



Notice of a public meeting of

Children, Culture & Communities Scrutiny Committee

To: Councillors Nicholls (Chair), Nelson (Vice-Chair), Clarke, Crawshaw, Cuthbertson, Knight, Pearson, Waller, Wells and Wilson

Date: Tuesday, 5 September 2023

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: The George Hudson Board Room - 1st Floor West Offices (F045)

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 7 March 2023

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee. Please note that our registration deadlines are set as 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at our meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is **5:00pm on Friday, 1 September 2023**.

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting, please contact Democratic Services. Contact details can be found at the foot of this agenda. Webcasting of Public Meetings Please note that, subject to available resources, this meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts. During coronavirus, we made some changes to how we ran council meetings, including facilitating remote participation by public speakers. See our updates (www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy) for more information on meetings and decisions.

4. SEND Update: Delivery of the SEND Operational Plan, 2023-2025 (Pages 9 - 38)

This report provides an update on the work that has taken place since the SEND (special educational needs and/or disabilities) inspection re-visit in November 2022.

5. Report of the School Inclusion Advisor - Inclusion Services (Pages 39 - 56)

This report updates the current picture of Exclusion and Attendance across the secondary and primary phase in York.

6. Work Plan (Pages 57 - 60)

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

7. Urgent Business

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

Democratic Services Officer

Reece Williams

Contact Details:

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

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

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

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

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

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

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

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

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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.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Meeting | Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee |
| Date | 7 March 2023 |
| Present | Councillors Daubeney (Chair), Webb (Vice-Chair), Fisher (Substitute for Cllr Hollyer), Heaton, Looker (Substitute for Cllr Fitzpatrick) and Orrell |
| Apologies | Councillor Baker, Fitzpatrick and Hollyer |
| In Attendance | Councillor Waller, Executive Member, Children, Young People and Education (until 6.06 pm) |
| Officers in Attendance | Maxine Squire, Assistant Director of Education Danielle Johnson, Director of Safeguarding Richard Hartle, Head of Finance Derek Sutherland, Head of Primary School Effectiveness and Achievement Laura Williams, Assistant Director of Customer, Communities and Inclusion Andy Laslett, Strategic Services Manager |
| External Attendees | Chris Edwards, Chair, REACH Michael Slavin, Interim Chief Executive, York Citizens' Trust Kathryn Blacker, Chief Executive, York Museums Trust Paul Lambert, Head of Strategy, Finance & Corporate Services, York Museums Trust |

25. **Declarations of Interest (5.32 pm)**

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

None were declared.

26. Minutes (5.32 pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 20 February 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

27. Public Participation (5.33 pm)

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

Flick Williams spoke on Agenda Item 7 (York Museums Trust), she questioned the lack of objection from the Trust regarding the Castle Gateway Project and the closure of the Castle Car Park, and shared her concerns that the closure and loss of the taxi / drop off point would prevent disabled visitors from visiting the museum.

28. School Improvement Update (5.36 pm)

The Assistant Director of Education, and the Head of Primary School Effectiveness and Achievement, introduced a report to Members which detailed school performance in 2021-2022 and the outcomes of disadvantaged children. They noted that there had been a dip in outcomes although the dip in York was lower than the performance nationally. They highlighted a better than the national performance for KS2 reading and noted that the Early Talk for York scheme was to be scaled across the city, where currently 80% of children had been screened. It was anticipated that embedded early intervention across all schools would sustainably close the gap for historically disadvantaged groups. Phonics was identified as an area that required improvement.

The Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education emphasised the contribution the Early Talk for York scheme had already made and stated he looked forward to continuing improvements.

There followed a discussion between Members and Officers which covered phonics, reading and catch-up funding.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To ensure that the Committee discharges its responsibilities in relation to promoting high standards in education under Section 13A of the Education Act 1996.

[6.06 pm, Cllr Waller left the meeting]

29. 2022/23 Third Finance & Performance Monitoring Report - Children, Education & Communities (6.04 pm)

The Head of Finance introduced the performance monitoring report for the third quarter. He noted that the financial position has improved and identified the reduction in agency placements as one of the reasons for this. He expected to see a more significant impact in 2023/24.

Officers responded to questions from Members on the number of referrals in children's social care, the number of times children in care changed placements within a year and out of area placements.

It was reported that the local authority (LA) compared favourably to national figures and that there was continued progress in all areas, although there was still work to be done and it remained a priority.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To keep the Committee updated.

30. Reach Progress Report to the Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee (6.12 pm)

Chris Edwards, Chair of REACH (Reconnecting Education, the Arts, Culture and Heritage), gave an update to the Committee on the project's progress to date.

He highlighted that they had over 60 partners, including CYC (City of York Council) and the Arts Council with the aim to develop an infrastructure supporting arts and creativity in schools that targeted vulnerable and early years children. They had worked with schools across the city on a range of projects within a range of arts disciplines.

He responded to questions from Members on creativity bags, arts on the national curriculum and the relationship between mental health and the arts.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To ensure that the Committee is kept up to date with the work of the arts project.

31. York Museums Trust Scrutiny Committee Report (6.55 pm)

Members received an update on the York Museums Trust from Kathryn Blacker, Chief Executive, and Paul Lambert, Head of Strategy, Finance and Corporate Services.

In response to questions from members they highlighted that due to a difficult funding position, the focus for the Trust was one of survival. They explained that they had worked with the University of York and York Explore to reach the wider community whilst they sought to rebuild the onsite head count. They would prefer to continue with free entry and had been looking at other revenue streams to achieve this.

It was noted that the Trust was responsible for both the city collections and some significant city buildings and the Trust continued to work towards improving accessibility and to become carbon neutral.

The letter of comfort from CYC had been beneficial in demonstrating confidence in the Trust and anything the Committee could do to support this further would be welcomed.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

Reason: To keep the Committee updated in relation to the work of the Museums Trust.

32. York Citizens' Theatre Trust Scrutiny Report (6.45 pm)

Michael Slavin, the interim Chief Executive of the York Citizens' Theatre Trust, presented an update from the Trust. He reported

that it had been a difficult time for funding during the pandemic but that they had a strong programme of community work.

He responded to questions from Members covering the theatre's work with children and young people, the summer community production and the support available for young people and their mental health.

