



Notice of a public meeting of

People Scrutiny Committee

To: Councillors J Burton (Chair), Waller (Vice-Chair), Clarke, Cuthbertson, Mason, Moroney, Nelson, Nicholls and Runciman

Date: Wednesday, 9 July 2025

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: West Offices - Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive and note apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest (Pages 5 - 6)

At this point in the meeting, Members and co-opted 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 the attached sheet for further guidance for Members.]

3. Minutes

(Pages 7 - 10)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2025.

4. 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 Monday, 7 July 2025.**

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

5. Update on the York Inclusion and Belonging Special Educational Needs and Alternative Provision Strategy 2025-2030 (Pages 11 - 34)

To consider a report presenting the committee with an early draft version of the Inclusion and Belonging Special Educational Needs and Alternative Provision Strategy (SENDAP) 2025-2030 for initial discussion and comment.

6. Work Plan (Pages 35 - 40)

To consider the committee's work plan for the current municipal year, including suggestions for possible Task and Finish Groups.

7. Urgent Business

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

Democracy Officer

James Parker

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

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

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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 میا 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.

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	People Scrutiny Committee
Date	11 June 2025
Present	Councillors J Burton (Chair), Waller (Vice-Chair), Clarke, Cuthbertson, Mason, Moroney, Nicholls, and Runciman
Apologies	Councillor Nelson
Officers in attendance	Martin Kelly – Corporate Director of Children and Education Pauline Stuchfield – Director of Housing and Communities Peter Roderick – Director of Public Health Maxine Squire – Assistant Director, Education and Skills Guy Close – Democratic Services Manager

1. Apologies for Absence (5:34pm)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nelson.

2. 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 Waller declared an interest in discussions under item 4, Work Plan, in that his partner worked for NHS England.

3. Public Participation (5:35pm)

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 Waller declared an interest in discussions under item 4, Work Plan, in that his partner worked for NHS England.

4. Work Plan (5:35pm)

Members discussed the work plan for the committee for the 2025/26 municipal year.

The following areas were identified for consideration at potential briefing sessions, the main purpose of which was to inform whether more in depth scrutiny activity was required (it was anticipated that the briefing sessions were to take place in-between committee meetings and could take the form of remote meetings, presentations, and information updates):

- Updates on dentistry provision.
- Updates on social care.
- Updates on urgent care.
- Changes to the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB).
- School attainment and attendance.
- Neighbourhood policing.
- York Hungry Minds – Free School Meal Pilot.

The committee discussed whether there were any requirements to receive annual reports and updates from the Children's Safeguarding Partnership, York Learning, and SACRE. Officers undertook to establish whether there were any formal arrangements in place and report back with confirmation.

The committee expressed an interest in receiving a more detailed update on healthy weight with a potential for scrutiny to undertake a more detailed piece of scrutiny work in relation to this area.

The committee was also keen to receive more detailed updates on the SEND Strategy and the Neighbourhood Model with a request that initial updates be presented to the July meeting.

The committee felt that the following areas would benefit from being investigated further through the establishment of Task and Finish Groups:

- Review and development of working arrangements with York Youth Council.

- Review of repair service satisfaction with a particular focus on responses from the Housing Annual Survey.

Resolved that: The work plan for 2025/26 be updated in line with the above comments.

Reason: To keep the committee's work plan for the upcoming municipal year updated.

Cllr J Burton, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.55 pm].

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People Scrutiny Committee**9 July 2025**

Report of Maxine Squire, Assistant Director, Education and Skills

Update on the York Inclusion and Belonging Special Educational Needs and Alternative Provision strategy 2025-2030.

Summary

1. The current York Special Educational Needs (SEND) Strategy is due to conclude in 2025. A draft version of the new 'Inclusion and Belonging' Special Educational Needs and Alternative Provision strategy 2025 - 2030 has been developed as a refreshed and ambitious plan aimed at improving the lived experiences of children, young people, and their families across York.
2. Families have told us that we need to think broadly around inclusion and belonging and that all children and young people need to be covered in this plan, with a focus on those children and young people who are too anxious to go to school, for children who are not in school, who are educated at home, who are in alternative provision, or at risk of exclusion.
3. The aim of today's report is to:
 - Bring an early draft version of the draft Inclusion and Belonging Special Educational Needs and Alternative Provision Strategy (SENDAP) 2025 -2030 to Scrutiny and members for initial discussion and comment. This will form part of the wider partnership of co-production. The aim is for the strategy to be published following Executive Board in October 2025.
4. The strategy focuses on making sure our children and young people feel that they are valued and visible, around early identification and intervention, providing the right support at the right time, and ensuring

children and young people are well-prepared for adulthood. The plan also addresses the need for a confident and skilled workforce and improved mental health support for children and young people.

