



**Notice of meeting of  
Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**To:** Councillors Looker (Chair), Brooks (Vice-Chair), Aspden, Crisp, Hogg, Taylor, Waudby, Pierce and Mr W Schofield (Co-opted Statutory Member)

**Date:** Tuesday, 13 July 2010

**Time:** 5.15 pm

**Venue:** The Guildhall

**AGENDA**

**1. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 3 - 4)

At this point Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda.

**2. Minutes** (Pages 5 - 8)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2010.

**3. Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak on an item on the agenda or an issue within the committee's remit can do so.

Anyone who wishes to register or who requires further information is requested to contact the Democracy Officer for this meeting, details of whom are listed at the foot of this agenda.

The deadline for registering to speak is 5.00pm the working day before the meeting, in this case **5.00pm on Monday 12 July 2010**.

**4. 2009-10 Year End Outturn Report** (Pages 9 - 20)

This report analyses the latest outturn position 2009/10 year end by reference to the service plan, the budget and the performance indicators for all of the services falling under the responsibility of the old Director of Learning, Culture & Children's Services.

**5. Briefing on Post Election Policy Direction for Education & Children's Services** (Pages 21 - 38)

This report provides a summary of developing policy direction since the General Election. It is provided to summarise the changing policy landscape which will impact upon the work of individual schools, the wider children's services agenda and the local authority.

**6. Casual Play Opportunities Scrutiny Review - Draft Final Report** (Pages 39 - 84)

This report presents Members with an update on information gathered in respect of the review and an analysis of this information and asks them to consider the suggested recommendations and any other recommendations they wish to make.

**7. Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2010-11** (Pages 85 - 86)

Members are asked to consider the workplan for the Committee for the 2010-11 Civic Year.

The following reports are for information only:

**8. York Theatre Royal - Service Level Agreement Performance Update Report** (Pages 87 - 98)

Members are asked to note the progress and performance of the York Theatre Royal under the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) which runs to March 2012.

**9. York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan - Performance Update Report** (Pages 99 - 118)

Members are asked to note the current progress of the York Museums Trust (YMT) towards meeting the targets agreed in the Partnership Delivery Plan.

## 10. Urgent Business

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

### Democracy Officers

Catherine Clarke and Louise Cook (job share)

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551031
- Email [catherine.clarke@york.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.clarke@york.gov.uk) and [louise.cook@york.gov.uk](mailto:louise.cook@york.gov.uk)

(If contacting by email, please send to both Democracy officers named above).

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officers responsible for servicing this meeting, as listed above.

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

This page is intentionally left blank

## About City of York Council Meetings

### Would you like to speak at this meeting?

If you would, you will need to:

- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
- find out about the rules for public speaking from the Democracy Officer.

**A leaflet on public participation is available on the Council's website or from Democratic Services by telephoning York (01904) 551088**

### Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

All the reports which Members will be considering are available for viewing online on the Council's website. Alternatively, copies of individual reports or the full agenda are available from Democratic Services. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the agenda for the meeting. **Please note a small charge may be made for full copies of the agenda requested to cover administration costs.**

### Access Arrangements

We will make every effort to make the meeting accessible to you. The meeting will usually be held in a wheelchair accessible venue with an induction hearing loop. We can provide the agenda or reports in large print, electronically (computer disk or by email), in Braille or on audio tape. Some formats will take longer than others so please give as much notice as possible (at least 48 hours for Braille or audio tape).

If you have any further access requirements such as parking close-by or a sign language interpreter then please let us know. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the order of business for the meeting.

Every effort will also be made to make information available in another language, either by providing translated information or an interpreter providing sufficient advance notice is given. Telephone York (01904) 551550 for this service.

যদি যথেষ্ট আগে থেকে জানানো হয় তাহলে অন্য কোন অর্ধাতে তথ্য জানানোর জন্য সব ধরনের চেষ্টা করা হবে, এর জন্য দরকার হলে তথ্য অনুবাদ করে দেয়া হবে অথবা একজন দোআবী সরবরাহ করা হবে। টেলিফোন নম্বর (01904) 551 550।

*Yeteri kadar önceden haber verilmesi koşuluyla, bilgilerin terümesini hazırlatmak ya da bir tercüman bulmak için mümkün olan herşey yapılacaktır. Tel: (01904) 551 550*

我們竭力使提供的資訊備有不同語言版本，在有充足時間提前通知的情況下會安排筆譯或口譯服務。電話 (01904) 551 550。

اگر مناسب وقت سے اطلاع دی جاتی ہے تو ہم معلومات کا ترجمہ مہیا کرنے کی پوری کوشش کریں گے۔ ٹیلی فون (01904) 551 550

*Informacja może być dostępna w tłumaczeniu, jeśli dostaniemy zapotrzebowanie z wystarczającym wyprzedzeniem. Tel: (01904) 551 550*

### **Holding the Executive to Account**

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Executive (40 out of 47). Any 3 non-Executive councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Executive (or Executive Member Decision Session) agenda. The Executive will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Executive meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

### **Scrutiny Committees**

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

### **Who Gets Agenda and Reports for our Meetings?**

- Councillors get copies of all agenda and reports for the committees to which they are appointed by the Council;
- Relevant Council Officers get copies of relevant agenda and reports for the committees which they report to;
- Public libraries get copies of **all** public agenda/reports.

**Learning and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2010-11****Agenda Item 1 – Declarations of Interest**

Please state any amendments you have to your declarations of interest.

Committee Members

Councillor Aspden	Member of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) Employee of North Yorkshire County Council Governor at Danesgate Centre, Fulford Cross
Councillor Brooks	Employee of The Manchester College Member of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)
Councillor Crisp	Governor at Poppleton Road Primary School Member of Board of York Theatre Royal
Councillor Hogg	Council's Lib Dem Representative on Visit York Member of York Museums Trust Employee of the National Railway Museum
Councillor Looker	Governor of Park Grove Primary School Governor of Canon Lee Secondary School Company Secretary, York Theatre Royal Member of York Museum Trust
Councillor Taylor	Employee of City Screen, York
Councillor Waudby	Governor of Lakeside Primary School

Substitutes

Councillor Firth	Governor of Wigginton Primary School
Councillor D'Agorne	LEA Governor at Fishergate Primary School Employee of York College, Guidance Service

This page is intentionally left blank



City of York Council

Committee Minutes

---

MEETING	LEARNING & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	27 APRIL 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS LOOKER (CHAIR), BROOKS (VICE-CHAIR), CRISP, TAYLOR, WAUDBY, FIRTH (SUBSTITUTE) AND B WATSON (SUBSTITUTE)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS HOGG AND MR W SCHOFIELD

---

**45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

At this point in the meeting Members were asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda or any general interests they might have within the remit of the Committee. Other than those listed below none were declared.

Councillor Brooks	Employee of The Manchester College Member of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)
Councillor Crisp	Governor at Poppleton Road Primary School Member of Board of York Theatre Royal
Councillor D'Agorne	LEA Governor at Fishergate Primary School Employee of York College, Guidance Service
Councillor Looker	Governor of Park Grove Primary School Governor of Canon Lee Secondary School Company Secretary, York Theatre Royal Member of York Museum Trust
Councillor Taylor	Employee of City Screen, York
Councillor Waudby	Governor of Lakeside Primary School
Councillor Firth	Governor of Wigginton Primary School

**46. MINUTES**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 March 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**47. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

**48. REVIEW OF CASUAL PLAY OPPORTUNITIES**

Members considered a report which presented information in support of the ongoing scrutiny review of casual play opportunities across the city. Members were asked to investigate further the introduction of a pilot scheme within a specific area of the city with the aim of identifying a suitable strategy for the provision of play opportunities, which would involve all the relevant agencies.