It was reported that the youth theatre was well-attended with good connections to the National Theatre. Work was ongoing to secure funding to diversify further and develop workshops to support young people's mental health

Resolved: That the update be noted.

Reason: To keep the Committee updated with the work of the Trust.

33. Chair's Closing Remarks (7.10 pm)

The Chair thanked Members and Officers for their contribution to the Committee.

Cllr S. Daubeney, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.11 pm].

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5 September 2023

Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Report of the Assistant Director, Education and Skills

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

Summary

1. This report provides the members of scrutiny with an update on the work that has taken place since the SEND (special educational needs and/or disabilities) inspection re-visit in November 2022. Specifically, the report will focus on the development and implementation of the local area SEND Operational Plan (Annex A) and will allow the members of the committee to scrutinise the effectiveness of actions taken and to gain an understanding of the challenges the local area faces in delivering the local area SEND Strategy.

Background

2. The SEND Inspection revisit took place in November 2022 and assessed Impact of the delivery of actions in the local area written statement. The Inspectors found that there has been sufficient improvement made to remove the written statement and recognised that the next steps for the local area partnership would be to embed the improvements made and to develop operational plans to show how the SEND Strategy, 2021-25 was implemented.
3. The SEND Operational Plan was developed post inspection to outline the actions that would be taken between 2023-25 to deliver the SEND Strategy and will also inform the review and revision of the SEND Strategy beyond 2025.
4. The current SEND Strategy was developed at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, and it is important to note this in the context of the future review of the strategy. The national lockdowns meant that the development of the strategy was largely conducted through virtual meetings, and this limited the amount of stakeholder engagement that

could take place. This will be addressed through the review and revision of the current strategy which will begin in January 2024.

5. It is also important to note that the experiences of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and families were significantly impacted by the pandemic and the legacy of this is continuing to be felt both in the city and nationally.
6. Post-pandemic school attendance of children and young people with SEND has decreased across all age groups, and the numbers of electively home educated and those education other than at school (EOTAS) has increased. This is particularly the case for children with complex autism, anxiety, and ADHD. They have found the return to busy classrooms particularly challenging.
7. The development of the local area operational plan has been influenced by the need to demonstrate the actions being taken to implement the priorities in the SEND Strategy, but has also responded to learning from the pandemic and the challenges, both locally and nationally, created by increased demand and increased complexity of need, sufficiency of specialist provision (in education and health) and the challenging financial context in which all public sector partners are operating. In York the specific challenges relate to waiting times for some therapies, in particular speech and language therapy and the sufficiency of places in the primary special school, due to an increase in prevalence of complex SEND in the early years.
8. The SEND operational plan has focused on the delivery of the 4 priorities in the SEND strategy, which are:
 - **Voice** – the voice of children and young people is paramount.
 - **Sufficiency** - the right support is in place in the right place at the right time.
 - **Early identification** – children and young people’s needs are identified at the earliest opportunities.
 - **Transition** – effective transition is secured so that young people are able to live the best adult lives they can.
9. Annex A provides a commentary on the delivery of the Operational Plan to date. The SEND Partnership Board holds partners to account for the delivery of the plan and receives updates on the workstreams identified in plan.

10. The SEND operational plan also aligns with the priorities outlined in the Safety Valve agreement, which seeks to ensure that the historic deficit in the High Needs block of the dedicated schools grant has been written off by the Department for Education (DfE) through the removal of in year deficits by 2025. The council is currently on track to achieve this however, the work on the Safety Valve is now entering its most challenging phase as the agreement is designed to promote transformation across the local area through a focus on 4 areas of activity:

- Managing demand appropriately
- Sufficiency
- Inclusion in mainstream
- Preparation for adulthood

All require high levels of partnership working and ensuring that co-production with children and young people, parents and carers remains a central principle driving change management in the local area.

11. Since the inspection re-visit in November 2022 there have been and continue to be, changes in staffing both in SEND leadership at City of York Council, the parent carer forum and in health. Ensuring that these changes do not impact on the delivery of workstreams is a priority to ensure that there is a consistent drive for continuous improvement and that the momentum achieved between June 2020 and November 2022 is not lost.

Consultation

12. The operational plan was developed through consultation with partners across the local area SEND partnership, including the parent/carers forum.

Options

13. This purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the SEND operational plan. The members of scrutiny may want to consider further scrutiny of any specific aspects of the plan and the review of the SEND Strategy as part of their annual workplan over the next 2 years.

Analysis

14. Conducting a deep dive into specific aspects of the plan would allow the members of scrutiny to maintain an overview of SEND provision in the local area.

Council Plan

15. **Affordability** – through delivering SEND transformation which ensures that partnership resources are used to jointly commission and achieve best value outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Health & Wellbeing – the delivery of the SEND strategy and operational plan promotes integrated working across, education, health, and care.

Equalities & Human rights – through ensuring that children with SEND have access to education that meets their needs and that they are able to live their best lives in York.

The Environment – promoting active travel where appropriate through independent travel training.

Implications

16.

- **Financial** - Successful delivery of the Safety Valve agreement is crucially important.
- **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no HR implications.
- **Equalities** - The Equality Act needs to be considered alongside the Children and Families Act when SEND provision in the local area is being reviewed.
- **Legal** – work on SEND is governed by the Children and Families Act, 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice, 2015.
- **Crime and Disorder** - There are no crime and disorder implications.

- **Information Technology (IT)** – The Synergy SEND casework system has been implemented by City of York Council and went live with the SEND in May 2023. On-going development work is taking place. The move to digital recording is a one of the requirements in the DfE SEND and AP (Alternative Provision) Improvement Plan.
- **Property** - SEND capital projects are taking place to address sufficiency.
- **Other** – None.

Risk Management

17. Risks to the delivery of the SEND operational plan include:

- On-going changes in staffing and leadership across education, health, and care.
- The challenging financial climate across public sector partners.
- Growing complexity and sufficiency of appropriate provision to meet need.

These risks are being mitigated through the work taking place to deliver the operational plan, continued development of the local area partnership, particularly with parents and carers and the Safety Valve agreement.

Recommendations

18. Members are asked to note contents of the report and consider plans for ongoing scrutiny of the issues.

Reason: To ensure that the Committee to maintain an overview of SEND provision in the local area.