5. This strategy is aligned with the Autism and ADHD Strategy 2025–2030, with the actions outlined in the Inclusion and Belonging SENDAP Strategy designed to support and complement its key priorities.
6. It is therefore focussing on improving children and young people's health needs, their well-being, their access to good high-quality services and constitutes an important part of our ambition to make York a 'health-generating city' and to fulfil the aims of our Health and Well-being Strategy around reducing inequalities.

Background

7. More than ten years on from the implementation of the Children and Families Act, 2014, there is a national Special Educational Needs and Disability crisis.
8. Despite substantial investment in the SEND system, many families, children, and young people as well as schools, local authorities, and health partners feel deeply frustrated and let down. Services remain fragmented and inconsistent, with widespread delays, poor coordination, and a lack of accountability, leaving too many children without the support they urgently need.
9. The Yorkshire and Humber regional summary of the most recent 15 SEND and CQC inspections highlighted common challenges across local areas, particularly in relation to long waiting times for Autism and ADHD diagnoses. A significant gap was identified in the support available for children and young people who are neurodivergent during the pre-diagnosis period. Additionally, concerns were raised about the quality and timeliness of Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plans, transition processes and experiences, preparation for adulthood, and both the availability and effective use of Alternative Provision.
10. The Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Needs Assessment (2024) sets out the key information to inform this strategy. It was created with support from professionals

working in education, health, and social care in York. The views of parents and carers of children and young people with SEND, as well as staff who work with these families are also included.

11. Further headline data includes information from The Autism and ADHD Health Needs Assessment (May 2024) tells us that compared to 2021, the children and young people's autism service has seen a 50% rise in monthly referrals, and just over a quarter of children and young people have been on the waiting list for more than a year.
12. Additionally, York has experienced a significant increase in the number of children requiring support through an Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plan, rising from 1,317 in June 2024 to 1,693. Concurrently, requests for support to the Learning Support Hub, which provides outreach services to educational settings, continues to grow. Families continue to report challenges navigating the system, feeling they must advocate persistently to secure appropriate support.
13. There is continuing financial pressure to the local authority generated by the costs of EHCPs and out of city placements.
14. York has key strengths to build upon in shaping its strategic plan for improvement, and this work is ongoing. The partnership is committed to building on the ambitious work of the York Schools and Academies Board (YSAB), supporting the city's efforts to enhance consistency in inclusive practice across schools and educational settings.
15. These strengths include joint working and participation, the graduated approach offer, KS4 outcomes and progress. Extensive work has been carried out by the new attendance team structure and multi-agency action group. Attendance Leads meetings demonstrate this positive impact on attendance and although suspensions rates are above national average the data shows reductions across primary and secondary sectors. Permanent exclusions are below national.
16. The first phase of the five-year strategy will prioritise establishing greater consistency in inclusive practice across settings, workforce development, enhancing the York Local Offer, and improving transparent communication and access to information for families. A key focus will also be on strengthening support for children and young

people awaiting neurodevelopmental diagnoses. The implementation of the SEND Hub in York will represent a significant milestone in delivering these priorities.

17. This strategy has been designed with flexibility to accommodate anticipated national reforms from Autumn 2025. It will also align with changes brought about by the Children and Wellbeing Bill to support safeguarding and raise educational standards. It is underpinned by the SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan (March 2023) and places a strong emphasis on supporting children and young people within their local mainstream schools. An accompanying action plan will drive implementation, with oversight and governance provided by the SEND Partnership Board
18. All partners have a role to play in building a more inclusive society and in providing services in a high-quality manner which serve neurodivergent individuals well. Health services and council services have a duty in statutory guidance to plan services, develop partnerships and commission together in response to need. This strategy supports this work.