The Chair thanked those Members who had been in contact with a selection of parents from Fishergate, St Paul's and Deighton Village Primary Schools. Parents were asked to complete an informal survey on their play experiences and their children's current experiences. Members found the results interesting and commented on the barriers to play such as:

- Traffic
- Stranger danger
- Drugs & gangs
- Parents own anxieties
- No facilities
- Unable to locate safe play areas

Members felt that play space should always be available within new housing developments. Some Members suggested consulting with the planning department to see how they could encourage useable play areas on new housing development sites rather than taking a Section 106 payment.

Members discussed York Playspace and agreed that this scheme needed to be well publicised. Playspace officers confirmed that it was advertised in the Schools Out Magazine and posters were distributed around each Parish. Members suggested advertising in the Local Ward Committee Magazine. Officers stated that they had in the past, but found the timings of the publication were not always suitable. Officers and Members agreed to consult with the relevant Neighbourhood Officers and Ward Officers to confirm the publication dates.<sup>1</sup>

Members discussed the options available regarding the pilot scheme and the importance services such as the Police, Planning, Housing and City Strategy had on ensuring safe areas to play. Officers stated that these agencies had come together to form a Strategic Board and Members agreed that in order for them to finalise a pilot scheme it would be helpful to receive the Board's opinions. The Head of Play agreed to inform the Board and would report their feedback to Members

The Scrutiny Officer agreed to forward the recommendations around the committee and add Casual Play Opportunities to next year's workplan.<sup>3</sup>

RESOLVED:

- i That Members of the committee receive a copy of the draft Play Policy (called 'Taking Play Forward'), in order to comment on any revisions, as part of the planned consultation process for the policy.
- ii. That the Strategic Board be informed of the Committee's views on a pilot scheme and play opportunities in the city
- iii. That the Committee receive feedback from the Strategic Board on the suggested introduction of a pilot scheme.
- iv. That the workplan for 2010-2011 includes an update on Casual Play Opportunities.

Reason: To progress the review in line with scrutiny procedures and protocols and identify the optimum recommendations arising from this review

Action Required

Contact Neighbourhood Officers and Ward Officers re: MB  
advertising in Ward Committee Magazine

To inform the Board of the Committee's views on a pilot MB  
scheme and play opportunities in the city.

Add Casual Play Opportunities to next year's workplan and MC  
send Committee Members a list of the recommendations

Cllr Looker, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 6.13 pm].

This page is intentionally left blank



## Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee

13 July 2010

Report of the Director of Adults, Children and Education

## LCCS 2009/10 YEAR END SERVICE PLANNING AND FINANCIAL REPORT

### Purpose of Report

- 1 This report analyses the latest outturn position 2009/10 year end by reference to the service plan, the budget and the performance indicators for all of the services falling under the responsibility of the old Director of Learning, Culture & Children's Services.

### Headlines

- 2 The summarised financial headlines for the year are:
  - Net General Fund overspend of £969k
  - Net Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) overspend of £136k
- 3 The summarised performance headlines for this period are:
  - This report represents the current known position for all Performance Indicators (PIs) with available results as at year-end 2009/10. 49% of National PIs (with data available) are improving, with 35% on target. 54% of the LAA indicators (with data available) are improving and 31% ( 4 of 13) to hit their 2009/10 target.
  - Corporate Health – All Staff sickness levels for LCCS (inc schools) outturned at just below last years levels reducing to 7.7 days per fte lost in 2009/10 compared to 7.8 days per fte, and therefore hitting this year's target.
  - Corporate Strategy – 13 of the 15 milestone actions (87%) were completed within timescale, whilst two (13%) are reporting slippage, actions are in place to ensure completion in the near future.

### Financial Performance

- 4 Table 1 below summarises the draft financial outturn for the directorate showing the individual figures for each service plan area and analysing the impact on both the General Fund and the DSG accounts. Further detail on the more significant variations is then provided in the following paragraphs, including a separation in to individual Executive Member Portfolios.

**Table 1: LCCS Draft Financial Outturn 2009/10**

Service Plan	2009/10 Current Approved Budget			Variation From Approved Net Budget			
	Expenditure £000	Income £000	Net Budget £000	General Fund £000	DSG £000	Total £000	%
Children & Families	18,085	2,444	15,641	+1,621	+217	<b>+1,838</b>	+11.8%
Lifelong Learning and Culture	18,955	6,845	12,110	+315	-	<b>+315</b>	+2.6%
Partnerships and Early Intervention	14,178	7,389	6,789	-299	-	<b>-299</b>	-4.4%
Resource Management	13,947	5,034	8,913	+329	-	<b>+329</b>	+3.7%
School Improvement and Staff Development	10,273	5,157	5,116	-2	+232	<b>+230</b>	+4.5%
School Funding and Contracts	133,400	20,470	112,930	+6	-2	<b>+4</b>	0.0%
Dedicated Schools Grant	-	88,191	-88,191	-	-	-	0.0%
<b>Directorate Total</b>	<b>208,838</b>	<b>135,529</b>	<b>73,310</b>	<b>+1,970</b>	<b>+447</b>	<b>+2,417</b>	<b>+3.3%</b>
Savings Round 1 – Directorate Initiated				-436	-144	-580	
Savings Round 2 – Corporate Targets				-465	-167	-632	
Schools Forum Contribution to SEN Transport				-100		-100	
<b>Net Outturn</b>	<b>208,838</b>	<b>135,529</b>	<b>73,310</b>	<b>+969</b>	<b>+136</b>	<b>+1,105</b>	<b>+1.5%</b>

'+' indicates an increase in expenditure or a reduction in income

'-' indicates a reduction in expenditure or an increase in income

#### Children & Young People's Services Portfolio

- 5 Children & Young People's Services is reporting a General Fund overspend of £1,843k which is made up of several significant cost pressures across the service. There are numerous overspends across the statutory children's social care budgets totalling £1,628k (14.2% of the total CSC budget). The vast majority of this is due to the continuing increase in the Looked After Children (LAC) population, up from 166 at March 2008 to 199 at March 2009 and 225 in March 2010, an increase of 35% with no accompanying increase the budget. The directorate has managed to contain the financial increase at a much lower level than the percentage increase in LAC by, in part, continuing the expansion of the local fostering programme and thereby reducing the proportion of LAC placed in more expensive out of city placements.
- 6 Home to School Transport budgets have overspent by £341k due to increased SEN taxi costs, more LAC (as above), more appeals granted by Members and lower than anticipated savings resulting from the NKA transport review.
- 7 It was reported at quarter 3 that there were net additional costs, estimated at £322k in 2009/10, across all LCCS services following the implementation of the new pay and grading system for Local Government Services (LGS) staff. This is almost entirely due to a significant number of staff now being entitled to additional allowance payments for contracted shift, evening and weekend working which were all contained within basic pay

under the previous pay system. An allocation from corporate contingency of £302k has now been received that reduces the net overspend to £20k.

- 8 Other overspends elsewhere across the directorate include shortfalls in fee income and the clawback of LSC grant due to the underachievement of performance targets in Adult Education (£178k), and the Music Service (£105k). This has been offset by reduced expenditure on the Wider Opportunities Programme (£41k) and an underspend of £311k due to the staffing structures supporting the new Integrated Children's Centres not yet being fully recruited to.