Contact Details

Author:

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Assistant Director,
Education and Skills,
Children’s Services and
Education
Tel No. 01904 553307**

**Chief Officer Responsible for the
report:**

**Martin Kelly
Corporate Director, Childrens
Services and Education**

**Report
Approved**



Date 17/08/2023

Wards Affected:

All

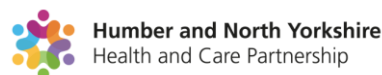
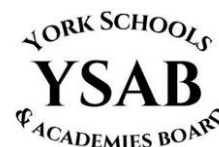
For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – City of York Local Area SEND Partnership Operational Plan, 2023-25

Abbreviations

SEND – Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities.



City of York Local Area SEND Partnership

Operational Plan 2023-2025

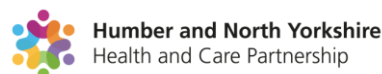
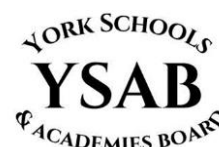
Introduction

This operational plan covers the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25 and focuses on the operational delivery of the Local Area SEND Strategy, 2021-25. The operational plan is a partnership document which outlines the actions the partnership will take over the next two financial years to deliver the ambitions outlined in the SEND Strategy. The plan has been developed through joint partnership (co-production) with parents and carers.

The actions in this operational plan build on and embed the progress made on delivering the priorities in our written statement of action and the delivery of the Safety Valve agreement.

This operational plan focuses on actions which are to be delivered by joint partners across education, health and care and we recognise that partners will have organisational plans which sit alongside this partnership plan. This plan however provides the overview of the joint commitment to delivering the ambitions outlined in the SEND Strategy, 2021-25.

The Strategy will be reviewed in 2025 and between 2023 and 2025 work on the operational plan will respond to the government's SEND and AP Improvement Plan in order to develop the local area inclusion plan.

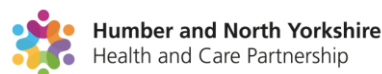
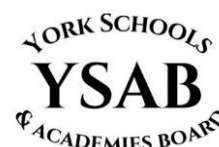


Governance

The SEND Partnership Board will hold partners to account for the delivery of the actions in this operational plan. The SEND Partnership Board will receive progress reports on the actions taken as will the local Place Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board. Progress reports will also be shared with the ICB executive, City of York Council's Executive and Corporate Management Team, the York Schools and Academies Board and Schools Forum.

Our Vision

That York is an inclusive city which delivers the best start in life for all children and young people with SEND. Our ambition is to deliver services (public, community, and voluntary sector) which are delivered in an integrated way at the right time, from the right places and that all of our children are able to live their best lives in York.



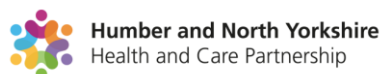
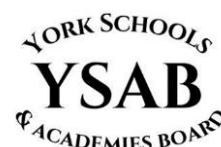
The SEND Strategy, 2021-25

The SEND Strategy describes our priorities as a local area partnership. The priorities are:

1. **Voice** – the voice of children and young people is paramount.
2. **Sufficiency** – the right support is in place in the right place at the right time.
3. **Early Intervention** – children and young people’s needs are identified at the earliest opportunity.
4. **Transition** – effective transition is secured so that young people are able to live the best adult lives they can.

Central to the delivery of the strategy is our co-produced SEND outcomes framework. Young people, parents and carers have told us that the most important outcomes for children and young people to achieve are:

- I am healthy.
- I have a choice and am heard.
- I am safe.
- I achieve my goals.
- I am included.
- I can overcome challenges and difficulties on my own or with support.
- I am becoming independent.



Delivery of these outcomes is the way in which we measure the success of our actions as a local area partnership.

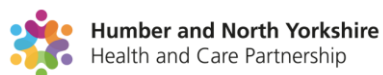
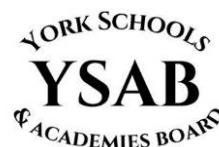
Local Area SEND Inspection Revisit

The local area SEND inspection revisit took place in November 2022 and captured the progress that partners had made on addressing the 4 areas of significant weakness that had been identified by Ofsted and the CQC in December 2019. Ofsted and CQC judged that the local area had made sufficient progress in addressing the areas of weakness which included:

- Leadership and governance of SEND in the local area.
- Joint commissioning.
- Co-production.
- The quality and consistency of education, health and care (EHC) plans.

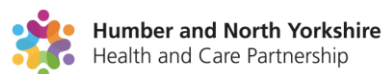
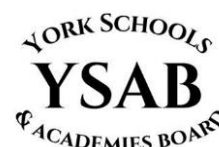
As a local area partnership, we have worked hard to improve in all 4 areas, however we are not complacent and recognise that there is still much to do to realise the ambition outlined in our SEND Strategy.

The development and implementation of the local area operational plan will provide the framework for the evaluation of the impact of the SEND Strategy but will also drive the continuation of our SEND Improvement journey between 2023-25.



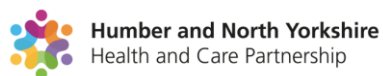
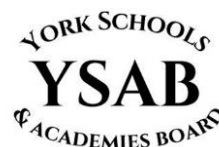
Work will continue to embed the progress made on delivering the priorities outlined in the written statement of action. In the area of leadership and governance a specific focus will be placed on improving the footprint of social care within our improvement journey. This will include:

- Regular representation from social care at the SEND Partnership Board.
- Senior leadership of SEND through the appointment of a Designated Social Care Officer within the Children’s Social Care Senior Management Team.
- Improvements in the quality and consistency of social care advice in education, health and care plans as evidenced through audit.
- Continuous development of integrated working across education, health and social care.