Consultation

19. The phases of consultation are set out below:
20. The initial phase focused on ensuring alignment with key strategic priorities across York. This strategy is closely aligned with the Autism and ADHD Strategy and has been shaped by feedback gathered throughout the development process. It also shares several key priorities with the draft York Health & Care Partnership Children and Young People's Plan.
 - One city for all (2023-2027)
 - Draft Autism and ADHD strategy
 - York Health & Care Partnership Children and Young People's Plan
 - Health and wellbeing Strategy
 - Children and Young people's plan
 - Young People Belong in York
 - Existing SEND Strategy York (expires 2025)

- Children and Young Peoples Mental Health Strategic Transformation Plan 2025 – 2030
- Serious Violence Response Strategy
- Early Help
- Contextual Safeguarding
- Preparation for adulthood
- Neglect

21. From Autumn 2024 to June 2025 the following consultation activities have taken place:

- The Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Needs Assessment (2024)
- Parent/carers forum listening events - Autumn term 2024-Spring term 2025.
- Parent/carers workshop – June 2025
- DFE /York Mainstream Inclusion Review - June 2025
- Feedback from Autism and ADHD strategy, Scrutiny - May 2025
- York Primary SENCO forum - June 2025
- City of York Safeguarding Partnership Board - June 2025
- Multi Agency Strategy task and finish groups Spring and Summer term – April and June 2025
- Parent/Carer and practitioner Surveys - May 2025 (approx. 320 parents)
- Parent/Carer forum strategy activity workshop event - June 2025 (20 parents)
- National Development Team for Inclusion partnership training event two events - March 2025
- Publication of the [Core Connectors report](#) which has provided valuable insights into young people's experiences of health and social care in York
- Publication of the [Listening to Neurodivergent Families](#) in partnership with the Land, York Carers Centre, York Disability Rights Forum and Parent Carer Forum York in January 2025.
- Executive group briefing feedback – June 2025
- Executive summary consultation 7th July
- Young person consultation – July 2025

Council Plan

22. This strategy aligns with the Council Plan 2023–2027 and its vision of creating a city for all. It contributes to the plan's four priority areas:
- **Equality and Human Rights** – by focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable groups and promoting inclusive education.
 - **Affordability** – through initiatives such as poverty-proofing schools and providing families with information and support to help manage the cost-of-living crisis.
 - **Environment and Climate** – by promoting the development of local Enhanced Resource Provisions within mainstream schools, reducing the need for out-of-area placements, and supporting sustainability.
 - **Health and Wellbeing** – by prioritising improved outcomes for children and young people, ensuring they receive the right support at the right time to thrive.

Implications

Financial - There are no direct financial implications of this report, which is for members to discuss and feed into a city-wide strategy. Individual organisations are responsible for resourcing the commitments in the strategy, and for City of York Council all commitments will be delivered within existing budgeted resources.

Human Resources (HR) -There are no HR implications of this report.

Equalities - Children and young people with special educational needs and disability will also have support through the Equality Act 2010'. There are therefore equalities implications of this strategy, which aims to include all children and young people with SEND better within society and services and will have a positive impact on inequalities.

Legal There are no legal implications of this report.

Crime and Disorder - The aims of this strategy also do support the work of the serious violence strategy, focusing on supporting children who are not attending school and key groups more vulnerable to offending now and in the future.

Information Technology (IT) There are no implications for IT as part of this report.

Property There are not implications for property.

Risk Management

23. There are no known risks relating to this report.

Recommendations

24. Members are asked to:

- 1) Note and discuss the early draft of the Inclusion and Belonging, Special Educational Needs and Alternative Provision Strategy 2025-2030.

