime, parents have been signposted to FIS for brokerage and Hempland Primary School's Out of School provision.

- The LA continues to engage with the Primary Special School to better understand delivery costs of specialist out of school provision in readiness for procurement of a new provider.
- The opportunity to represent the LA with a local provider at a DfE Wraparound Event for other LAs and providers with positive feedback about the partnership working across York.
- Briefing sessions have been held for Headteachers and Wraparound care providers including childminders.
- A key note presentation has been delivered about the expansion of Wraparound at the Annual Out of School Conference in York.
- Representation at and feeding into the DfE's national wraparound steering group.

Council Plan

18. Education and Skills: High Quality Skills and Learning for All
 - City of York Council 'CYC' has a statutory duty to secure sufficient high quality early years and childcare provision for children aged 0-14 (and up to 18 for children with SEND) which includes early education places for eligible children.

Implications

Financial

19. The DfE have made available both revenue and capital funding to support these childcare reforms.
20. Revenue funding for the increased early years entitlements is being provided within the Early Years block of the DSG. This includes provisional allocations for the new working parents of 2 year olds, and the under 2s entitlements. In addition, a small amount of Delivery Support Funding has been made available to local authorities to support the rolling out of these expanded early years entitlements. York will receive £55k from this grant in 2024/25 to fund additional staffing and associated costs to deliver the programme.
21. The creation of wraparound provision for primary aged children is also being supported by separate funding of £253m from the DfE for

programme delivery, and £25m for capacity over two financial years, 2024/25 and 2025/26. York will receive a maximum of £579k from this funding (£8k in 2023/24, £385k in 2024/25 and £186k in 2025/26). This funding is to assist local authorities to deliver the objectives of the wraparound programme and it is expected that much of this funding will be distributed to providers to support in either expanding existing provision or setting up new provision. A small amount can be set aside to fund central costs, such as funding a programme lead, the approach which has been taken in York, where we have agreement to use £110k in total.

22. A condition of release of the first tranche of funding for the 2024/25 financial year is the submission of a delivery plan which has now been finalised and signed off by the Section 151 Officer.
23. The current proposals being designed are based around allocating an amount of funding to providers based on the additional places they plan to create, within three separate models of providing new places and wraparound facilities. These are: existing providers offering more places, existing providers offering longer opening hours, and new providers entering the market, with different levels of support being modelled for each, and tapering down the support available as the places become embedded and funded by the market.
24. Capital grant funding totalling £100m nationally has also been made available to support these roll-outs. York received £334k of un-ringfenced capital funding in 2023/24 which is the full allocation from this grant. A scheme is now included within the Children and Education Directorate section of the overall LA Capital Programme. Where appropriate this scheme will be increased by the addition of funding identified from relevant Section 106 developer contributions which have been agreed to fund Early Years provision. Any increases to the scheme and overall progress will be reported to Executive within the quarterly Capital Monitoring reports.
25. York has also been successful in gaining an additional £10k from the DfE to support the commissioning of specialist after school provision for children with complex needs and is the first in the country to test the market for specialist provision, which is sustainable in the longer term.

Human Resources (HR)

26. There are no HR Implications

Equalities

27. There are no equalities implications.

Legal

28. The grant funding arrangements sought to deliver the proposals set out in this report will need to be reviewed to consider whether the Council's acceptance and use of any such grant funding will comply with the requirements set out within the Subsidy Control Act 2022.
29. Any grant funding agreements put in place to regulate the use of the grant funding by providers will need to ensure the provisions of the DfE grant agreements are reflected and that any Subsidy Control elements are captured appropriately.
30. There may be legal property implications if the suggested reforms cannot be provided within existing property and facilities or if any modifications are required to existing facilities, but these can be advised on as the programme progresses.
31. The Council has a statutory duty under the Childcare Acts 2006 and 2016 and Part B of the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance to secure sufficient early years and childcare provision for children aged 0-14 (and up to 18 for children with SEND) which includes early education places for eligible children.

Crime and Disorder

32. There are no Crime and Disorder implications.

Information Technology (IT)

33. There are no IT implications.

In addition to the implications set out above we have also considered;

Procurement

34. The grant funding secured by the council from the Department for Education (DfE) for the provision of childcare placements expansion and capital works to deliver more placements within York will be subject to a competitive grant application process to published on the e-Tendering website Yortender to invite Grant applications from suitable providers within the childcare placements market.

35. The Procurement Project Board are developing suitable grant application documentation, evaluation criteria, grant agreement legal terms in order to openly advertise the opportunity for suitable childcare placement providers to access the grant application documents on the council's e-Tendering website called Yortender. Suitable providers will be able to access the grants application documentation and consider if they wish to submit an application to be evaluated and considered for the award of grants for capital works to increase capacity of placements that can be offered and/or revenue grant to deliver those childcare placements. This will also comply with the council's Contract Procedure Rules clause 4.4 "to conduct a competitive application process for the award of that Grant if doing so demonstrates best value for the Council."
36. The development of the grant application process documentation and publishing on an open e-tendering website Yortender, will ensure competition is invited from suitable providers and assess providers on quality and grant costs allocation to ensure Value for Money to the council.
37. The Procurement Project Board includes representation from the councils Education Support Service team, Legal, Commercial Procurement and Finance teams who will ensure there is compliance with our CPR's, Financial Regulations, applicable legislation i.e. Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the grants are awarded in accordance with the appropriate provisions for both the council and the DfE grant agreements are reflected within the final signed grant agreements.