### Leisure & Culture Portfolio

- 9 Leisure & Culture is reporting a £127k overspend. The Library Service has experienced a £116k shortfall in income and additional costs totalling £46k on publicity, IT hardware and licences, but offset by reduced rates and staffing costs totalling £108k. Sport & Active Leisure are reporting a net £47k overspend, linked in part to shortfalls in income at Edmund Wilson Swimming Pool and increased energy costs due to higher prices for steam and increased electricity usage at Yearsley Swimming Pool, offset by reduced expenditure at the new Energise Pool.

### Dedicated Schools Grant

- 10 In the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) area there is an overspend of £447k against a budget of £88,191k. Major variations include; Out of City SEN Placements (+£317k), and the Behaviour Support Service (+£232k). These are offset by increased Inter Authority SEN Recoupment Income (-£80k).
- 11 Due to the nature of the DSG, any underspend must be carried forward and added to the following year's funding with overspends either being funded from the general fund or reducing the following year's funding allocation. Following the convention used in previous years, the £447k overspend would reduce the level of DSG funding available in 2010/11.

### Directorate Savings Options

- 12 One of the key actions that was proposed by LCCS as a response to the in year pressures in the Directorate was to undertake a review of the Children's Social Care budgets, to determine how resources were being deployed. Work on this has focused on the number of Looked After Children (LAC) in the authority and how these numbers have moved over the last three years, compared to the budget and actual expenditure. The results of this work have already been reported separately and have served to highlight that, although the number of Looked After Children has risen significantly since 2006, the budget has not been increased in response to this rise. It also shows that the unit cost per child of supporting these children has not increased over this period, and in real terms has probably decreased.
- 13 At previous monitors LCCS budgets were projected to overspend by significant sums (a total of £2,691k at quarter 2). In response to this position the directorate took early action to identify one-off in year savings for 2009/10. Early in the year all Service Managers were required to identify savings totalling 2% of their budgets. In addition a further savings round was instigated at the time of the second quarter's monitoring report. These actions have produced budget savings totalling £1,212k as shown in table 2 below.

**Table 2: LCCS 2009/10 In Year Savings**

	GF	DSG	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Staffing savings & vacancy management measures	169	8	<b>177</b>
Reprioritisation of grant funding & expenditure	347	194	<b>541</b>
Targeted increases in income from traded services	28	40	<b>68</b>
Reduced R&M work in the city's parks & open spaces	28		<b>28</b>
Reduction in Library Bookstock Expenditure	23		<b>23</b>
Other cuts in miscellaneous expenditure budgets	306	69	<b>375</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>1,212</b>

14 LCCS has also gained agreement from the Schools Forum to fund a further £100k of SEN Transport costs from the Schools Budget. The result of all this action is to reduce the net outturn overspend for LCCS down to £1,105k. (£969k GF & £136 DSG).

### Performance exceptions

15 Due to the high number of PIs LCCS are responsible for (over 150), attention is only drawn to the following indicators shown below which are reporting significant performance issues i.e. good improvement, or falling short of their target, whilst a number of these have been reported in previous monitoring reports, they have been shown again to give a full picture of the year's performance in totality.

### LAA PIs

- NPI 8 % of adult participation in sport (16+) 30 mins 3 times a week or more results show an improvement from 08/09 to 22.9%, whilst its difficult to show conclusive trends from this data and the figure remains low we are encouraged that longitudinal work on physical activity has shown a gradual rise in this years data although this year's target of 27.9% wasn't met.
- NPI 19: Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders aged 10 to 17. This currently stands at 0.90 for quarter 3 (compared to 1.63 reported in 2008-09). Other similar youth offending indicators show reductions in the seriousness and frequency of re-offending by around 35-40% of the cohort that is dealt with by York's Youth Offending Team (YOT). Historically York is usually very high compared with the statistical family and regional authorities, particularly for the majority of young people that are not YOT supervised. The 2008 and 2009 cohort trend looks good but 2010 cohort has a higher risk profile (e.g. there is more risk of re-offending). However, evidence suggests that re-offending by the few most prolific offenders has halved recently in York. Whilst year-end results will not be available until July 2010, current performance is a clear indicator that the target of 1.74 will be met.
- NPI 54 (Local LAA) Services for disabled children survey result for 09/10 has just been released and whilst its slightly down on last years result (top achieving LA with 64%) and just below the target of 66%, its still a very creditable result of 63%, especially when parents were only surveyed of a few months ago when we took part in the pilot. Increase in short breaks next year may positively affect results.



- NPI 55 & 56: Obesity in reception year and year 6 children (LAA indicator). The number of York's reception year children who are obese shows an 18% improvement from last year, with 6.67% reported in 2009-10 compared to 8.16% in 2008-09 (below the 2009-10 target of 8.5%). The rise in the number of obese year 6 children (NPI 56) has halted in 2009-10; with a 0.1% rise (now 16.7%) compared to the 1% rise, which took place between 2007-08 and 2008-09. This is however, still well short of the 2009-10 LAA target of 15.4%, but is encouraging given the national upward trend.
- NPI 57 (Local LAA) % of children and young people (aged 5-16) participating in at least 2 hours of high quality PE in school 08/09 academic year results have increased further from 84% in 07/08 to 87%, well above the target of 85% set for this year, that said it needs to be recognised that further improvement in future years may be limited due to curriculum constraints at a number of schools.
- NPI 81 Gap between pupils eligible for FSM attaining level 3 at age 19 to those who are not eligible, has shown a greater difference to last year, rising to a provisional 32%, to bring this down to national levels, 9 more learners eligible to FSM would have to achieve L3
- NPI 111 (Local LAA) Noticeable quarter 4 improvement due to introduction of Youth Restorative Disposal, numbers of first time entrants stand at 1559, well below the target of 2040 for 2009/10. It is hoped that future years performance will also be impacted by the Capable Guardian scheme (see corporate strategy update below).
- NPI 112 – Teenage Pregnancy: Encouragingly latest data shows a significant decrease in 2008 to a rate of 34 per thousand females aged 15-17. This is the same rate as the baseline year (1998) but indicates a 0.1% rate rise due to rebased population data. There are 28 fewer conceptions than 2007 (rate 42.4) that is a 25% reduction. Whilst there is still a long way to go to meet the aspirational 50% reduction by 2010, there is confidence within the service that the current strategy will maintain future improvements in rate reductions.
- NPI 116: The proportion of York's children who are living in poverty (LAA indicator). This indicator measures the difference between York's results and that recorded for the England average. Whilst the method of measuring this target has now been nationally changed we should not lose the fact that strong progress is being made and the gap between children living in poverty in York and the national figure has widened. This has led to a more stretching LAA target being set. A new local strategy in line with now statutory expectations is under development.
- NPI 117: NEET. November 09 to January 10 measured at 4.3%, a commendable performance given the economic conditions. This rate is broadly in line with last year's performance, and is the lowest NEET in the whole of the North of England. Nationally only 14 LA areas have lower levels of NEET including Harrow and Surrey (national average 6.4%). The September Guarantee target was met. 90% of young people leaving yr11 continuing in post 16 education due to a lack of employment and apprenticeship training options. Still high demand for pre level 2 training. Specialist accredited provision put on in partnership with York College has increased the numbers entering pre level 2 programmes.
- NPI 110 and 115: Young peoples participation in positive activities, and % of young people who admit to frequent misuse of drugs or alcohol. Results for these two PIs are sourced from results of a pupil survey carried out by NFER called TellUs, and whilst NPI 110 shows a poor performance against this year's target, NPI 115's target was

achieved. But drawing out any definite conclusions is very difficult. Year on year performance comparison is not possible as the 08/09 actual is not the York result but our statistical neighbours (SN) average result. The SN result was used as York had a low school participation rate to the survey and a figure for York could not be calculated. It is also worth noting that our 09/10 target was based on the SN 08/09 result which has now been re-calculated by NFER, as a result, it's not appropriate to compare the 09/10 target with the 09/10 actual. In addition, the 09/10 actual could be argued that this may not be a true reflection of the York picture as the figure has been skewed by the low number of secondary schools that took part in the survey.