Contact Details Victoria Coyle, Head of Integrated SEND

Author: Assistant Director, Education and Skills
Maxine Squire

Co Author
Victoria Coyle
Head of Integrated SEND
Education and Inclusion

**Report
Approved**



Date 26 June
2025

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

All

☒

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – Draft Inclusion and Belonging SENDAP Strategy 2025 – 2030

Background Papers

Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities: A Health Needs Assessment 2024 (July 2024)

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s178054/Annex%20A%20-%20Special%20Educational%20Needs%20Assessment%202024.pdf>

A city that works for all: Autism and ADHD Strategy for York
2025-2030 – Draft (May 2025)

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s183211/Annex%20B%20-%20A%20city%20that%20works%20for%20all%20Autism%20and%20ADHD%20Strategy%20for%20York%20Draft%20May%202025.pdf>

Healthwatch York, Young People’s Experiences of Health and Social Care:
Core Connectors Report 2025

<https://www.healthwatchyork.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Core-Connector-report-March-2025.pdf>

Healthwatch York, Listening to Neurodivergent Families in York (January
2025)

<https://www.healthwatchyork.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Listening-to-Neurodivergent-Families-in-York-January-2025.pdf>

Abbreviations

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disability

AP – Alternative Provision

EHC Plans – Education and Health Care Plans

NDTI – National Development Team for Inclusion

YSAB – York’s Schools and Academies Board



Draft York Inclusion and Belonging Special Educational Needs & Alternative Provision Strategy 2025-2029

A city that works for all

A note on this document.

This is a very early draft of the strategy.

There is still more consultation taking place across the local area partnership and with families and children and young people. This feedback will further shape and define the strategy.

It will be published in the Autumn term 2025

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Vision

‘York will be a city that works for all. We want all children and young people to get the best start in life, to be happy and healthy and to develop the skills and relationships they need to thrive into adulthood.’

Thank you for reading this strategy. The aim is to improve the lived experience and outcomes of our children, young people and their families in York. When we get this right, children, young people, and their families feel heard and have greater trust that their needs will be met.

Families have told us that this strategy is about helping children and young people feel they belong. We also know that the term 'Special Educational Needs' does not always reflect the full picture of need. Some children and young people may not be identified as needing support, as they can sometimes mask their difficulties. This ability to hide their needs can make it more challenging for adults to recognise when help is required. In some cases, children may not attend school because their underlying needs have not been recognised or addressed.

This strategy prioritises early help, timely support, and improved coordination across education, health, care, and community services for all children and young people in York. This includes those on SEN support, with or without a diagnosis or an EHCP, as well as those children and young people who are home-educated, out of school, in alternative provision, or at risk of exclusion.

We are developing this strategy during a period of anticipated national reform. Despite the changing landscape, we will focus on the work around inclusive mainstream schools, while maintaining the flexibility to adapt and review as needed.

Schools and settings are key partners. We will support mainstream settings to deliver a flexible curriculum which can include the need to create safe, secure, sustainable, multi-disciplinary provision to manage the growing number of children and young people whose complex and layered needs require a bespoke arrangement to enable them to be safe and to meet their outcomes.

In York, strong partnerships with key organisations, including the York Schools Academy Board (YSAB), maintained schools, Schools Forum, the Teaching School Hub, and the Research School, enable us to commission high-quality support that ensures continuous improvement and positions our schools as regional and national leaders. We aim to strengthen partnerships with York's universities and cultural institutions, like museums, theatres, and music academies

This strategy aligns to the Autism and ADHD strategy 2025-2030 and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Partnership Board will oversee the implementation.

Context

Our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) identifies and assesses the current and future health, wellbeing, and social care needs in York. A summary of the JSNA called [Our City Health Narrative](#) tells us that children aged 0-11 years are experiencing more unhealthy weight, worsening inequalities in speech and language and school readiness and poor oral health.

For young people aged 11–15-year-old in York, there are now more young people aged 11-25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), we have concerning trends around emotional and mental health, young people's experiences of relationships are poor, and we have higher levels of school absence post COVID.

- York's Children and Young People's Plan 2024-2027 indicates that across our 63 schools 89% are good or outstanding (Ofsted) and 94% of our playgroups and day nurseries in York are good or outstanding
- 241 young carers in York
- 1,062 16+ year olds identify as transgender or non-binary
- 93 children and young people are known to belong to Gypsy and Travelling families.
- 232 children are in care
- 1,064 (4.49%) 10-19-year-olds have a mental health diagnosis
- 4,000 children and young people are seen in York every year with severe mental health difficulties.
- 1,785 (2.6%) 10–19-year-olds have a neurodiversity diagnosis
- 66% of children were achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception (50% for children with free school status)ⁱ
- 15.9% of primary school age children are eligible for free school meals and 14.3% are eligible at secondary school age
- 15.3% of primary school age children are persistently absent and this rises to 26.2% at secondary school age
- 4,011 children and young people (CYP) who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- 24.4% of all SEND needs in York are for social, emotional and mental health needs.
- 1,693 individuals aged 0-25 with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP)