Health and Well Being

38. Research suggests that high quality early childhood education and care can have positive effect on children's educational, cognitive, behavioural and social outcomes, in both the short and long term and long-lasting impacts on children's outcomes, particularly for disadvantaged children.

Data Protection

39. As there is no personal data, special categories of personal data or criminal offence data being processed, there is no requirement to complete a data protection impact assessment (DPIA). This is evidenced by completion of DPIA screening questions AD-08544.

Communications

40. Significant communications will be required to ensure the key messages related to this update reach their intended targets. This will require a dedicated communications plan, campaign messaging, and targeted communications that focuses on the relevant members and the families in question.

Economy

41. Childcare is recognised in the York Economic Strategy as a key enabler for the economy, supporting working households to make the most of the economic opportunities that York provides.

Risk Management

42. The key risk is the potential failure of CYC to facilitate and expand the childcare market to provide sufficient early years and wraparound places to meet parental demand in line with the reform national deadlines. Statutory sufficiency duties would not be delivered leading to possible legal challenge from parents and reputational risk for the local authority.
43. In preparation for this and to support plans to ensure local sufficiency to deliver the entitlements and wraparound the DfE are monitoring national readiness for implementation. A LA readiness self-assessment is completed on a termly basis to help the DfE understand where support for LAs may be needed going forward and to ensure delivery plans will be in place.
44. The Early Years Team works closely with the DfE and its strategic partner to update on progress, learn from good practice and to escalate issues that require a national solution for local areas.
45. Another possible risk associated with development is gaining planning permission. The planning process requires collaboration on all sides and the Council's planning department will work positively on any proposals with the providers. There is however the need to ensure that the providers work with the Planning Department and engage positively to ensure that there is a positive outcome and permission is secured in a timely manner. Any formal planning submission will need to have sufficient quality of information to support the planning application process, being mindful of local and national planning policy

requirements. Education Support Services will work with the planning department on this significant programme to ensure that there is an effective and expedient process.

46. In mitigation the application documentation will make it clear that any increase in financial costs arising from the planning process and any possible delays should be borne by the provider themselves.

Recommendations

47. The committee is asked to note the content of this report and receive further updates about progress on local implementation.
48. Reason: For members to understand the progress being made so far to prepare for successful local implementation so that families can benefit from the new early education entitlements and extended wraparound care.

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Maxine Squire
Assistant Director Education and Skills

Report
Approved



Date 18 September 2024

Martin Kelly
Corporate Director of Children and
Education

Report
Approved



Date 18 September 2024

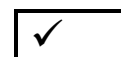
Specialist Implications Officers

Mike Barugh
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Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background papers

Early Years and Childcare Reforms – Children, Culture and Communities
Scrutiny Committee 23 January 2024

Commissioning of New and Expanded Places for Childcare Reforms –
Executive Committee 12 September 2024

Annexes

Annex A: Early Entitlements Parent Information Sheet

Annex B: Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA).

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The current offer as at September 2024:

All parents / carers with a 3 - 4 year old can receive 15 hours of funded childcare the term after the child's 3rd birthday. There is no requirement for a code for this funding just speak to your chosen childcare provider to check their availability and they will apply on your behalf.

Eligible working parents / carers of children aged 3 - 4 can get an additional 15 hours of childcare support, bringing the total support they can get up to 30 hours a week. To receive this you must apply here: [How to apply for help with childcare for working parents | Childcare Choices](#)

Eligible working parents of children aged 9 months to 2 years old can also access 15 hours of childcare support. The funding starts the term after the child reaches the appropriate age.

To receive this funding you will need to apply for a code. Further details and how to apply is available here: [How to apply for help with childcare for working parents | Childcare Choices](#)

All codes issued via childcare choices need to be reconfirmed every 3 months. This can be done in your childcare choices account. Please ensure you apply for your code prior to the term you wish your child to access a place as there are specific deadlines for codes to be issued.

Some parents of 2 year old children may also be entitled to 15 hours childcare support, if they receive some additional forms of government support. Please note, if you're eligible for both the working entitlement and the 15 hours for families receiving support, you cannot take up both offers, and should apply for the 15 hours for families receiving support. You can do this by contacting York Families Information Service (FIS). Tel: 01904 554444 or email: fis@york.gov.uk

All funding is available for 38 weeks of the year. You may be able use your hours for up to 52 weeks if you use fewer than your total hours per week (this is known as stretching), however you will need to check with your childcare provider to find out if this is something they offer.

You can use Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare whilst claiming your 15 or 30 hours of childcare support to support with paying for additional hours.

Providers may ask for additional charges on funded hours for consumables such as nappies, trips, additional activities. Please check with your provider around charges when you initially enquire about a place. These should be clearly explained and invoices should reflect funded hours and any additional charging.

From September 2025

Eligible working parents of children from 9 months to school age will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare a week.

If you will be new to funding you must apply for your code before 31st August 2025.

Like the existing offer, depending on your provider, these hours can be used over 38 weeks of the year, or up to 52 weeks if you use fewer than your total hours per week.

Further details will be available here: [Homepage | Childcare Choices](#)

City of York Council
Equalities Impact Assessment

Who is submitting the proposal?