- CYP8.10 (Local LAA): The proportion of pupils living in the 30% most deprived areas of the country gaining 5+A\*-C (inc E and M) at GCSE, rose a significant 7 percentage points, rising to an impressive 35% this year with exceptional performance in Burnholme and York High.

### Other PIs

- 16 It should be noted at the time of writing this report all social care PIs relating to children are still undergoing validations in respect of DfE statutory returns, and as such are liable to change, as such the respective comments are only early indications of outcomes.
- 17 In general it must be pointed out that in many of the social care PIs small cohorts can and do distort our results, and whilst we will do not achieve this years targets in some PIs, this has been especially the case this year with large sibling groups distorting the outturns significantly. NI64 % of child protection plans lasting 2 years or more (6.3% against a target of 2.5%) had 8 cases - of which 7 were in siblings groups - is still showing good progress in sustaining and ensuring targeted child protection plans and no drift in securing appropriate outcomes. As reported in the first quarter performance report, NI 65 % of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time performed well below the target of 7.5% at 26% (distorted by 2 sibling groups of 3 and 2 of 4 this year), an audit of decision making on the specific cases in this cohort reveals good practice in ensuring children protected appropriately.
- 18 PIs, which measure review rates and referrals rates, have been affected by the high LAC and CPP numbers of referral rates (NI 66 and 67), the combination of the highest ever recorded numbers and absence of backfill arrangements this year to cover IRO sickness has led to a drop in performance, these issues have been addressed and it is hoped that performance will be improved in the future. That said it would appear in the case of NI 68 % of referrals to children's social care services going on to initial assessment is showing significant improvement from Qrt2's result of 43.5% to just below the target of 68% at 67.3% due to short term resource solutions and the improvements via the integrated 'Front Door' arrangements in 10/11.
- 19 Impressive results have been achieved in getting LAC into schools, where only 8 children of eligible children (109) missed 25+ days of school (7.3%), a significant improvement from 2 years back when we recorded 21.1%.
- 20 Also significant improvement has been shown for the percentage of pupils progressing 2 levels in Maths between KS1 and KS2, improving to 84% from the 80.7% recorded last year.
- 21 On the **narrowing the gap** agenda the picture is mixed:

The educational performance of **looked after children** (LAC) at KS2 is good although cohort small – the outcomes achieved at KS4 are more mixed but again of the 12 eligible

it should be noted that 5 of the cohort have SEN, and 7 of this cohort did succeed in achieving a pass at GCSE or equivalent, with 5 actually achieving 5 passes (A to G)

As regards outcomes for children on **free school meals** compared to those who are not (NI 102 a and b). Key Stage 2 shows an increase in the gap due to the poor English results at 35.2% against a target of 26%. KS4 analysis mirrors the previous year, outturning at 34.2% against a target of 27%. Whilst the target was not achieved it is worth noting that the %5+A\*-C inc. English and Maths result for the FSM group has increased from 21.7% in 2008 to 27.9% in 2009 while the result for the non-FSM group has increased from 56% to 62%. In addition when looking at the local indicator CYPL6 % of pupils eligible for FSM achieving 5+ A\*-C at GCSE (or equivalent) inc. E+M at KS4 the target for 09/10 academic year has been exceeded. Result has increased by 6 percentage points from 07/08 academic year result to 27.9%.

The educational outcomes achieved by children from a **minority ethnic** group are also encouraging although clearly care should be taken given size of some cohorts. NI108a seeing 75.8% of the 33 children achieving 5+A-Cs incl English and Maths – performance in advance of overall best ever 60% (top 10 performance nationally)

22 CYPL2 a b and c: PIs that relate to the number of trained practitioners and numbers of contacts of the YorOK child index and production of CAFs – All 3 PIs have hit their targets and in some cases by a significant amount. There is encouraging progress reported in training, a significant rise in the use of child index, rising to 975 from the 399 recorded last year, and completion of Common Assessments as risen by nearly 200% to 198 this year.

23 NPI 156: Number of households with dependent children living in temporary accommodation – another area which represents excellent progress in creating environment from which more positive overall outcomes for children are more likely, dropping from 113 to just 39 this year.

24 NPI 114: % of pupils permanently excluded and local PIs on fixed term exclusions. As a result of working closely with schools and using alternatives there have been only 2 permanent exclusions in any York school. The introduction of the Behaviour and Attendance Partnership has allowed us to significantly reduce the use of permanent exclusions. The partnership is responsible for managing moves between schools for pupils who in the past may have been excluded. These are done with the cooperation and agreement of parents. The review of behaviour support for primary schools has allowed us to prevent any permanent exclusions taking place within the primary sector. Despite the very low permanent exclusions across York secondary schools we have seen an increase in the use of fixed term exclusions in secondary schools (there were also a further 44 exclusions which took place for pupils on the Danesgate Community roll). This increase will be discussed with individual schools and taken to the next meeting of the B & A Partnership to look at strategies to reduce fixed term exclusions.

### **Staff related performance**

25 Whilst it is noted that the sickness stats 7.7fte show a slightly better picture than the same time last year (7.8fte), the high performing school absence rates hide the fact that LCCS (excluding schools) is higher (9%) than the same time last year, at 8.5 days lost per fte compared to 7.8 days lost per fte for 08/09, that said we are still outperforming all but 2 other directorates (Chief Execs, and Resources).

- 26 In general total numbers of Health and Safety incidents are down on last year, with a significant drop in the number in Injuries to Non- Employees during curriculum activities resulting in members of public being taken to hospital reported by Directorate to 9 from 23 recorded last year.
- 27 LCCS's has achieved all the Customer First standards this year, the one standard not achieved last year was answering telephone calls within 20 seconds when we recorded 93.7%, and this improved to 95.4% year.

### **Overview of key projects and actions contained within the Corporate Strategy and CYPP 2009/10**

- 28 Reference should be made to the end of year corporate monitor, 13 of the 15 milestone actions (87%) were completed within timescale, whilst two (13%) are reporting slippage, actions are in place to ensure completion in the near future:
- Develop and hold a Young Peoples Festival by Dec 2009, involving 90% of cultural agencies - The Youth Council has adopted the Festival as one of this main priorities for its first year of office and has been working closely with Carole Pugh (ACE) to deliver the event. There has been a steering and organising committee formed entirely of young people with Carole acting as liaison and facilitator and Liz Topi (CAN) acting as events advisor. The Youth Festival will take place on the 26th and 27th June at Rowntree Park.
  - Capable Guardians to commission at least 50 restorative justice and young people's service interventions by March 2010 with children at risk of becoming first time offenders: - Key staff now in place. Initial scoping suggests YPS already contributing to target in York West but monitoring arrangements not established. Target of 50 not met, around 15-20 schemes set up.
- 29 DMT quarterly meetings monitor progress against the key priorities within the LCCS Directorate Plan, CYPP, and LL&C Plan, the final year end review showed many achievements of which only a few of the highlights are shown below, a small number of initiatives that slipped and couldn't be completed within year have been slipped into the respective 2010/11 service plan if they are still appropriate, it should be noted that these regular DMT performance and financial monitor meetings are well supported by detailed action planning at service manager level should further explanation be needed.