Our Children and Young people's Outcomes

- I am healthy
- I have a choice, and I 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

Our families and our partnership priorities

- The voice and visibility of children and young people and their families is paramount.
- Children and young people's needs are identified at the earliest opportunity.
- The right support is in the right place at the right time.
- Effective preparation for independence and adulthood strategies secure opportunities for young people and adults with SEND to reach their full potential.

Our Pillars are:

- We will change society for inclusion – We will consider what needs to change across our city to enable inclusion levelling up and social mobility by expanding our partnerships
- We will ensure early identification –We intervene early and effectively to ensure that any gaps in children and young people's learning are rapidly closed, providing effective pathways to support
- We will meet need - We will work across teams in neighbourhoods to support provision in the local areas with a focus on 'what holds us together' in our local system.

Our Practice Standards are:

- We commit to being impartial, fair, and equitable, delivering honest and supportive communication to our children, families, and partners.
- We collaborate openly and courageously, offering both support and challenge to ensure York is a place where every child and young person feels a true sense of belonging.
- We are a partnership that improves, reflects and learns to ensure we make a difference.

Children and young people's feedback

Feedback from CYP – 'Nothing About Us Without Us' is a children and young people's mental health advisory group, aiming to influence the services professionals say are meant to support young people aged 10 to 25, with different things that influence our mental health. An engagement event was held during May half-term where the group gave valuable insights into their lived experiences that are covered within the children and young people's plan.

- *More communication across the health, schools and education system is imperative to moving things forward, as we all want the same thing.*
- *Better understanding of mental health and how it impacts upon school life.*
- *Improved access to mental health support in comfortable, community-based settings, particularly for young people with SEND and neurodiversity.*
- *Shared record system, shared values and shared ownership*
- *Provide support for children and young people whilst on waiting lists for diagnostics.*
- *Share more information about activities, groups, and social opportunities.*
- *Greater integration of Speech, Language and Communication (SLCN) and mental health is needed.*

What our families have told us

We would like:

“Clear explanation of the reasonable adjustments that are available to people with or without a diagnosis, including in schools and mental healthcare services

Simple and clearly explained referral routes and timeframes, with help to navigate the referral if necessary.

Clarity on the mental health care that they can expect to receive before and after a neurodevelopment diagnosis

More training for teachers on Autism and ADHD and staff to understand masking

Settings to listen more to families when we ask for help

More specialist Enhanced Resource Provisions (ERPs)

Improved communication between staff in school to support children

Classrooms allowing more movement breaks and settings to have more consistency with staffing

More activities to do in the holidays

Better access to sensory integration and speech and language therapy

More quiet and inclusive spaces that meet the sensory needs of neurodiverse communities in the city. By following autism and ADHD good practice in designing public spaces and public services, everyone can benefit”

What our practitioners across the partnership have told us

We would like to:

Reduce the paperwork for reviews and assessments so we can focus on supporting children

Develop the Send Hub and other agencies to work on a universal programme - where they talk about hot topics, behaviour, wellbeing, sensory, diet, toilet training, sleep.

Work more closely with our Post -16 providers so there are more choices for pupils after Year 11

Be able to have more support and guidance on how to support provision for children with complex needs and those who are pre-verbal in school

See more consistency on how settings implement specialist advice

See more opportunities for sharing good practice in York - open sessions for Emotional Literacy Support Assistant, ELSA / SEND Teaching Assistant and SENCOs to go to see some good practice in York or create an online viewing.

To have a clearer understanding of the services that can offer support for families with children with SEND.

Have more understanding of the challenges faced by schools and to have practical support available

Our SEND Partnership Priorities

1.The voice and visibility of children and young people and their families is paramount

" You have chance to say what you want" - Young person

Our ambition: We want every child and young person with special educational needs to be heard, to feel truly welcomed, and to thrive in their communities.