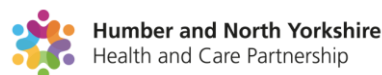
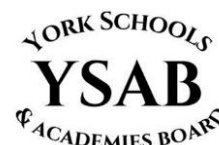


Priority 1: Voice: the voice of children and young people is paramount

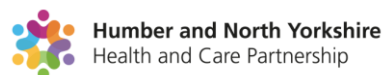
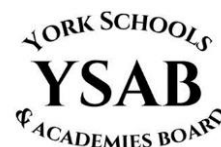
| Action | Impact | Owner | Completed by | Status (September 2023) |
|---|--|---|-----------------------|---|
| <p>1.1 All partners have received training on the effective gathering of voice.</p> | <p>The voice of children and young people is consistently being used by all partners to inform decision making and service delivery and improvement.</p> <p>90% of Children and young people who have participated in voice activities feel listened to and report that they find it easy to share their views and can see how their voice</p> | <p>City of York Council children’s services. Health commissioners and providers. Education providers.</p> | <p>December 2023.</p> | <p>In progress.</p> <p>Case audits are capturing improvements in the voice of children and young people.</p> |



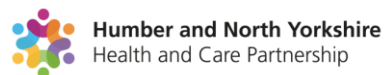
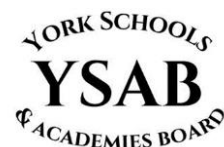
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| | <p>is used by the local area partnership.</p> <p>The voice of children and young people with SEND is evident in all education, health and care plans.</p> <p>Audits of plans show that 90% of pre-16 plans and 95% of post 16 have outcomes which are clearly linked to the child’s voice.</p> | | | |
| <p>1.2 Review and improve the local offer to ensure that it is accessible, up to date and relevant. Model this on the Live Well York approach.</p> | <p>85% of children, young people, parents and carers surveyed report that they feel better informed about the local offer.</p> | <p>City of York Council (LB).</p> | <p>January 2024.</p> | <p>In progress.</p> <p>The new local offer web materials have been developed and</p> |



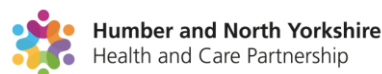
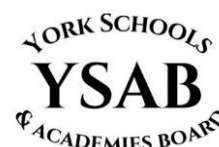
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| | The local offer is evidenced in 90% of all new EHCPs. | | | will go live from October 2023 |
| 1.3 Develop and publish 'easy read' one-page guides to support children and young people, parents and carers to navigate the SEN systems across education, health and care | <p>Children and young people, parents and carers feel better informed about local services and decision-making processes.</p> <p>There is a 60% reduction in complaints about communication issues.</p> | City of York Council (LB) Health Social care SENDIASS | September – December 2023 | <p>In progress</p> <p>A series of one-page guides have been written and will be uploaded on the new local offer web pages.</p> |
| 1.4 Provide training on the Mental Capacity Act and the rights of the young person at 16. | The voice of young people post-16 is paramount in the EHCP and annual review process. 90% of post 16 EHC plans have outcomes | Preparation for Adulthood team (Includes education, health and care) | Training workshops delivered and repeated throughout 2023-24 and 2024-25 | |



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| | <p>directly informed by the young person’s voice.</p> <p>Preparation for adulthood is better understood by parents/carers.</p> <p>90% of parents/carers surveyed feel that they are better informed about what happens when an EHC plan ends.</p> | | | |
| 1.5 Broaden the membership and reach of the Parent Carer Forum | <p>The number of parents/carers attending meetings and events continues to increase. Engagement with the</p> | York Parent Carer Forum SENDIASS | Ongoing 2023-2025 | <p>In progress</p> <p>Monthly meetings have been established between CYC, health and the PCF to</p> |

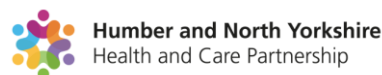
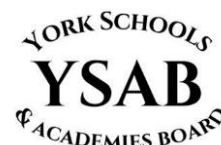


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| | <p>Parent Carer Forum doubles by March 2024. The Parent Carer Forum is developed as the strategic convener for parent/carer voice groups across York.</p> | | | <p>support the development of the forum.</p> |
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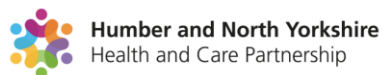
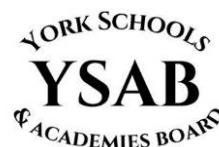


Priority 2: Sufficiency: the right support is in the right place at the right time

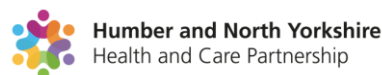
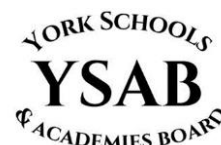
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| 2.1 The Integrated data dashboard continues to be developed and is being used to inform decision making and commissioning across education, health and care. | The SEND Partnership Board is holding delivery partners to account through analysis of the integrated data dashboard. The data dashboard demonstrates how the outcomes framework is being delivered across the local SEND partnership. | The SEND Partnership Board | On-going | In progress The SEND partnership board receives a data report at every meeting. Next step is to link the indicators to the outcomes framework. |
| 2.2 Community based support for children, young people and families continues to be developed | Joint commissioning of community- based support is evidence informed and outcomes based. | City of York Council All Age Commissioning Team Health commissioners | Financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25 | In progress The re-commissioning of autism social |



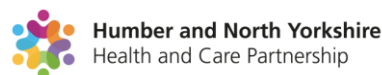
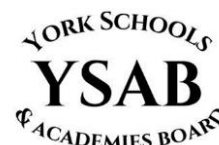
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| <p>based on learning from the implementation of the Autism Hub. This will inform the development of SEND support through the family hubs.</p> | <p>The quality and sufficiency of community -based support continues to improve through the community and voluntary sector and development of family hubs. Parent/carer voice shows that 85% of parents surveyed know where they can access support from community -based services, including family hubs.</p> | | | <p>prescribing is underway and being informed by parent voice. The development of the SEND support through the family hubs has been scoped.</p> |
| <p>2.3 The Learning Support Hub model will be evaluated and further developed to support the graduated response based</p> | <p>90% of schools and other partners including parents and carers report that the Learning Support Hub model is having a measurable impact on</p> | <p>City of York Council</p> | <p>September 2023 to March 2025</p> | <p>In progress The Year 1 evaluation report has been written. This shows 100% satisfaction rates.</p> |



| | | | | |
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| <p>on the thrive model (getting more help)</p> | <p>developing provision for children and young people with SEND. The percentage of children and young people educated in mainstream settings and schools remains above the national average in academic years 2023-24 and 2024-25. Case studies have been developed.</p> | | | |
| <p>2.4 SEND Capital schemes completed to extend and develop sufficient school places to meet needs identified through SEND place planning assessment.</p> | <p>Sufficient appropriate school places have been developed so that children are receiving the right support at the right time and in the right place.</p> | <p>City of York Council</p> | <p>July 2024</p> | <p>In progress Capital works to develop additional ERP provision are taking place.</p> |