#### **Items worthy of mention in regard to excellent performance recorded this year are:**

- The successful launch of the new Children and Young People's Plan in April 2009
- The latest teenage pregnancy statistics are moving in the right direction, with four successive quarterly falls in the rate. The most recent data shows a welcome 20% reduction to 34 per 1000 15-17 year olds
- We have worked hard in difficult economic circumstances to maintain our NEET figure at 4.2%, one of the lowest in the country;
- Strong progress is being made and the gap between children living in poverty in York and the national figure has widened.
- Establishment of City of York Youth Council and election of a young person (plus deputy) to the UK Youth Parliament;
- Organising the highly successful NEEC 2010 Conference
- December last year saw the successful opening of the new Energise centre with improved fitness centre and York's first new swimming pool in 35 years. The pool has been hugely popular seeing numbers increase from 13,949 at the previous facility in

February 2009 to 16, 117 in February, 2010 at Energise, a 16% increase. Gym membership has doubled.

- Across the city over 17,000 residents have signed up for free swims for the over 60s and the under 16s. The revamped Yearsley has seen an increase in usage from 2008 to 2009 of more than 27,000.
- There has been real success with running of the first 3 MEND programmes. This 10-week programme is intended to help children aged 7-13 whose weight is above the healthy range for their height, to become happier healthier and fitter. Families receive workshops on nutrition, exercise, goal setting and developing self-esteem and confidence. Take up is growing with each programme we run and already receives a higher sign up than similar projects nationally.
- The Playbuilder project, investing around £1 million to develop 22 play areas across the city is progressing well. 6 sites are currently out for consultation with 3 or 4 options for each site. The new play facility at Elvington was the first *Playbuilder* project to be implemented nationally.
- The Learn and Thrive partnership between the Library Service, Adult and Community Education and Aviva to create a wide range of financial capability programmes was short listed for a Local Government Chronicle award in the public, private sector partnership category.
- The October Big Draw programme was submitted for a national prize again this year (we won one in 2005 and got a regional award last year). See what was delivered at: [www.campaignfordrawing.net/special-projects/arts-action-york](http://www.campaignfordrawing.net/special-projects/arts-action-york).
- The overall quality and effectiveness of services for some of the City's most vulnerable children has been externally verified and endorsed through inspection and annual review. Our Fostering and Adoption Services were judged to be 'Good with Outstanding Features' – Our Children's Home (Wenlock Terrace) and Specialist Respite Centre (The Glen) also judged to be 'Good with Outstanding Features'.
- Work to strengthen Referral and Assessment arrangements in preparation for the new first contact 'Front Door' arrangements are in place and working well. Two new customer contact officers have been appointed and inducted to support these arrangements.
- More for York Blueprint to remodel Childrens Services 'first contact' arrangements approved and project board established.
- Our attainment of a green flag in relation to our services to children with learning and or physical disabilities.
- Good progress has been made to ensure there is robust local EBD provision for young people as they enter Key Stage 3. The local authority has commissioned the Country Classroom to provide up to six specialist day placements for young people with Statements for BESD who might otherwise have been in need of expensive residential provision.
- Commissioned and participated in a Research Project with the Universities of Lincoln and York exploring the Culture and Practice of Supervision in York.
- The Community Partnership Project (CPP) is working with other community projects to provide a coherent and targeted approach to disadvantaged families and groups has worked very well in certain areas, engaging parents and members of the community. The CPP has also facilitated closer working between different service areas within the Council. The CPP ethos contributed significantly to the LA Strategic Plan for the World Class Primary Schools programme.
- The secondary schools achieved their best ever results. The proportion achieving 5A\*-C including English and mathematics increased by 6ppts. placing York the 15th highest LA in England.

- There continues to be a focus on leadership across all schools with community leadership emerging as a crucial way forward, particularly in schools with hard to reach families. An external consultant is working with one particular primary and secondary school to “kick-start” stronger community engagement. Again, this work is key to the LA Strategic Plan for the World Class primary Schools programme.
- Additionally, the work on the “Narrowing the Gap” booklet has progressed with the booklet now in draft form. This publication will now be ready by the beginning of the Summer Term 2010 and will be launched with a “speed-dating” forum where colleagues and Headteachers will be able to meet with, albeit briefly, with members of the support services highlighted in the booklet
- The LA response to the LSN Report “Towards Excellence” has been incorporated into the 14-19 Education Plan and is known as “Achieving Excellence”. The four working groups report to Strategy and Resources and the 14-19 Partnership. The LA was very successful with Gateway Four. LSC colleagues moved across to the LA in a very smooth transition for April 1st.
- There continues to be significant development work around Foundation Learning with secondary schools. Successful conferences have been held.
- Working with all schools across the authority, the team ensured all admissions policies are fair and equitable and all timescales around consultation were met. 93% of parents received their first preference secondary and primary school allocation for 2010.
- Coordinated and developed the directorate’s proposals for the 2010/11 budget process.
- Review of Supply Agency completed with proposals for change agreed by Schools Forum for 2010/11
- Progress with the procurement of new city wide managed service connectivity and Broadband contract with Pinacl appointed as preferred supplier.
- IntegrisG2 upgrade rollout has been management successfully with very positive feedback from schools.
- BSF one-school pathfinder (renewal of Joseph Rowntree School) on site, on budget and opened March 2010,
- School Meal Tender issued and procurement completed.

### **Recommendations**

30 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the progress on all of the performance and corporate strategy milestone actions and comment on areas where corrective action is needed to bring things back on track.

Reason: To update the committee on the latest finance and performance position for 2009/10.

**Contact Details**

**Author:**

Richard Hartle  
Head of Finance  
*Tel No. 554225*

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Peter Dwyer  
Director of Learning, Culture and Children's  
Services

Margi Charlson  
Performance Management Officer  
*Tel No. 554224*

**Report  
Approved**

**Date** 2 July 2010

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

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

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

This page is intentionally left blank





---

Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
Report of Director of Adults, Children and Education

13 July 2010

## **Briefing on Post Election Policy Direction for Education & Children's Services – *For Information only***

### **Summary**

1. This paper provides a summary of developing policy direction since the General Election. It is provided to summarise the changing policy landscape which will impact upon the work of individual schools, the wider children's services agenda and the local authority.

### **Background & Context**

2. To assist in understanding changes of policy direction and the compromises that may have been reached in delivering the Coalition publication "Our Programme for Government", the policies of the three main parties prior to the General Election are summarised at Annex 1.

### **Information / Update Provided**

#### **The Coalition Government**

3. Following the General Election on 6 May and the resulting Conservative/Liberal Democrat Coalition, the Ministerial Team for the new Department of Education is:
  - Secretary of State for Education - the Rt Hon Michael Gove (Conservative)
  - Minister of State for Schools - Nick Gibb (Conservative)
  - Minister of State for Children and Families - Sarah Teather (Liberal Democrat)
  - Under Secretary of State for Children and Families - Tim Loughton (Conservative)
4. In an interview in TES on the **28 May** the Secretary of State made it clear that Ms Teather was "unambiguously" his number two in the department. It has also been announced that the team will lead in the following respective areas.
5. Junior children's minister Tim Loughton has assumed responsibility for youth services, safeguarding, social work and children's workforce issues while minister Sarah Teather takes on early years, families and child poverty. It has been confirmed schools minister Nick Gibb, meanwhile, has been handed

responsibility for NEETs, apprenticeships, careers and information, advice and guidance as part of his remit.