These are all priorities in the first phase of implementation

We will:

- Ensure that all children, young people and their families know what support is available, so that they can make informed decisions.
- Review the Local offer to make it easier to use and ensure information about referral routes, timeframes, key contacts and support is accessible.
- The SEND Hub will establish a welcoming space where children, young people, and families can access support, training, and social activities.
- Improve service design with input from children, young people, and families via the Joint Voice Partnership Action Plan, and keep families informed of their impact through the partnership communication plan.
- Ensure all individual plans for children and young people are ambitious and consistently informed by the views and opinions of children, young people and their families when making decisions
- Support young carers to come forward to ask for help and to know what support is available to them.
- Ensure information contains signposting for children, young people and families who need financial support including information on discounts, foodbanks, and support with transport.
- Work with York Disability Rights Forum, all parent groups, and our Parent Carer Forum to ensure a wider reach of engagement.

2. Children and young people's needs are identified at the earliest opportunity

'Inclusion is not an outcome. Inclusion is an ethos, a set of values and a philosophy that we should all promote from within' - Primary school, York,

Our ambition: We will work across education, health, and care to provide timely, appropriate support that meets the needs of children and young people at the earliest opportunity

We will prioritise the first five priorities in the first phase of implementation

We partnership will:

- Will reduce variability in inclusion practices and improve consistency across all settings (ages 0-25), focusing on an Inclusion challenge, leadership, culture, adaptive teaching, inclusive classrooms, and trauma-informed approaches.
- Coordinate existing training to develop an Education, Health, and Care Workforce Partnership Training Plan that strengthens the partnership's ability to support children and young people
- Create an early integrated help offer for vulnerable families including making the vision of the SEND Hub model a reality.
- Review the EHC needs assessment process and reviews to reduce bureaucracy and improve service delivery
- Build on the early intervention models of speech, language and communication support for children and young people for York. This will meet individual needs, include regular monitoring, reduce escalation and potential future needs for speech and language therapy.
- To work alongside colleagues in the police to provide a co-ordinated offer and raise awareness of child criminal exploitation and vulnerability.
- Develop the provision of the Learning Support Hub outreach model to upskill staff in settings to meet the needs of children and young people.
- Establish community-based models of paediatric services delivery in partnership with primary care and healthy child teams and other colleagues e.g. mental health, early help, social prescribers.

- Revise the neurodevelopmental pathway and associated support for children pre-assessment and post diagnosis with ASC, ADHD/other neurodiverse conditions.
- Ensure organisations have robust and consistent waiting list management protocols, including a fair and equitable approach to people moving into area in line with guidance, and clarity around what to expect when receiving out of area support through right-to-choose, including subsequent consequences on prescribing.
- Ensure that there is health screening through health visitors' mandated health checks, Children Looked After health checks, and increased take-up of learning disability health checks at ages 14-25.
- Develop and support around the Dynamic Support Register across the partnership to reduce the risk need for young adults to be in tier four hospital provision.

3. The right support is in the right place at the right time

'Every child is valued. Every child is included in all aspects of school life. Every child is accepted by all. Every child has a true sense of belonging and feels to be a valuable and loved member of the school community' - York School

Our aspiration is to achieve the right support at the right time for children with special educational needs. This support will be provided early and tailored to meet individual challenges, to promote inclusion and belonging, and to maximise each child or young person's potential.

We will prioritise the first five priorities in the first phase of implementation

We will:

- Review the sufficiency of specialist placements in York, from Early years, Primary, Secondary and Post 16. To include a review the sufficiency of specialist provision for Social Emotional and Mental Health needs including more internal setting alternative provision and specialist Enhanced Resourced provisions.
- Improve the quality and consistency of statutory decision making for EHC needs assessment and Education, Health & Care plans. Thereby improving the support for children and young people and reducing the need to go to mediation or tribunal following statutory Local Authority decisions.
- Increase the number of jointly commissioned SEND provisions between the Integrated Care Board and the Council, including a jointly commissioned core offer for children and young people, with sensory processing difficulties.
- Ensure reasonable adjustments are in place for children and young people on reduced timetables
- Improve school attendance and engagement in learning through further developing a multi-agency strategic and operational partnership response
- Provide innovative short breaks to meet individual needs.
- Extend the Mental Health Support Teams, working in York schools to support emotional well-being and mental health in school.
- Increase the number of children and young people who are struggling to attend school to reintegrate into schools with support.