Directorate:	People		
Service Area:	Education and Skills, Children and Education		
Name of the proposal :	Early Years and Childcare Reforms Progress Update		
Lead officer:	Maxine Squire, Assistant Director, Education and Skills		
Date assessment completed:	9 th August 2024		
Names of those who contributed to the assessment :			
Name	Job title	Organisation	Area of expertise
Barbara Mands	Head of Education Support Service	CYC	Education Support

Step 1 – Aims and intended outcomes

1.1	<p>What is the purpose of the proposal? Please explain your proposal in Plain English avoiding acronyms and jargon.</p>
	<p>To update Scrutiny Committee about progress on the implementation of the early years and childcare reforms.</p>

1.2	<p>Are there any external considerations? (Legislation/government directive/codes of practice etc.)</p>
	<p>The council has a duty to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sufficient early years and childcare as far as is reasonably practicable to meet the requirements of parents in their area who require childcare or parents who need childcare to be able to work or to undertake training or education to prepare for work. - sufficient childcare for children aged 0-14 (and up to 18 for disabled children) and for early education places for eligible children. <p>Legislation and statutory government guidance supports the operational delivery of these statutory duties and this is subject to change on a frequent basis.</p> <p>The proposed reforms are to expand early education entitlements and increase the supply of wraparound care.</p>

<p>1.3</p>	<p>Who are the stakeholders and what are their interests? The key stake holders are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council to carry out their statutory duty to deliver sufficient childcare and early education places • Providers who deliver and early years and childcare places. • Parents/carers and their families who need early education places and childcare to be able to go out to work. • The children and young people who are attending early years and childcare provision. • Employers who need to recruit and retain staff to support their businesses.
<p>1.4</p>	<p>What results/outcomes do we want to achieve and for whom? This section should explain what outcomes you want to achieve for service users, staff and/or the wider community. Demonstrate how the proposal links to the Council Plan (2019- 2023) and other corporate strategies and plans.</p>
	<p>To ensure sufficient early years and childcare places across the city to meet the needs of families in York. To ensure all eligible children are able to access a funded early education place. This links directly to the Council Plan ‘A better start for children and young people’ and the ambition to ‘Continue to prioritise gaining improved outcomes for our most disadvantaged children and young people in the city’. It also ensures there is a focus on more baby places in the Clifton Green area, after school provision where there is unmet need and for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties, inclusive provision and ensuring eligible two-year-olds of non-working parents are not displaced by the new reforms.</p>

Step 2 – Gathering the information and feedback

2.1	What sources of data, evidence and consultation feedback do we have to help us understand the impact of the proposal on equality rights and human rights? Please consider a range of sources, including: consultation exercises, surveys, feedback from staff, stakeholders, participants, research reports, the views of equality groups, as well your own experience of working in this area etc.	
Source of data/supporting evidence	Reason for using	
	<p>This is a national programme of early years and childcare reforms and should be rolled out locally. The local authority has carried out a local analysis of supply and demand and used local intelligence from the childcare sufficiency data provided by early years and wraparound care providers, provider and parental surveys, evidence from quality improvement visits to settings, information received by the early education entitlements team and feedback from the regular opportunities to engage with the sector during informal briefings and termly Leaders and Managers sessions. The DfE has also provided data to CYC on an early analysis of demand.</p>	

Step 3 – Gaps in data and knowledge

3.1	What are the main gaps in information and understanding of the impact of your proposal? Please indicate how any gaps will be dealt with.		
Gaps in data or knowledge		Action to deal with this	
Changing parental demand is difficult to predict including the additional financial impact of rising cost of living pressures on the settings. It is unknown how many parents taking up existing places will 'convert' to expanded entitlements.		Ongoing monitoring via surveys with parents and providers and ongoing sufficiency updates.	

Step 4 – Analysing the impacts or effects.

4.1	Please consider what the evidence tells you about the likely impact (positive or negative) on people sharing a protected characteristic, i.e. how significant could the impacts be if we did not make any adjustments? Remember the duty is also positive – so please identify where the proposal offers opportunities to promote equality and/or foster good relations.		
Equality Groups and Human Rights.	Key Findings/Impacts	Positive (+) Negative (-) Neutral (0)	High (H) Medium (M) Low (L)
Age	The provision of places ensures that eligible children are able to access early education.	+	L
Disability	The provision of places must be accessible and reasonable adjustments should be made for SEND. The provision of	+	L

ANNEX B

	specialist after school provision will provide a positive impact for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD).		
Gender	No Impact	0	
Gender Reassignment	No Impact	0	
Marriage and civil partnership	No Impact	0	
Pregnancy and maternity	No Impact	0	
Race	No Impact	0	
Religion and belief	No Impact	0	
Sexual orientation	No Impact	0	
Other Socio-economic groups including :	Could other socio-economic groups be affected e.g. carers, ex-offenders, low incomes?		
Carer	No Impact	0	
Low income groups	Eligible two year olds are provided with early education places up to 15 hours per week (targeted). Three and four year olds are provided with up to 15 hours per week early education (universal).	+	L
Veterans, Armed Forces Community	Children of Armed Forces families can access early education places as part of the universal entitlement. Childcare for Service Children - Eligible Service personnel can register for up to 20 hours per	+	L

	week, per child, term time only (39 weeks per year) of wraparound childcare funding for 4 to 11 year old children (4 to 16 year old if in receipt of certain disability benefits) attending before and after school childcare in the UK.		
Asylum Seekers	Children of Asylum Seekers can access 15 hours per week for disadvantaged two year olds (targeted) and 15 hours per week for 3 and 4 year olds (universal entitlement).	+	L
Impact on human rights:			
List any human rights impacted.	None	0	