6. Jonathan Hill, parliamentary under secretary of state for schools, will cover Academies/'Free' schools/Ofsted inspection of schools/school improvement (including the National Challenge, City Challenge and other improvement policies)/School funding (including the Pupil Premium and BSF)/teachers and workforce issues/teacher supply/quality/Technical Academies.
7. The new Coalition Government moved quickly to produce "Our Programme for Government". This document included within it, the following key and relevant priorities:

### **On Schools**

8. "The Government believes that we need to reform our school system to tackle educational inequality, which has widened in recent years, and to give greater powers to parents and pupils to choose a good school. We want to ensure high standards of discipline in the classroom, robust standards and the highest quality teaching. We also believe that the state should help parents, community groups and others come together to improve the education system by starting new schools."
9. And more specifically:
  - We will promote the reform of schools in order to ensure that new providers can enter the state school system in response to parental demand; that all schools have greater freedom over the curriculum; and that all schools are held properly to account.
  - We will fund a significant premium for disadvantaged pupils from outside the schools budget by reductions in spending elsewhere.
  - We will give parents, teachers, charities and local communities the chance to set up new schools, as part of our plans to allow new providers to enter the state school system in response to parental demand.
  - We will support Teach First, create Teach Now to build on the Graduate Teacher Programme, and seek other ways to improve the quality of the teaching profession.
  - We will reform the existing rigid national pay and conditions rules to give schools greater freedoms to pay good teachers more and deal with poor performance.
  - We will help schools tackle bullying in schools, especially homophobic bullying.
  - We will simplify the regulation of standards in education and target inspection on areas of failure.
  - We will give anonymity to teachers accused by pupils and take other measures to protect against false accusations.
  - We will seek to attract more top science and maths graduates to be teachers.

- We will publish performance data on educational providers, as well as past exam papers.
- We will create more flexibility in the exams systems so that state schools can offer qualifications like the IGCSE.
- We will reform league tables so that schools are able to focus on, and demonstrate, the progress of children of all abilities.
- We will give heads and teachers the powers they need to ensure discipline in the classroom and promote good behaviour.
- We believe the most vulnerable children deserve the very highest quality of care. We will improve diagnostic assessment for schoolchildren, prevent the unnecessary closure of special schools, and remove the bias towards inclusion.
- We will improve the quality of vocational education, including increasing flexibility for 14–19 year olds and creating new Technical Academies as part of our plans to diversify schools provision.
- We will keep external assessment, but will review how Key Stage 2 tests operate in future.
- We will ensure that all new Academies follow an inclusive admissions policy.
- We will work with faith groups to enable more faith schools and facilitate inclusive admissions policies in as many of these schools as possible.

#### **On Families and Children**

10. “The Government believes that strong and stable families of all kinds are the bedrock of a strong and stable society. That is why we need to make our society more family friendly, and to take action to protect children from excessive commercialisation and premature sexualisation.”
11. And more specifically:
  - We will maintain the goal of ending child poverty in the UK by 2020.
  - We will reform the administration of tax credits to reduce fraud and overpayments.
  - We will bring forward plans to reduce the couple penalty in the tax credit system as we make savings from our welfare reform plans.
  - We support the provision of free nursery care for pre-school children, and we want that support to be provided by a diverse range of providers, with a greater gender balance in the early years workforce.
  - We will take Sure Start back to its original purpose of early intervention, increase its focus on the neediest families, and better involve organisations with a track record of supporting families. We will investigate ways of ensuring that providers are paid in part by the results they achieve.

- We will refocus funding from Sure Start peripatetic outreach services, and from the Department of Health budget, to pay for 4,200 extra Sure Start health visitors.
- We will investigate a new approach to helping families with multiple problems. We will publish serious case reviews, with identifying details removed.
- We will review the criminal records and vetting and barring regime and scale it back to common sense levels.
- We will crack down on irresponsible advertising and marketing, especially to children. We will also take steps to tackle the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood.
- We will encourage shared parenting from the earliest stages of pregnancy – including the promotion of a system of flexible parental leave.
- We will put funding for relationship support on a stable, long-term footing, and make sure that couples are given greater encouragement to use existing relationship support.
- We will conduct a comprehensive review of family law in order to increase the use of mediation when couples do break up, and to look at how best to provide greater access rights to non-resident parents and grandparents.

[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/409088/pfg\\_coalition.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/409088/pfg_coalition.pdf)

12. In comparison to Annex 1, Conservative positions on abolishing statutory requirements on children's trusts and children and young people's plans and Liberal Democrats policy on reducing the voting age, increases to paternity leave and making youth services a statutory responsibility, appear to be missing.
13. It was always clear that any new government was going to be operating in challenging financial circumstances. In that context the Coalition Government also made early statements about funding, announcing on the 24 May 2010 measures to make £6.2 billion of savings. Included here were important statements that schools, sure start and spending on education for 16-19 year olds would be protected from these in year savings. However it did include:
  - £320m saving from reducing and then stopping, government contributions to Child Trust Funds
  - £10m saving from closing BECTA
  - £16m from the budget of National College for Leadership of School and Children's Services
  - £15m from the Children's Workforce Development Council
  - Training and Development Agency for Schools is to make £30m savings
  - £1m from the School Food Trust communications budget

- £600m from cutting the cost of various Quangos
  - £1.165b savings to be made in savings by reduced grants to Local Government
14. Much of the detail behind these announcements was unclear. More recently we have also seen announcements to scrap ContactPoint and to axe the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (a body tasked with delivering developing and assessing the national curriculum and monitor the Early Years Foundation Stage). These announcements are, of course, merely a prelude to difficult financial announcements to follow in the Government's first budget.
15. In the Queen's Speech on the 25 May 2010 the following relevant Bills were announced  
[www.number10.gov.uk/news/topstorynews/2010/05/queens-speech-2010-3-50297](http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/topstorynews/2010/05/queens-speech-2010-3-50297)

#### **Amongst New Bills – For Immediate Introduction**

16. **Academies Bill** - the Bill has been published and had the first reading in the Lords 26 May, and the second reading is scheduled for 7 June.
17. Relevant provisions in the Bill include:
- Allowing more secondary schools to achieve Academy status and expanding the Academy programme to include primary and special schools for the first time.
  - Pre-approving schools judged outstanding by OFSTED to become academies immediately. Early indicators suggest over 2000 new academies could be created immediately – 500 secondary and 1700 primary.
  - Allowing new providers to run state schools including private companies.
  - Removing local authority control with funding per pupil received from Whitehall.
  - Giving powers to teachers to devise and implement curriculum without local authority intervention.
  - Removing any need for consultation with local authorities and preventing local authorities from vetoing the creation of new schools.
  - Giving the Secretary of State final say over approving the business plan put forward by organisations wishing to set up schools.
  - Providing schools with freedom over curriculum, admissions and pay.

#### **New Bills – To Be Introduced After The Summer Recess included:**

18. **Education and Children's Bill:**
19. Relevant provisions in the Bill include:

- To reform OFSTED and other accountability frameworks to ensure that headteachers are held properly accountable for the core educational goals of attainment and closing the gap between rich and poor.
- To introduce a narrower curriculum allowing teachers to decide how to teach.
- To introduce a year 6 reading test.
- To give teachers and headteachers the powers to devise programmes to control behaviour and tackle bullying.
- Creation of more Academies and giving more freedom to headteachers and teachers over curriculum, admissions, exclusions and pay.
- To introduce a 'pupil premium' to target money at children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- The expectation for a significant number to convert by September 2010.
- An obligation on successful academies to assist weaker schools in the same area.
- Academies would be funded at a comparable level to maintained schools.
- There would be no expansion of selection but grammar schools and other schools which select or partially select pupils will be able to continue to do so.
- The Bill would automatically make all new Academies charities.