- Make effective use of effective digital transformation and AI to support our systems to be as efficient as possible.
- Ensure early years and childcare sufficiency across the city to ensure that equitable access to the extended entitlements.
- Create more affordable and safe spaces for young people to meet.
- Further develop quality assurance and oversight of children who are Electively Home Educated (EHE), children who are educated other than at school (EOTAS), those in alternative provision and children who are missing education in line with changes in legislation and statutory guidance.

4. Effective preparation for independence and adulthood strategies secure opportunities for young people and adults to reach their full potential

"I have made a lot of progress since joining in Year 7 through support from my teacher" Young person, York school

We want to support young people in becoming well-prepared for the next stage of learning to foster a strong sense of belonging in their new educational environment.

We will prioritise the first five priorities in the first phase of implementation

We will

- Enhance the transition process across all phases, drawing on best practice models. This includes guidance on how transition works between children and adults' services.
- Improve the effective data sharing and forecasting take place between children and adult services.
- Provide training and upskill professionals across education, health, and social care to result in improved quality contributions to reviews of children and young people's plans.
- Make sure that all EHC plans focus on preparation for adulthood and consistently specify the type of health and care support that should be available at different stages of a child or young person's life.
- Further develop routes to employability, including increasing the number of supported internships in York.
- Settings will adapt their approaches so that children and young people with SEND receive high-quality individualised independent careers advice to support their transitions, aspirations and next steps in education, employment, or training.
- Invest in improving public transportation in the York region, expanding routes to rural areas to ensure young people have reliable and accessible transport options.

Measuring how we make a difference

This will be completed after full consultation

People Scrutiny Committee
Work Plan 2025/26
Updated June 2025

	Theme	Item	Lead Officer / Exec Member	Scope
11 June 2025				
	<i>Public Meeting</i>	Work-planning for the municipal year 2025/26		
9 July 2025				
	<i>Meeting Report, Education</i>	SEND Strategy, Update	Maxine Squire/Victoria Coyle/Cllr Webb	
	<i>Meeting Report, Communities</i>	Neighbourhood Model, Update	Pauline Stuchfield/Laura Williams/Cllr Pavlovic	
8 October 2025				
3 December 2025				
11 February 2026				
15 April 2026				

Unallocated items and items recommended from previous scrutiny committees

Item	Origin	Lead Officer and Exec Member	Notes
York Learning Annual Update	Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee (CCC)	Head of Adult Learning Service, Cllr Webb, Exec. Member for Children, Young People and Education	
Neighbourhood Policing Review	CCC	Director of Housing and Communities, Cllr Pavlovic, Exec. Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities	<i>Suggested for briefing, date TBC</i>
School Attendance	CCC	Assistant Director, Education and Skills, Cllr Webb, Exec. Member for Children, Young People and Education	<i>Suggested for briefing, date TBC</i>
Attainment Gap	CCC	Assistant Director, Education and Skills, Cllr Webb, Exec. Member for Children, Young People and Education	<i>Suggested for briefing, date TBC</i>
Virtual School Annual Report	CCC	Assistant Director, Education and Skills, Virtual School Headteacher, Cllr Webb, Exec. Member for Children, Young People and Education	

Item	Origin	Lead Officer and Exec Member	Notes
Children Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report	CCC	Corporate Director of Children and Education, Cllr Webb, Exec. Member for Children, Young People and Education	
Adult Social Care Strategy Update	Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HHASC)	Corporate Director ASC and Integration / Director of Adults Safeguarding; Cllr Steels-Walshaw, Exec Member for Health, Wellbeing and ASC	<i>Suggested for briefing, date TBC.</i> Follows previous update to HHASC in October 2024.
Urgent Care Update	HHASC	Director of Public Health; Cllr Steels-Walshaw, Exec Member for Health, Wellbeing and ASC	<i>Suggested for briefing, date TBC.</i> Led by ICB colleagues. Follows previous update to HHASC in November 2025.
Healthy Weight	HHASC	Director of Public Health; Cllr Steels-Walshaw, Exec Member for Health, Wellbeing and ASC	<i>Suggested for briefing, date TBC.</i> New service offer being launched autumn 2025; suggested could be ready late summer 2025.
Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025	HHASC	Director of Public Health; Cllr Steels-Walshaw, Exec Member for Health, Wellbeing and ASC	<i>Suggested for briefing, date TBC.</i> Consultation details have been shared with members.
Dignity in Retirement Council Motion	HHASC	Cllr Lomas, Executive Member for Finance, Major Projects and Equalities	Follows September 2024 Council Motion: To request that the Executive Member for Finance,