Use the following guidance to inform your responses:

Indicate:

- Where you think that the proposal could have a POSITIVE impact on any of the equality groups like promoting equality and equal opportunities or improving relations within equality groups
- Where you think that the proposal could have a NEGATIVE impact on any of the equality groups, i.e. it could disadvantage them
- Where you think that this proposal has a NEUTRAL effect on any of the equality groups listed below i.e. it has no effect currently on equality groups.

It is important to remember that a proposal may be highly relevant to one aspect of equality and not relevant to another.

<p>High impact (The proposal or process is very equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is significant potential for or evidence of adverse impact The proposal is institution wide or public facing The proposal has consequences for or affects significant numbers of people The proposal has the potential to make a significant contribution to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights.</p>
<p>Medium impact (The proposal or process is somewhat equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is some evidence to suggest potential for or evidence of adverse impact The proposal is institution wide or across services, but mainly internal The proposal has consequences for or affects some people The proposal has the potential to make a contribution to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights</p>
<p>Low impact (The proposal or process might be equality relevant)</p>	<p>There is little evidence to suggest that the proposal could result in adverse impact The proposal operates in a limited way The proposal has consequences for or affects few people The proposal may have the potential to contribute to promoting equality and the exercise of human rights</p>

Step 5 - Mitigating adverse impacts and maximising positive impacts

5.1	Based on your findings, explain ways you plan to mitigate any unlawful prohibited conduct or unwanted adverse impact. Where positive impacts have been identified, what is been done to optimise opportunities to advance equality or foster good relations?
<p>A Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Action Plan and Wraparound Delivery Plan have been developed to mitigate against the challenges and potential sufficiency gaps highlighted in the annual assessment.</p> <p>The Local Authority will continue to maintain an overview of the market in terms of both supply and demand, working with other agencies and partners, including the skills team, economic development team, Job Centre Plus, Employers and colleges and universities to explore solutions to the current recruitment and retention issues which are impacting on sufficiency. Our excellent relationships with providers across all sectors will continue to be maintained in order that we fully understand the issues they are facing and work closely with them to understand how they can be supported to remain sustainable and continue to offer high quality, affordable and accessible early years and childcare places for children and young people. The early years teams are working closely with procurement, finance and legal services to ensure the correct procedures are followed in commissioning the new and expanded places. The early years teams has also been successful in securing £10k from the DfE to support the commissioning of specialist after school provision for children with complex needs and this should support those with profound and multiple learning difficulties.</p>	

Step 6 – Recommendations and conclusions of the assessment

6.1	<p>Having considered the potential or actual impacts you should be in a position to make an informed judgement on what should be done. In all cases, document your reasoning that justifies your decision. There are four main options you can take:</p>
<p>- No major change to the proposal – the EIA demonstrates the proposal is robust. There is no potential for unlawful discrimination or adverse impact and you have taken all opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations, subject to continuing monitor and review.</p>	
<p>- Adjust the proposal – the EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. This involves taking steps to remove any barriers, to better advance quality or to foster good relations.</p> <p>- Continue with the proposal (despite the potential for adverse impact) – you should clearly set out the justifications for doing this and how you believe the decision is compatible with our obligations under the duty</p> <p>- Stop and remove the proposal – if there are adverse effects that are not justified and cannot be mitigated, you should consider stopping the proposal altogether. If a proposal leads to unlawful discrimination it should be removed or changed.</p> <p>Important: If there are any adverse impacts you cannot mitigate, please provide a compelling reason in the justification column.</p>	
Option selected	Conclusions/justification

Continue with the proposal	The impact has been reviewed and the report about commissioning the new and expanded places for the childcare reforms acknowledges the current challenges and risks to delivery and the impact on the early years and childcare sector and the mitigations put in place.
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Step 7 – Summary of agreed actions resulting from the assessment

7.1	What action, by whom, will be undertaken as a result of the impact assessment.		
Impact/issue	Action to be taken	Person responsible	Timescale
N/A			

Step 8 - Monitor, review and improve

8. 1	How will the impact of your proposal be monitored and improved upon going forward? Consider how will you identify the impact of activities on protected characteristics and other marginalised groups going forward? How will any learning and enhancements be capitalised on and embedded?
	Ongoing assessments and surveys will be carried out to understand the impact of activities.



Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee 1 October 2024

Report of the Virtual School Headteacher

Virtual School Annual Report

Summary

1. The Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee have asked for an update on the work of the Virtual School during the academic year 2023/4.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee receive the Virtual School Annual report with view of a further update in the next academic year.

Reason: So that members are updated on the work of the Virtual School and exercising their duties as corporate parents.

Background

3. The purpose of this report is to outline the activity of City of York Virtual School and the 2023/24 educational outcomes of our York children looked after (CLA). It reflects on achievements and identifies areas of development to achieve the best outcomes for our CLA. The remit of the virtual school has been extended to cover all children and young people with a social worker as this is the cohort who underperform nationally.