NB: The Government is examining the extent to which the 'free schools' can be created without legislative changes, requiring only planning changes. It is likely that the Freedom Bill and Public Bodies (Reform) Bill will also include provisions relevant to education.

20. On the **25 May 2010** the new Secretary of State wrote to every headteacher in England saying he wanted to open up the Academies programme to all schools - including, for the first time, primaries and special schools. He also pledged to make the process of becoming an Academy quicker and less bureaucratic than previously, removing local authority powers to block schools that want to become Academies. Schools that are rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted were to be given opportunity to be fast tracked through the process. By 2 June 2010, 1114 schools had expressed interest, 626 of which had an outstanding judgment, of which 353 secondary. Subject to Parliamentary approval of the Academies Bill, the first tranche of these Academies will open in September 2010.
21. "The Government is genuinely committed to giving schools greater freedoms. We trust teachers and headteachers to run their schools. We think headteachers know how to run their schools better than bureaucrats or politicians. Many school leaders have already shown a keen interest in gaining academy freedoms. They want to use those powers to increase standards for all children and close the gap between the richest and the poorest. Today I am inviting all schools to register their interest. It is right

that they should be able to enjoy Academy freedoms and I hope many will take up this offer." (Michael Gove)

22. The Bill describes how if the Academy is to be a mainstream school (rather than a special school), it must have a broad and balanced curriculum, have a specialism (if secondary education is provided) and provide education for mainly local pupils, of all abilities. Details of the letter to schools describing the opportunities to have the "freedom to spend the money local authorities currently spend on your behalf", the application process and a Q and A section can be found at [www.education.gov.uk/academies](http://www.education.gov.uk/academies).
23. On the same day the letter went to headteachers, the Secretary of State also wrote to all Executive Members for Childrens Services and Council Leaders. A copy of that letter has been circulated to Headteachers locally. It describes how:

"Strong local authorities (LAs) are central to our plans to improve education. The Coalition Government has partnership at its heart and I want to work in partnership with LAs to drive up standards for all children in all schools. I want to help LAs to continue to be powerful champions of education excellence. As we develop our plans for the future, I would like them to have a strong strategic role working with schools to drive up standards, supporting schools who want to work together to share expertise, and promoting the spread of innovation to the benefit of all. I want local authorities to be shaping the vision for their local area and empowered to drive improvement."  
(Michael Gove)
24. As yet the detail of how such a role is delivered in a rapidly changing environment is unclear.
25. On 2 June Gove announced plans to scrap the General Teaching Council for England (GTC) because the organisation "does little to raise teaching standards or professionalism". Gove said he would seek authority from Parliament to abolish the GTC as soon as possible, so that a new system for dealing with complaints about teachers can be introduced.
26. The National Governors Association has developed a Q and A for governors on the new Academies Bill. This is available at [www.nga.org.uk/pol-academies.aspx](http://www.nga.org.uk/pol-academies.aspx). They "strongly recommend as good practice that the governing body carries out a formal consultation process as it would need to do for any other change in a school's status. This is a fundamental change in the designation of the school and will be difficult (if not impossible) to reverse".

### **Summary**

27. The new Coalition is moving swiftly forward with key education and children's services reforms. New legislation is being prioritised within the Parliamentary calendar which will create significant choices for existing schools and introduces opportunities for new providers. The proposals are broadly consistent with the Conservative manifesto with some changes in language

and emphasis. Unsurprisingly it will be the detail on these key policy changes which will be important in assessing likely impact. At the same time we have seen a written statement from the Secretary of State supporting a strong strategic role for the LA. Again how such a role is delivered is not independent of the rest of the change programme. All of these policy developments must also be located within the context of public funding reviews which will increasingly impact upon actual service delivery.

### **Corporate Strategy**

28. Information within this report relates to the Council's ongoing aim to make York a 'Learning City', by ensuring people have access to world-class education and training facilities and provision.

### **Implications**

29. Any implications arising from the issues raised in this information report will be addressed within any associated decision making reports required in the future.

### **Risk Management**

30. Any risks to the Council arising from the issues raised in this information report will be addressed within any associated decision making reports required in the future.

### **Recommendations**

31. This report is for public and Member information only.

Reason: To update Members on the developing policy direction for Education & Children Services since the General Election.

### **Contact Details**

#### **Author & Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Peter Dwyer  
Director of Adults, Children  
and Education  
Tel No.01904 554200

**Report Approved**

**Date**

17 June 2010

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** None

**Annexes:** Annex 1



Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Give parents the power to save local schools</b> threatened by closure, allowing communities the chance to take over and run good small schools.</li> <li>■ Establish <b>Technical Academies</b> across England, starting in at least twelve cities which will be focussed on vocational and technical education.</li> <li>■ Introduce the <b>National Citizen Service</b>. The initial flagship project will provide a programme for 16 year olds to give them a chance to develop the skills needed to be active and responsible citizens, mix with people from different backgrounds, and start getting involved in their communities. Take Sure Start back to its original purpose of early intervention, increase its focus on the neediest families, and better involve organisations with a track record in supporting families.</li> <li>■ Bring all funding for <b>early intervention and parenting support into one budget</b>, to be overseen by a single, newly-created Early Years Support Team.</li> <li>□ A ‘community right to buy’ scheme will give local people the power to protect any community assets that are threatened with closure.</li> <li>□ Give people a ‘right to bid’ to run any community service instead of the state.</li> <li>□ Give local councils a ‘general power of competence’, so that they have explicit authority to do what is necessary to improve their communities.</li> <li>□ End ring-fencing so that funding can be spent on local priorities.</li> <li>□ End the bureaucratic inspection regime that stops councils focusing on residents’ main concerns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Spending increased</b> on frontline Sure Start and free childcare, schools and 16-19 learning.</li> <li>■ A choice of good schools in every area – and, where parents are not satisfied – the <b>power to bring in new school leadership teams</b>, through mergers and takeovers, with up to 1,000 secondary schools part of an accredited schools group by 2015.</li> <li>■ <b>Every young person guaranteed education or training until 18</b>, with 75 per cent going on to higher education, or completing an advanced apprenticeship or technician level training, by the age of 30.</li> <li>■ <b>Pioneer mutual federations</b> running groups of local Children’s Centres in the community interest.</li> <li>■ <b>New cooperative trust schools</b> where parents, teachers and the local community come together to help govern their local school.</li> <li>■ Introduce a <b>local pupil premium</b> to guarantee that extra funding to take account of deprivation follows the pupil. Barriers to social mobility will be tackled by giving disadvantaged families free access to broadband to support their child’s learning.</li> <li>■ <b>Extending the provision of free school meals</b> so that an additional half a million primary school children in families on low incomes will benefit from healthy and nutritious food, and trialing free school meals for all primary school children in pilot areas test the case for universal free school meals.</li> <li>■ <b>Vetting and Barring system</b> will protect children without being unduly burdensome or interfering in private family arrangements. Social work training will be radically overhauled, and we will establish a National College of Social Work.</li> <li>■ <b>Publish detailed Serious Case Review summaries</b> that explain the facts, but keep full reports out of the public domain in order to protect children’s identities.</li> <li>□ Ring-fenced budgets, central targets and indicators will be cut back.</li> <li>□ Petitioning powers for local residents to demand action, and extending neighbourhood agreements where citizens set out the standards of services they expect locally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Local authorities will not run schools, but will have a <b>central strategic role</b>, including responsibility for oversight of school performance and fair admissions. They will be expected to intervene where school leadership or performance is weak.</li> <li>■ Ensure a level playing field for admissions and funding and <b>replace Academies with ‘Sponsor-Managed Schools’</b>. These schools will be commissioned by and accountable to local authorities, and would allow other appropriate providers, such as educational charities and parent groups, to be involved in delivering state-funded education.</li> <li>■ Setting aside extra money for schools who want to <b>improve the energy efficiency of their buildings</b>. They will pay back the loan over time from energy savings, creating a rolling fund help insulate every public building.</li> <li>■ Guarantee <b>Special Educational Needs (SEN) diagnostic assessments</b> for all five-year-olds improve SEN provision and improve SEN training for teachers.</li> <li>■ Establish a <b>fully independent Educational Standards Authority (ESA)</b> with real powers to stand up to ministers and restore confidence in standards. The ESA would oversee the examinations system, the systems of school inspection and accountability, and the detail of the curriculum. It would replace the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency and the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (OFQUAL), and include OFSTED, the schools inspectorate.</li> <li>□ Axe the National Curriculum, and replace it with a slimmed down <b>‘Minimum Curriculum Entitlement’</b></li> </ul>