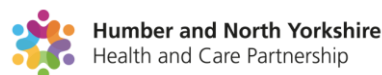
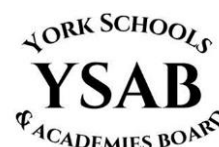


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| | 94% of children with SEND achieve their first choice of school at primary/secondary phase transfer. | | | Capital works at Applefields and Danesgate have been approved and are being completed. |
| <p>2.5 Implement task and finish groups to review sufficiency of access to therapies in City of York.</p> <p>Develop joint protocols and pathways to be shared with parents/carers re: Speech, Language and Communication Therapy, Occupational Therapy and sensory interventions.</p> | <p>The local SEND Partnership has improved communication with parents/carers.</p> <p>A 60% reduction in mediations and tribunals by 2025.</p> | <p>City of York Council Health Social Care (children and adults) SENDIASS</p> | <p>September 2023</p> | <p>To be implemented from September 2023.</p> |

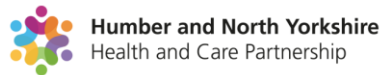
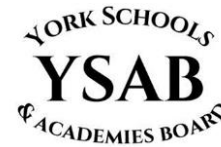


Priority 3: Early intervention: Children and young peoples needs are identified at the earliest opportunity

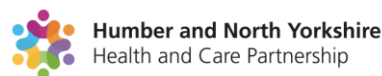
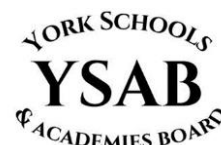
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| <p>3.1 Develop, publish, and implement an Ordinarily available provision document which supports transition between educational phases</p> | <p>A consistent and transparent graduated response is in place across the City. Children and young people at SEN support receive a consistent offer. The plan do review cycle is consistently used across all settings and schools. Parents and carers have greater confidence in the</p> | <p>City of York Council (Effectiveness and Achievement) and York Schools and Academies Board Parent Carer Forum SENDIASS</p> | <p>September 2023</p> | <p>Completed The OAP document has been developed</p> |



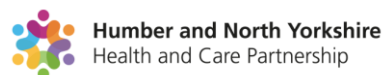
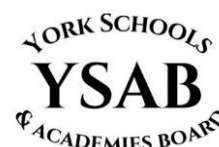
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| | <p>consistency of mainstream education, particularly at points of transition. Attendance of SEN Support and EHC cohort improves and is at least 93% The percentage of children with SEN in mainstream settings is above national averages. A reduction in EHE and EOTAS requests.</p> | | | |
| <p>3.2 Support the scale up of Early Talk for York (ETfY) to ensure that there is a city-wide implementation of the approach (0-5). Scale up the use of the ETfY approach/principles to</p> | <p>Early identification and targeted intervention to ensure that speech, language and communication needs can be better supported in</p> | <p>City of York Council (Early Years/Social Mobility) Health Commissioning</p> | <p>August 2023</p> | <p>In progress Scale up is being implemented from September 2023. ETfY conference November 2023 to</p> |



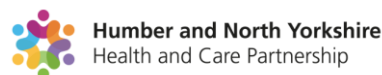
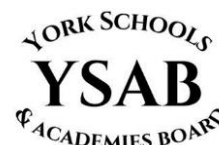
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| <p>support children and young people 5-16 with speech, language and communication needs identified at SEN support</p> | <p>mainstream settings and schools. Attainment data shows improvement in outcomes for children identified at SEN support. A reduction in referrals to Speech and Language Therapy</p> <p>Outcomes in Year 1 phonics are above national average for all pupil groups.</p> | | | <p>share outcomes and next steps</p> |
| <p>3.3 Develop a toolkit and implement training for professionals, parents and</p> | <p>Schools are more confident in supporting children with anxiety around attendance.</p> | <p>City of York Council (EPS service)</p> | <p>January 2024</p> | <p>In progress</p> |



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| <p>carers to spot early triggers and early interventions to support children and young people who cannot attend school due to anxiety.</p> <p>Jointly commission School Reintegration workers to work with children, young people, families and schools to successfully support children at risk of withdrawing from school due to anxiety</p> | <p>A reduction in the numbers of severely absent children</p> | <p>City of York Council (Inclusion Service)</p> <p>Specialist Teaching Team</p> <p>CAMHS</p> <p>Mental health support teams</p> <p>Parent carer forum</p> <p>SENDIASS</p> | | <p>School Attendance Summit 12th September will lead to development of the multi-agency city wide strategy and toolkit.</p> |
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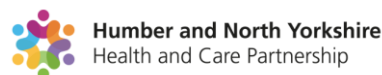
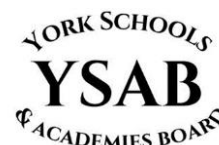


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| <p>3.4 Work with the Teaching School Hub to continue to develop SEND training programmes for teachers to support the implementation of quality first teaching and learning in mainstream schools.</p> | <p>There is greater consistency across schools in the implementation of ordinarily available provision in mainstream. A reduction in requests for statutory assessment. A reduction in EHE and EOTAS</p> | <p>Pathfinder Teaching School Hub</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>In progress YSAB have commissioned 2 places for every school to access Adaptive teaching training.</p> |
| <p>3.5 Work with education providers to develop neuro-diverse friendly settings, schools, and colleges.</p> | <p>School attendance of neurodiverse children and young people improves. Teachers and support staff feel better able to support neuro-diverse children and young people. A reduction in suspensions and permanent exclusions of neuro-diverse children and young people.</p> | <p>City of York Council York Schools and Academies Board York Schools Forum Autism Education Trust Health providers Parent Carer Forum Social care SENDIASS</p> | <p>Pilot settings/ schools worked with in academic year 2023-24 Extension of pilot 2024-25</p> | <p>In progress Pilot schools to be identified in September 2023</p> |

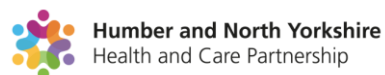
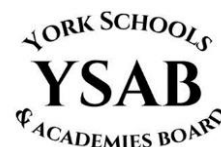


Priority 4: Transition: effective transition is secured so that young people are able to live the best adult lives they can

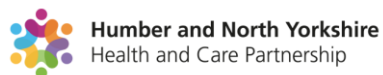
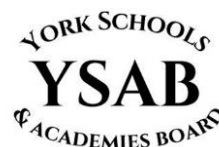
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| 4.1 Annually review and update the SEND JSNA to inform sufficiency planning and joint commissioning this will include reviewing the data that is being collected to create a meaningful evidence base to inform strategic planning, sufficiency mapping and joint commissioning. | Evidence informed decision - making is securely in place in the local area. The allocation of resources by the local area SEND partnership is more effectively targeted. | City of York Council Public Health | Annually | To be initiated |