Consultation

4. This section is not applicable as there are no consultations.

Options

5. This section is not applicable as there are no options being presented to the Scrutiny Committee.

Analysis

6. This section is not applicable as there are no options being presented to the Scrutiny Committee.

Council Plan

7. This section should explain how the proposals relate to the Council's key priorities, as set out in the Council's Plan 2023-27 (*One City, for all*) and any other key change programmes.

Implications

8. As an organisation we promote corporate parenting and deliver on this statutory duty. This has implications for the committee in their role.
 - **Financial** – N/A
 - **Human Resources (HR)** – N/A
 - **Equalities** – N/A
 - **Legal** – N/A
 - **Crime and Disorder** – N/A
 - **Information Technology (IT)** – N/A
 - **Property** – N/A
 - **Other** – N/A

Risk Management

9. There are no known risks to this report.

Contact Details

Author:

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Maxine Squire
Assistant Director, Education and Skills
Children and Education
Tel No. 07990 793483

**Report
Approved**



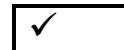
Date

18 September 2024

Specialist Implications Officer(s) – N/A

Wards Affected: [List wards or tick box to indicate all]

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

No background papers.

Annexes

Annex A – Virtual School Annual Report 2023/24

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Promoting the educational achievement of children and young people in care

City of York Virtual School Headteacher Annual Report 2023/24 academic year

Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to outline the activity of City of York Virtual School and the 2023/24 educational outcomes of York children looked after (CLA). It reflects on achievements and identifies areas of development to achieve the best outcomes for our CLA. The virtual school also has extended duties to provide advice to adopters and to promote and enhance partnerships between agencies to raise aspirations for the cohort of children who have a social worker.

Introduction

City of York Virtual School champions care-experienced children and young people. We work with corporate parents, carers, parents, social workers, early years settings, schools, FE colleges and other professionals to support looked after and previously looked after children so that they:

- Attend a school or setting which best meets their needs
- Attend regularly
- Make progress and achieve
- Have a voice that positively impacts on the services they receive
- Have stability in home, care and education placement
- Receive good advice and guidance to progress into further education, employment and training and, where appropriate, university
- Are prepared for adulthood
- Receive recognition for their achievement and have their successes celebrated.

These key areas of work include:

- Ensuring that all initial Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings when a young person comes into care – or has turned 2 and started to attend an early years setting for the first time – are swiftly put in place to ensure that there is a clear plan for the education of the child or young person. A member of the virtual school team attends all initial PEP meetings.

- Reviewing attainment and progress data submitted through the electronic PEP system by education settings on a termly basis to identify levels of need. Advice is provided to target interventions through analysis of data to enable planned support.
- Providing challenge following PEP review submissions to ensure that an appropriately ambitious plan for education is in place according to need and liaising closely with social workers and designated teachers in these cases.
- Providing advice and guidance to designated teachers and quality assuring individual targets and support for our children and young people to accelerate their progress in education. Specific pupil level interventions are funded through Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) and the impact is reviewed as part of the PEP process.
- Strengthening partnership working with senior managers in children's social care to ensure that education is central to any decision taken about our children and young people in care.
- Closely monitoring attendance and suspensions/exclusions and implementing plans to improve engagement.
- Offering support, guidance and training to foster carers, headteachers, designated teachers, social workers and independent reviewing officers to enable them to work together to improve educational outcomes for our children and young people.
- Being proactive in working with social workers to make school applications (where a school move is unavoidable) and supporting the transition into the new educational placement.
- Make visible the disadvantages that children with a social worker can experience, enhancing partnerships between education settings and local authorities to help all agencies hold high aspirations for these children and young people.

Cohort Information 2023/24 (statutory school age)

Numbers below are for statutory school age children and young people who were on the roll of the Virtual School *during* the academic year 2023/24. It is presented by gender, school type and location and SEN status.

Gender and year group

Year Group	Girls	Boys	Total	%
Reception	6	10	16	8
Year 1	6	7	13	6
Year 2	5	7	12	6
Year 3	7	5	12	6
Year 4	8	9	17	8
Year 5	9	9	18	9
Year 6	7	9	16	8
Year 7	8	9	17	8
Year 8	7	7	14	7
Year 9	12	10	22	10
Year 10	13	13	26	12
Year 11	8	17	25	12
TOTAL	96	112	208	

Comment regarding cohort numbers.

32 children and young people entered care during the academic year 2023/24. 39 children and young people of statutory school age left care during the academic year 2023/24. 6 children and young people both entered and left care during the academic year 2023/24.

The total number of children in care of statutory school age at the end of the academic year was 165 which is a fall from 187 the previous year. These numbers demonstrate the fluidity of the cohort however the virtual school works to support all CLA during their time in care whether this is for just a few weeks or over their whole school journey. 54% of the cohort are boys which is rise of 1% from last year.

School area

Numbers below show the number of children and young people by school area at the end of the academic year 2023/24.

Year Group	In York school	In OOA school
Reception	11	1
Year 1	5	2
Year 2	9	4
Year 3	4	4
Year 4	11	5
Year 5	7	5
Year 6	8	5
Year 7	6	8
Year 8	8	3
Year 9	8	10
Year 10	12	7
Year 11	13	9
Total	102	63

Comment regarding School Area.