Item	Origin	Lead Officer and Exec Member	Notes
			Major Projects and Equalities work with officers to create a plan for consideration by the relevant Scrutiny Committee(s) which sets out a range of measures that could be taken to mitigate the impact of the above decisions on York's pensioners, including maintaining financial support for warm spaces in York through allocation of Household Support Fund grants.
Trauma Informed City Council Motion – possible wider discussion	HHASC	Director of Public Health; Cllr Steels-Walshaw, Exec Member for Health, Wellbeing and ASC	Follows March 2024 Council Motion and update from TEWV at HHASC in May 2025; specifics yet to be worked out.
Health and Artificial Intelligence – benefits and challenges	HHASC	Director of Public Health; Cllr Steels-Walshaw, Exec Member for Health, Wellbeing and ASC	Specifics yet to be worked out.
Telecare/reablement technology – briefing from relevant academics	HHASC	Corporate Director ASC and Integration; Cllr Steels-Walshaw, Exec Member for Health, Wellbeing and ASC	Briefing for information only. Follows HHASC members' telecare demonstration in April 2025.

Item	Origin	Lead Officer and Exec Member	Notes
LD Provision – The Glen and Lowfields	HHASC	Corporate Director ASC and Integration; Corporate Director of Children and Education; Director of Housing and Communities; Cllr Steels-Walshaw, Exec Member for Health, Wellbeing and ASC; Cllr Pavlovic, Exec Member for Housing Planning and Safer Communities	Specifics yet to be worked out. (Note that Lowfields not yet built).
Relevant outputs from LGA Peer Review – Housing Partners	HHASC	Director of Housing and Communities; Cllr Pavlovic Exec, Member for Housing Planning and Safer Communities	Suggested that relevant housing partners could be invited to report to the committee; specifics yet to be worked out.
Update on Dentistry Provision	11/06/2025	Director of Public Health; Cllr Steels-Walshaw, Exec Member for Health, Wellbeing and ASC	<i>Suggested for briefing, date TBC</i>
Changes to H&NY ICB	11/06/2025	Director of Public Health; Cllr Steels-Walshaw, Exec Member for Health, Wellbeing and ASC	<i>Suggested for briefing, date TBC</i>
York Hungry Minds – Free School Meal Pilot Update	11/06/2025	Corporate Director of Children and Education, Assistant Director, Education and Skills Cllr Webb, Exec. Member for Children, Young People and Education	<i>Suggested for briefing, date TBC</i>
Gardening Assistance	11/06/2025	Director of Housing and Communities; Cllr Pavlovic Exec, Member for Housing Planning and Safer Communities	

Possible Task and Finish Groups

Topic	Origin	Aims and objectives	Membership
Food Insecurity	CCC		Was previously: Cllrs Knight, Nelson
Education, Health, and Care Plans	CCC		Was previously: Cllrs Clarke, Cuthbertson, Wilson
Home Care Commissioning	HHASC – agreed by the committee in March 2024 but work not yet underway.	To better understand the commissioning of home care in the city, including monitoring, performance, cost, difference within contracts, companies, how the council's existing policy and social value policy apply to the commissioning and what the Council's direction of travel, incorporating the Council Plan 2023-2027 will affect the commissioning.	Was previously: Cllrs Myers, Vassie, Baxter
Preparing for proposed changes to long-term sickness and disability benefits	Corporate Scrutiny Committee (CSC), formerly Corporate Services, Climate Change and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSCCSMC), following Council resolution 27/03/2025	To identify likely impacts on the demand for support from the council and its local partners resulting from Government proposals on disability and long-term sickness benefits.	Cllrs Fenton, Runciman, Steward, Coles, J Burton
Review and development of working arrangements with York Youth Council	11/06/2025		
Review of repair service satisfaction with a particular focus on responses from the Housing Annual Survey	11/06/2025		