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| <p>4.2 Continue to develop shared data sets and intelligence sharing across education, health and care to support transition for individuals with EHC plans and to identify population level trends to inform joint commissioning.</p> | <p>Evidence informed decision - making is securely in place in the local area.</p> <p>The allocation of resources by the local area SEND partnership is more effectively targeted.</p> | <p>Education Health Social Care SENDIASS</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>In progress</p> <p>Enhanced focus on use of data to inform transition during 2023-24</p> |
| <p>4.2 All partners to ensure that preparation for adulthood outcomes is identified and recorded in all EHC plans from age 14.</p> | <p>Evidence from audit shows that 95% of post 14 EHC plans have preparation for adulthood outcomes that reflect the young person's aspirations recorded by July 2024</p> <p>Review and setting Preparation for adulthood</p> | <p>Education Health Social Care</p> | <p>July 2024</p> | <p>In progress</p> <p>PfA protocol has been developed and is being implemented during 2023-24.</p> |



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| | outcomes are a mandatory part of the annual review process. | | | |
| 4.3 Co-produce and publish the local area Preparation for Adulthood protocol | Children and young people, parents and carers and professionals have a clear understanding of the preparation for adulthood pathway in York. The transition from EHC plans is transparent and well understood by all partners and stakeholders. | Transitions working group | December 2023 | In progress |
| 4.5 Transition plans are developed and implemented for all young people with an EHCP from the age of 16 | Parents and carers understand the process of transition and plans can be ended at the right time to | City of York Council Preparation for Adulthood team | July 2025 | To be initiated |



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| | support independence outcomes. | | | |
| 4.6 Improve pathways to employment through the implementation of the Supported Internship Hub | Supported internships are fully developed as a pathway to employment in York. The number of young people accessing supported internships shows and annual increase between 2024 and 2025. | City of York Council Skills Team | September 2025 | In progress Supported internship hub launch in September 2023. |

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5 September 2023

Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Report of the School Inclusion Advisor – Inclusion Services

Behaviour and Attendance – Mainstream Primary and Secondary Pupils

Summary

1. This report updates the current picture of Exclusion and Attendance across the secondary and primary phase in York. Wherever possible this looks to capture the picture before and after the pandemic. 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 second report of this nature since 2019 and comprehensively covers key indicators for Behaviour and Attendance in the city. This includes the statutory oversight roles of the Local Authority with regards to exclusion and attendance, and updates regarding responses to increased duties in these areas. Critically it gives a clear sense of the situation post pandemic and the current key challenges and support in place or being considered to meet them.
 - Attendance has decreased substantially nationally since the pandemic and is a significant focus of the DFE in this current climate. [Absence rates signal a crisis of confidence in education \(schoolsweek.co.uk\)](https://schoolsweek.co.uk)
 - The 'ghost children' crisis explained: No single reason for surge in school absences but it has serious consequences. The sheer number of children missing big chunks of school is a crisis with many parts. Read in Sky News: <https://apple.news/AXewGtna4QnmMkAAMKGJAFg>
 - There has been a national increase in suspensions since the pandemic. This year this is potentially also the case for permanent exclusions nationally and this is reported by neighbouring regional Local Authorities. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/exclusions-up-on-pandemic-lull-as-suspensions-reach-at-record-high/>

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 behaviour and 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 detail of this report includes consultations that have occurred with York Schools and Academies Board (YSAB) and Schools Forum, namely:

- £150,000 of investment in a support centre at York High School over a two-year period that has now been extended to a further £75,000 for the next academic year to support the Southbank Inspire Centre initiative.
- £105,000 of investment in the School Wellbeing Service each year until at least 2026.
- £100,000 investment in appointing two Local Authority posts supporting increased national focus and duties regarding School Attendance.

The report also links to the decision by elected members to invest £2m in capital improvements to Applefields and Danesgate site and the more recent decision to invest £8m in wider Special Educational Needs provision.

Analysis

5. Permanent Exclusions and Suspensions Analysis

Permanent Exclusion Analysis

| Year | Permanent Exclusions |
|-----------------|--|
| 2018/19 | 19 (all secondary) |
| 2019/20 | 11 (ten secondary, one primary) |
| 2020/21 | 18 (all secondary) |
| 2021/22 | 16 (all secondary) |
| 2022/23 to date | 34 (30 secondary, 4 primary) from CYC schools 1 York child permanently excluded from Outwood Academy in Easingwold (NYCC) 1 York child permanently excluded from Woldgate School (East Riding) 3 additional permanent exclusions rescinded. 39 in total |

Suspension Analysis – Primary Phase

| Primary Cluster | Suspensions (previously fixed term exclusions) Academic Year 2022/23 | Permanent Exclusions |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| West Cluster | 88 | 2 |
| East Cluster | 30 | 1 rescinded |
| North East Cluster | 27 | |
| North Cluster | 36 | |
| South Cluster | 24 | 2 |
| Southbank Cluster | 35 | |

Suspension analysis – Secondary phase

| Year | Secondary Suspensions (previously fixed term exclusions) |
|--|--|
| Sep 2020 to Sep 2021 (school closures) | 1081 |
| Sep 2021 to Sep 2022 | 1515 |
| Sep 2022 to Sep 2023 | 2804 |

6. Key messages:

- Permanent Exclusion rates have risen this year significantly, more than doubling.
- This is in line with national increases.
- Eleven Permanent Exclusions come from schools in the West cluster of the city.