In 2022/23 there were 109 children and young people attending schools within City of York, this number has fallen to 102 in 2023/24. There were 78 children and young people attending schools in other local authorities in 2022/23, this has fallen to 63 in 2023/24. Over two thirds (62%) of York CLA are educated in York schools which is a rise of 58% from last academic year. The cohort are on roll in 84 schools across the country. 38 York schools and 46 schools in other local authorities. 34 children are educated across North Yorkshire and East Riding. The other 29 children are further afield, in Doncaster, Lancashire, Kirklees, Calderdale, Co Durham, Cheshire East, Wiltshire, Bradford, Birmingham, Wales, Stockton on Tees, Liverpool, Kettering, Leicestershire, Sheffield, London and Hull.

The virtual school team pride ourselves on the ability to swiftly build strong working relationships with staff in schools out of York to ensure there is good communication and information sharing so that our children and young people are well supported wherever they live.

School Type

Year Group	Mainstream School	Special School	Independent School	Pupil Referral Unit	Accessing some Alternative Provision	Awaiting new provision/EOTAS	Secure Unit
Reception	11	1	0	0	0	0	0
Year 1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Year 2	12	0	1	0	0	0	0
Year 3	8	0	0	0	1	0	0
Year 4	15	0	1	0	2	0	0
Year 5	12	0	0	0	1	0	0
Year 6	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Year 7	13	1	0	0	2	0	0
Year 8	8	2	0	1	3	0	0
Year 9	12	5	0	1	4	0	0
Year 10	15	1	0	2	9	1	0
Year 11	17	4	0	0	7	1	0
Total	143	14	2	4	29	2	0

Comment on school type.

The vast majority of the cohort attend DfE funded mainstream schools. Permanent exclusion is very rare. The virtual school ensures that positive relationships are developed and sustained with all settings, schools and FE Colleges. Stability in education is a key priority and any change of setting always involves the virtual school providing advice and support.

It is positive that 88% of the cohort are educated in mainstream classrooms. The impact of our joint working with SEN colleagues and schools means that most of our children in care are on roll in mainstream schools. However, as we noted in 2022/23, an increasing number of children and young people across the cohort are unable to access a full curriculum offer in mainstream and now also access some form of alternative provision.

There has been a slight reduction in the number of children who are educated entirely outside a school setting (EOTAS – educated other than at school). In 2022/3 this number was 4 children. The number of children and young people in special schools had doubled since last

academic year. This is appropriate to the significant needs of these children as described in their EHCPs.

There has been a rise in the number of children and young people requiring school places outside the normal school admissions rounds for new starters in Reception and Year 7. These school moves have been as a result of EHCPs being issued, children moving to IFA carers out of York and new children (UASC). Supporting school moves requires additional capacity from the team to liaise with SEN teams both in and out of York, and school admissions teams in other local authority areas. Increasingly, schools are refusing to admit new children to their roll and this leads to delay whilst directions, appeals and negotiations take place.

SEN Status

Year Group	EHCP	SEN K	% of year group with SEN overall
Reception	3	2	42
Year 1	0	0	0
Year 2	1	7	62
Year 3	2	3	63
Year 4	5	6	69
Year 5	0	5	42
Year 6	5	3	62
Year 7	4	2	29
Year 8	5	4	82
Year 9	11	3	78
Year 10	5	7	63
Year 11	9	7	73
Total	45	49	27% EHCP/30% SEN K

Comment on SEN status.

57% of the virtual school cohort have either an EHCP or are identified as needing SEN support (SEN K code) in school. This is compared to 52% last year. The virtual school works with schools to swiftly identify and assess children and young people so that the right support can be put in place without delay.

Outcomes 2024

Raising attainment and improving the life chances of children in care is the most important priority of any virtual school. The information below is unvalidated data and provides an overview of outcomes for each key stage at the time of writing.

Early Years Foundation Stage

There were 12 children in the reception cohort by the end of the academic year 2023/24:

- 4 children were on the SEN register, 1 has an EHCP and 3 are undergoing statutory assessment
- 2 children achieved all 17 early learning goals and a good level of development
- 1 child achieved 16 ELG
- 1 child is remaining in reception and will be report against ELG in 2025
- In 2023 4 children out of 11 achieved GLD at the end of reception
- The outcomes appear less strong than last year however the cohort is small with a greater number of high needs children who have made progress in line with their peers of similar starting points. Progress in early years remains a key priority for the virtual school.

Key Stage One

There were 7 children in the Year 1 cohort.

- 6 passed the phonics screening check
- Last year 7 children out of a cohort of 11 passed the phonics screening check
- This is an improving trend and evidences the impact of the virtual school priority to challenge schools to continue to focus on reading in Key Stage One

There is no reported data for Year 2 this academic year owing to DfE removal of Year 2 SATS. The virtual school collected teacher assessment data from schools. There were 13 children in the Year 2 cohort at the end of the academic year:

- 3 children were on the SEN register, 1 has and EHCP and another is undergoing statutory assessment

- 6 children were assessed to have met the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths
- Last year 5 children out of 13 children met the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- This is a similar performance to last academic year

Key Stage Two

There were 13 children in the Year 6 cohort at the end of the academic year 2023/4. There were 15 children in the Year 6 cohort at the end of the academic year 2022/3:

- 9 of the children were on the SEN register, 5 of these had an EHCP.
- 3 children achieved the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths compared to 4 last year
- 4 children achieved the expected standard in Writing (Teacher assessed) compared to 10 last year
- 6 children achieved the expected standard in Reading (SATS) compared to 7 last year
- 4 children achieved the expected standard in Maths (SATS) compared to 12 last year
- This is a weaker performance to last year and progress at KS2 remains a key priority for the virtual school.