7. Actions taken to date:

- Regular meetings with Headteachers, Pastoral Leaders, Special Educational Needs Coordinators and Designated Teachers leading to peer challenge, shared problem solving and close partnership working.
- Development of a Learning Support Hub for schools to access all specialist school support staff in one place.
- Improvements in Special Educational Needs practice and support (see recent Local Area SEN OFSTED).
- Support from the Virtual School (see recent ILACS OFSTED).
- Further investment in support centre at York High School by York Schools and Academies Board **leading to reduced Permanent Exclusions and recognition of this in York High Ofsted.**
- Strategic placement of Wellbeing in Mind team in the North and West. areas of the city **enhancing the support for these schools.**
- Maintaining a strong and universal School Wellbeing Service with investment from Schools Forum.
- Continued development of a centrally quality assured Alternative Provision Directory comprising of over 20 providers well placed to meet more complex needs as part of a mainstream owned package **reducing permanent exclusions risks and increasing provision options for schools.**
- Introduction of pilot 14-16 provisions at York College **reducing permanent exclusion risks and increasing provision options for schools.**

- Embedding of the School Inclusion Advisor role to coordinate key information sharing, policy and practice, and to create strong networks.
- Refreshing the Fair Access Meetings to offer a coordinated multiagency approach with primary meeting cycles now well embedded.
- Investment in Danesgate and Applefields to manage increased complexity of need.
- Significant £8m agreed investment through safety valve in range of new, or extended, Special Educational Needs provisions within the city including new ERP at Huntington and extended primary EPR offer at Ebor Academy.
- Training for school staff around best practice in approaching shared cases with Social Care.

8. Impact:

- Permanent exclusions have been significantly below national average for the last two years.
- Quick action during this year has reduced the permanent exclusions in this year from 9 in the first half term to an average of six in the following half terms.
- Schools report universally positively about the support they have received from the Learning Support Hub and the School Wellbeing Service.
- Fewer students have been placed in Danesgate's PRU (non-EHCP) strand through managed moves with more held in mainstream settings, with numbers reducing from 180 to under 50 for the start of next year, allowing for an increase of 20 placements of EHCP students at this specialist provider.

9. Potential further actions:

- Developing stronger multi agency working in areas of the city with the highest need.
- Supporting the impact of the Inspire offer in Southbank Trust and ensuring the whole city benefit and that learning from this is shared.
- Considering further development of registered Alternative Provision in York through the Schools Forum working group.
- Continue to focus on the strength of the mainstream offer through the development and embedding of the Ordinarily Available Provision offer in our schools.

- Embedding the new Mental Health Support Team in the East and North East of the city.
- Appropriate additional specialist provision carefully commissioned to meet the needs of our young people within available funding.

Absence and Persistent Absence Analysis

Primary School Absence Rates

| Primary School Absence | 2021/22 (%) | 2022/23 (%) | Trend | National Average For 2022/23 (%) |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| All students | 7.2 | 5.2 | Improved | 5.9 |
| No SEN | 5.7 | 4.8 | Improved | 5.4 |
| SEN – EHCP | 12.4 | 10.6 | Improved | 10.5 |
| SEN – Support | 9.5 | 7.9 | Improved | 7.8 |
| No FSM | 12.5 | 4.4 | Improved | 5 |
| Free School Meals (FSM) | 10.7 | 9.3 | Improved | 8.6 |
| Children in Care | 14.7 | 5.5 | Improved | N/A |
| Previously in care | Not collected | 5 | N/A | N/A |

Primary School Persistent Absence Analysis

| Categories | CYC Persistent absence 2022/23 (%) | National Persistent Absence from 2022/23 (%) |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| All students | 12 (16.8 in 2021/22) | 17 |
| No SEN | 10.7 | 14.9 |
| SEN – EHCP | 29.1 | 33 |
| SEN – Support | 20.7 | 25.4 |
| No FSM | 8.2 | 12 |
| Free School Meals | 29.2 | 30.5 |
| Children in Care | 12.5 | N/A |
| Previously in Care | 14.5 | N/A |

Severe Absence for Primary Phase

| Primary Student Cohorts | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | National Average |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Students Below 50% | 66 | 63 | N/A |

Analysis of Severely absent primary school CYP

| | Total Number | Percentage |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Non-FSM | 30 | 47.6 |
| FSM | 33 | 52.4 |
| Non-SEN | 19 | 30.2 |
| SEN – Support | 19 | 30.2 |
| SEN – EHCP | 25 | 39.7 |
| No CSC | 44 | 69.8 |
| CLA | 1 | 1.6 |
| CPP | 5 | 7.9 |
| CIN | 5 | 7.9 |
| Early Help | 8 | 12.7 |
| Autism diagnosis | 23 | 36.5 |

Secondary School Absence Rates

| Secondary School Absence | 2021/22 (%) | 2022/23 to date (%) | Trend | National Average for 2022/23 (%) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| All students | 10.6 | 9.6 | Improved | 9.2 |
| No SEN | 8.5 | 8.7 | Declined | 8.2 |
| SEN – EHCP | 23.4 | 19.5 | Improved | 16.8 |
| SEN – Support | 16.8 | 17 | Declined | 14.1 |
| No FSM | 7.9 | 7.8 | Improved | 7.4 |
| Free School Meals | 18.9 | 19.1 | Declined | 14.8 |
| Children in Care | 21.7 | 18.3 | Improved | N/A |
| Previously in care | Not collected | 18.5 | N/A | N/A |

Secondary School Persistent Absence Analysis

| Category | CYC Persistent absence 2022/23 (%) | National Persistent Absence from 2022/23 (%) |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| All students | 25.1 (26.8 in 2021/22) | 27.8 |
| No SEN | 22.7 | 25.1 |
| SEN – EHCP | 44.2 | 43.3 |
| SEN – Support | 44.3 | 41.3 |
| No FSM | 19.9 | 21.6 |
| Free School Meals | 52 | 46.4 |
| Children in Care | 36.4 | N/A |
| Previously in Care | 35 | N/A |

Severe Absence for Secondary Phase

| Secondary Student Cohorts | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | National Average |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|------------------|
| Number Students Below 50% | 296 | 254 | N/A |

Analysis of Severely Absent Secondary Aged CYP

| | Total Number | Percentage |
|------------------|--------------|------------|
| Non-FSM | 137 | 53.9 |
| FSM | 116 | 45.7 |
| Non-SEN | 141 | 55.5 |
| SEN – Support | 81 | 31.9 |
| SEN – EHCP | 32 | 12.6 |
| No CSC | 200 | 78.7 |
| CLA | 5 | 2 |
| CPP | 9 | 3.5 |
| CIN | 16 | 6.3 |
| Early Help | 24 | 9.4 |
| Autism diagnosis | 40 | 15.7 |