Key Stage Four

Last academic year there were 22 young people in the Year 11 cohort.

- 9 of the young people have an EHCP and a further 6 were identified as having an SEN need.
- 7 young people achieved 5 GCSEs or more including English and Maths.
- 2 young people achieved a grade 4 in English but not Maths.
- 2 young people achieved a grade 4 in Maths but not English.
- Out of the 15 children who took GCSEs all achieved a grade in Maths but two did not achieve a grade in English Language, however the grades achieved in English Language were generally higher.
- This is a much stronger performance than last year and demonstrates the impact of the virtual school support for interventions at KS4

Celebration of our children's achievements

The virtual school hosted a celebration event at the Guildhall on Thursday 15th July 2024. This was supported by the Speak Up team. All young people completing Year 11, Year 12, Year 13 and University in 2024 were invited to attend. Celebratory comments were collected from social workers, schools, colleges, pathway workers and carers to read out and present to those young people who attended in person. Graduation certificates were also presented. Cllr Webb, Maxine Squire and members of the virtual school team were in attendance. Our guest speaker was one of York's care leavers who is now studying for a Master's Degree. She spoke passionately and eloquently about how continuing to pursue education has led her to be successful and independent. Celebratory comments and certificates were posted to young people who chose not to attend in person.

Attendance

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Overall	84.4%	86.5%	85.3%	88.9%	88.0%
Persistent Absence	50% **	44% *	27%	22%	23%
Number of children with above 90% attendance	88	110	137	130	105

Comment on attendance.

The monitoring of attendance by the virtual school is strong and concerns are addressed promptly. Overall attendance for the 2023-24 academic year was 88% which is similar to 2022-23 (89%) and remains an improvement on 2021-22 (85%).

All schools promote good attendance: it is a national priority. If a child has lower than 90% attendance they are deemed to be persistently absent from school.

Schools report attendance marks to the virtual school via the secure epeonline platform provided by eGov Solutions Ltd. This allows the

virtual school to closely monitor any dips in attendance and to work with schools, social workers and carers to identify barriers to school attendance.

It is expected that schools create attendance targets within termly PEP reviews for those children and young people causing concern and put support in place to improve this. There is a city-wide attendance strategy within York with a graduated response to improving attendance and a multi-agency partnership focusing on this key priority for our children and young people.

Attendance during 2023/24 remained steady at almost 90% overall which is positive. The virtual school meets monthly with the heads of corporate parenting and fostering to closely monitor all children who are absent from school so that actions for social workers, foster carers and schools can be swiftly put in place.

Suspensions/Exclusions

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Suspensions (number of children)	13	12	24	26	26
Suspensions (number of days lost)	62.5	68	121	230	221
Suspensions (number of children with repeat suspensions)	11	8	11	16	21
Permanent Exclusions	0	1	0	1	0

Comment on Suspensions.

16% of the cohort received a suspension during 2023/24 academic which is a 2% rise on 2022/23. This was 26 children and young people. The virtual school was aware of 40 children and young people at risk of suspension during the year 2023/24 and the impact of our support and intervention has resulted in some of these young people having reduced tariff sanctions or no suspension at all which is positive. This can be

evidenced in the reduction of days lost to suspension this academic year.

Reducing fixed term suspensions remains a key priority. The virtual school team responds swiftly to provide training and support to schools both in groups and on case-by-case basis. Advice and/or training is offered to school staff to adopt attachment aware approaches to respond differently to challenging behaviour as opposed to the traditional behaviourist approaches contained within the majority of schools' behaviour policies.

Some children and young people require a reduced timetable for a short period of time, or access to alternative provision. Any changes to full time classroom teaching are negotiated with the virtual school. It should be noted that the number of permanent exclusions issued to children in care is well below the national average. There were no children/young people permanently excluded from school during 2023/24.

Schools and settings are encouraged to undertake attachment and trauma awareness training delivered by the Educational Psychology (EP) team or external providers. Pupil Premium Plus funding can be used by schools to access training. In addition to this, the Specialist Inclusion and Wellbeing Adviser supported many teams of staff around understanding and responding to the needs of individual children and young people who struggle with accessing mainstream classrooms.

Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

The 1989 Care Act states that the social worker should arrange a child/young person's first PEP within 10 school days of the new care status. The virtual school now organises and attends all first PEP meetings to ensure education planning takes place swiftly, and in advance of the first child care review for new entrants to care.

The PEP templates are bespoke to City of York. There are early years, primary, secondary and post 16 PEP templates, which each show the evolving educational journey of the child/young person. PEP review meetings take place three times each academic year and it is the joint responsibility of the setting/school and social worker to ensure this happens. All York children and young people in care have a PEP document with up-to-date educational information. Additionally, interim review meetings take place when there are significant issues impacting on the education of the child/young person.