Analysis of use of FPN by CYC 2022-23

| | Issued | Paid | Remain in payment date or have agreed extension | Unpaid |
|--|--------------|--------|---|-------------|
| CYC Persistent Absence (PA) 2022/23 | 71 (6.6%) | 29 | 7 | 35 |
| CYC 2021/22 PA | 14 (4%) | | | |
| Y&H 2021/22 PA | 2547 (9%) | | | |
| England 2021/22 PA | 30685 (15%) | | | |
| | | | | |
| CYC Leave of absence 2022/23 | 1012 (93.4%) | 530 | 354 | 128 |
| CYC 2021/22 | 367 (96%) | | | |
| Y&H 2021/22 | 32113 (91%) | | | |
| England 2021/22 | 186281 (85%) | | | |
| | | | | |
| CYC Total 2022/23 | 1083 | 559 | 361 (33%) | 163 (15%) |
| CYC 2021/22 | 381 | 244 | | 137 (36%) |
| Y&H 2021/22 | 35180 | 24484 | | 10696 (30%) |
| England 2021/22 | 218235 | 155357 | | 62878 (29%) |
| | | | | |
| CYC Issue Rate/100 students 2022/23 | 4.8 | | | |
| CYC Issue Rate 2021/22 | 1.7 | | | |
| Y&H Issue Rate 2021/22 | 4.8 | | | |
| England Issue Rate 2021/22 | 3 | | | |

10. **Key messages:**

- Primary School Attendance continues to improve rapidly from the pandemic and is better than recent or current national figures for all students. Attendance is generally in line with national figures for SEN students with or without EHCPs and is improved on last year. The standout vulnerable group is those with Free Schools Meals where figures are below national averages.
- Secondary School Attendance has improved but not recovered as quickly and remains below national averages for vulnerable groups particularly strikingly for students who receive FSM. Attendance for students with SEN and FSM is declining.
- Persistent Absence again shows a strong picture at Primary level and improvement from before the pandemic.
- Persistent Absence at secondary level is also showing improvement from before the pandemic for all students and is better than national average for all students. Students with EHCP and Free School Meals have higher levels of persistent absenteeism at secondary phase and again this is particularly striking for students in receipt of FSM.
- There are currently a number of young people with severe absence in the city (below 50%). Whilst these figures have reduced, they remain high and are an area of significant focus. Deeper analysis shows a disproportionate number of such students have a SEN need and/or are in receipt of FSM, and there is a significant number of such children and young people (CYP) with an autism diagnosis.
- There is an increased use of Fixed Penalty Notices in CYC, but these are still below local and national rates regarding use of this response for Persistent Absence – we believe this is due to the high expectations of the Graduated Attendance Response and the careful way we consider any mitigations before choosing to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice.
- The increase is significantly driven by an increase in FPNs for Leave of Absence which has been more consistently applied by the school system.

Actions taken to date:

- Extension of the Attendance Team in the Local Authority by two full time members of staff funded by York Schools and Academies Board. One of these has been supporting Data Analysis and Enforcement and the other has been meeting regularly with schools and modelling Early Help for low attending students.
- 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.
- The Early Help role has led to 28 cases being modelled across the city with improvements in 74% 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.
- An Attendance Summit has been called for the beginning of September to bring together school leaders and multiagency partners to further push the importance of school attendance and to develop a city attendance strategy which has multi-agency ownership.
- The safeguarding board are looking at a working group to establish 'Partner promises' from members around their contributions to supporting School Attendance.
- The actioning of a centralised Communication strategy across all schools in the city including an electronic leaflet, social media campaign, press release and updated online information.
- The commissioning of the Research School to analyse the effectiveness of the enforcement and early help strategies in improving school attendance in York, whilst ensuring that this is not through a substantial increase in young people being Electively Educated at Home.
- 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 until 2026).
- Access to a wider and centrally quality assured Alternative Provision directory that schools can commission to enhance their mainstream offer.
- Co-creation of a post 16 pathway for students at York College who have struggled with school attendance and with large scale settings during their pre 16 schooling **leading to a reduction in**

NEET figures, an end to those needing to repeat Year 11 at Danesgate and enhanced outcomes for children and young people in the provision.

- Three 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.

11. 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 national averages for all groups of CYP.
- Continued increased attendance for 'all pupils' in the secondary phase.
- Reduced persistent absence in the secondary phase to 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.

12. 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

13. There are no options for current action for council members in this report, but we would like to make you aware of the following future potential considerations:
- The attendance posts are funded for one year by YSAB and are essential parts of our response to School Attendance as an issue. The Data and Enforcement role expires in November 2023 and the School Attendance Lead (Early Help) role expires in January 2024. Considerations are being given to how these may be extended but may need a request to council to be considered.
 - There is a need for increased intense family working in certain areas of the city that may in the future come as a new request to elected members.

Council Plan

14. 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.

Implications

15. Financial

Potential future requests for staffing investment to support Attendance and intensive Family Working.

Human Resources (HR)

Two posts are currently on 12-month contracts (expiring in November 2023 and January 2024) that are essential to the ambition and longevity of our work in improving attendance.

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.

There have been increased requests by parents for Independent Review panels to consider Permanent Exclusions made by schools.

Crime and Disorder

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

Information Technology (IT) Not applicable.

Property Not applicable.

Other None.

Risk Management

16. Risks of exclusion growth are:

- Increased families and young people needing support from Child or Adult Social Care.
- Increased costs to the public purse (the average cost to the system for a permanently excluded child for the remainder of life is calculated by research to be £370000 to a Local Authority).
- Reductions in provision for Special Educational Needs students due to statutory provision being put in place for excluded students and costs coming from the same High Needs Funding.
- Lower outcomes and employability routes for permanently excluded students.

17. 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.

Contact Details

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Report Approved **Date** 17/08/2023

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:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 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. |

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

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

Note: The frequency/timing of budget & performance monitoring reports is currently being addressed and details will be added to workplans in due course.

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

Agenda items for consideration

- York Citizens' Theatre Trust Review – reported 07/03/23
- REACH (York Cultural Education Partnership) - reported 07/03/23
- York Museums Trust – reported 07/03/23
- Public Health School Survey – Biennial, reported 23/06/22 – Expected publication in new year, possible reporting date 23 Jan/5 Mar/9 Apr

Possible Task & Finish Groups

- School Attendance Task & Finish Group
- How to measure the lived experience of Carers and Young People Task & Finish Group
- Food Insecurity Task & Finish Group

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

| 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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