The consistency of PEPS is achieved through the quality assurance process which is predominantly the responsibility of the virtual school headteacher and PEP coordinator. They read every PEP each term and provide a quality assurance judgment summary and feedback to the setting/school. During 2023/4 the virtual school commissioned an independent progress leader (45 days over the academic year) to follow up with schools and support with identifying interventions such as 1:1 tuition, specialist dyslexia support and small group pre-teaching which has proved to have a positive impact on GCSE outcomes this year.

Microsoft Teams enables many PEPs to be held virtually, whilst others are held in the school setting. This hybrid model enabled the virtual school to maintain and develop relationships, and to attend more PEP meetings than capacity allowed in previous years where required. Social workers prefer a hybrid PEP meeting to make efficient use of time, reducing travel to out of area schools. Usually in these cases the school/setting invites carers, children and young people in person and the social worker joins the meeting virtually.

There is a section where the child/young person's thoughts and feelings are recorded prior to all meetings and the virtual school works together with the social worker and school to respond to their views. Children and young people are always invited to attend their PEP review meeting in person. Many choose to provide their views in advance and prefer not to leave lessons.

The electronic PEP contract is due to be retendered during 2024/5 academic year through the gCloud procurement facility for local authorities. The current contract is with eGov Solutions Ltd. Schools and social workers are now familiar with this platform and the virtual school PEP coordinator provides training to new schools and social workers on an ongoing basis. PEPs are completed electronically and are quality assured and signed off by the virtual school team. To support pupil aspiration and achievement Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding is also requested through this system and these targets are reviewed during the PEP meetings. The completed PEP is then uploaded onto Children's Mosaic.

The cohort is well known by the virtual school team. Children and young people's progress is tracked throughout the year and the virtual school responds swiftly to requests for advice, support and training from schools, settings, social workers and carers.

All children and young people in care have a PEP from age 2 until the age of 18 unless they are in employment; these are reviewed termly by settings, schools and colleges and all PEPs are quality assured by the virtual school to ensure consistent application of standards. PEP completion in termly timescale is improving and monitored monthly using both the epep system and KPI dashboard.

Extended duties of the virtual school

Throughout the last two years the virtual school, Inclusion, SEN and education services teams have embraced the extended duties placed upon local authorities to champion inclusive practice, equity of opportunity and prioritisation of children adopted from care and those with a social worker across the directorate. Training and support for schools and social workers is available to support school admissions procedures, fair access protocols, statutory SEN services, attendance and safeguarding for this vulnerable cohort and their families. There is a recognition now to formalise these approaches by appointing an officer to coordinate and lead on this area of work which will be initiated by following due process with HR, Finance and DMT in the next academic year. Further work will be undertaken to ensure that best practice to support this cohort is shared across our schools.

Priorities for 2024/25

- Continue to improve attendance and reduce persistent absence across the cohorts.
- Develop further strategies to support children through home and school moves to address potential barriers to accessing learning with a focus on those children and young people at risk of suspension/exclusion.
- Continue to focus on improving KS2 outcomes and progress.
- Continue to develop a shared understanding of processes, timescales and expectations across the wider service, in particular surrounding SEND, use of alternative provision and reduced timetables.

- Continue to make visible the disadvantages that children with a social worker can experience, enhancing partnerships between education settings and local authorities, including with children's social care, to help all agencies hold high aspirations for these children.

Abbreviations

CLA – children looked after

PEP – personal education plan

PP+ - pupil premium plus

VSHT – virtual school headteacher

EHCP – Education, Health and Care Plan

FTE – full time equivalent

KPI – Key Performance Indicator

SEND – special educational needs and disabilities

DfE – Department for Education

KS1-4 – key stages one to four

Date	Agenda Item
07 May 2024	1. <i>Work-planning for programme of work for 2024-2025</i>
04 June 2024	- <i>Meeting cancelled</i>
02 July 2024	1. York Pipeline of proposals to York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority 2. Family Hub Network Development Update 3. York Learning
03 September 2024	1. Finance & Performance Q4 (<i>for information</i>) [<i>Postponed from 2 July 2024</i>] 2. SEND Update 3. School Attendance 4. Youth Strategy Update
01 October 2024	1. Finance & Performance Q1 (<i>for information</i>) 2. School Attendance [<i>Postponed from 3 September 2024</i>] 3. Early Years and Childcare Reforms 4. Virtual School Annual Report
05 November 2024	1. Free School Meal Pilot Year Review 2. York Explore Annual Update 3. Digital Inclusion Update 4. Locality Model
03 December 2024	1. Finance & Performance Q2 (<i>for information</i>) 2. Placement Sufficiency (Update on Fostering Services, Together We Can, and Family Arrangements) 3. Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report
14 January 2025	1. SACRE Annual Report 2. Attainment Gap
04 March 2025	1. Finance & Performance Q3 (<i>for information</i>) 2. Children Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 3. Safer York Partnership Report
01 April 2025	1. York Museums Trust Update 2. York Theatre Trust Update 3. REACH Progress Update

Agenda items for consideration

- Updates from Task & Finish Groups (detailed below).
- Update from York Centre for Voluntary Services (CVS).
- Review of North Yorkshire Police’s Pilot: “Clear, Hold, Build”.
- Considering results of consultation with York Explore.

Task & Finish Groups

- Food Insecurity Task & Finish Group: Members = Cllrs Knight, Nelson.
- Education, Health, and Care Plan Task & Finish Group: Members = Cllrs Clarke, Cuthbertson, Wilson.

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

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