## Conservative Manifesto

- We will give all head teachers the power to pay good teachers more.
- We will expand Teach First and introduce two new programmes – Teach Now, for people looking to change career, and Troops to Teachers, for ex-service personnel – to get experienced, high-quality people into the profession.
- We will make it easier for teachers to deal with violent incidents and remove disruptive pupils or items from the classroom. We believe heads are best placed to improve behaviour, which is why we will stop them being overruled by bureaucrats on exclusions.
- To raise the status of teaching and toughen school discipline further, we will:
  - raise the entry requirement for taxpayer funded primary school teacher training;
  - expect new graduates to have at least a 2:2 in their degree in order to qualify for state-funded training;
  - pay the student loan repayments for top Maths and Science graduates for as long as they remain teachers, by redirecting some of the current teacher training budget;
  - give teachers the strongest possible protection from false accusations;
  - reinforce powers of discipline by strengthening home-school behaviour contracts.
- Every child who is capable of reading should be doing so after two years in primary school. To make this happen, we will promote the teaching of systematic synthetic phonics and ensure that teachers are properly trained to teach using this method. To provide parents with the reassurance they need that their child is making progress, we will establish a simple reading test at the age of six.
- We will reform the National Curriculum so that it is more challenging and based on evidence about what knowledge can be mastered by children at different ages. We will ensure that the primary curriculum is organised around subjects like Maths, Science and History. We will encourage setting so those who are struggling get extra help and the most able are stretched.
- We will ensure that our exam system is measured against the most rigorous systems in the world. We will keep Key Stage 2 tests and league tables. We will reform them to make them more rigorous. We will make other exams more robust by giving universities and academics more say over their form and content. We want to develop proper vocational and technical education that engages young people and meets the needs of modern business. So we will establish Technical Academies across England, starting in at least twelve cities.
- People expect to be able to make choices about the services they use, based on robust information about the quality on offer. So a Conservative government will reform school league tables so that schools can demonstrate they are stretching the most able and raising the attainment of the less able.
- To improve school standards further, we will:
  - allow all state schools the freedom to offer the same high quality international exams that private schools offer – including giving every pupil the chance to study separate sciences at GCSE;
  - create 20,000 additional young apprenticeships;
  - allow schools and colleges to offer workplace training;
  - publish all performance data currently kept secret by the Department for Children, Schools and Families; and,
  - establish a free online database of exam papers and marking schemes.
- Drawing on the experience of the Swedish school reforms and the charter school movement in the United States, we will break down barriers to entry so that any good education provider can set up a new Academy school. Our schools revolution will create a new generation of good small schools with smaller class sizes and high standards of discipline.
- Our school reform programme is a major part of our anti-poverty strategy, which is why our first task will be to establish new Academy schools in the most deprived areas of the country. They will be beacons of excellence in areas where school standards are unacceptably low.
- We want every child to benefit from our reforms. So all existing schools will have the chance to achieve Academy status, with 'outstanding' schools pre-approved, and we will extend the Academy programme to primary schools.
- Education's real power lies in its ability to transform life chances, but we can't go on giving the poorest children the worst education. That is why we will introduce a pupil premium – extra funding for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- The most vulnerable children deserve the very highest quality of care, so we will call a moratorium on the ideologically-driven closure of special schools. We will end the bias towards the inclusion of children with special needs in mainstream schools.
- People have been far too ready to excuse failure in schools. We will ensure that the schools inspectorate Ofsted adopts a more rigorous and targeted inspection regime, reporting on performance only in the core areas related to teaching and learning. And any school that is in special measures for more than a year will be taken over immediately by a successful Academy provider. To give parents better access to a good school, we will:
  - give parents the power to save local schools threatened by closure, allowing communities the chance to take over and run good small schools;
  - make sure Academies have the freedoms that helped to make them so successful in the first place;

- ensure failing schools are inspected more often – with the best schools visited less frequently.

## Labour Manifesto

- Frontline spending on Sure Start, childcare, schools and 16-19 learning will be increased, safeguarding our priorities such as an additional 41,000 teachers and 120,000 teaching assistants. But funding will not rise as fast as in recent years, making tough choices necessary to focus resources on the front line, with £950m saved through collaboration and efficiency in back office functions and procurement and £500m from quangos and central budgets.
- The range and reach of innovative school providers will increase, spreading excellence to all schools. We will strive to get the best people into teaching and give parents new rights to secure good schooling for their children. Participation in post-school learning will expand, with more and better apprenticeships, improved vocational education, and wider access to higher education.
- Every parent wants their child to attend an excellent school – with the best possible teaching and facilities. So for pupils and parents we will set out in law guarantees of the excellent education and personal support they can expect.
- No school can be better than the quality of its teachers. We have the best generation of teachers ever, supported by teaching assistants and the wider workforce. But we must continue to get the very best people into teaching, from the most committed graduates to the highest calibre career switchers. Teach First will be extended to attract more of the best graduates into teaching, including teaching in primary schools.
- We have invested heavily in the professionalism and expertise of the workforce, and will build on this success with a new right for every teacher to continuous professional development; in return they will have to demonstrate high standards of teaching to maintain their licence to practise. We will promote new Teacher Training Academies and £10,000 ‘golden handcuffs’ to attract the best teachers into the most challenging schools.
- While the number of lowperforming schools has decreased dramatically, we cannot tolerate any coasting or persistently poor schools. Over the last decade, we have developed a cadre of world-class head teachers, radically opened up our school system to new providers, and worked with local authorities and school governing bodies to drive up standards.
- Our task now is to devolve more power and responsibility to strong school leaders and to spread excellence, with up to 1,000 schools, through mergers and take-overs, part of an accredited school group by 2015 – a new generation of not-for-profit chains of schools with a proven track record. These will include excellent school leaders from the maintained sector, universities, colleges, faith schools, academy chains and independent schools.
- We now have 200 academies and over 50 National Challenge Trusts, with another 200 academies in the pipeline. And we are pioneering new cooperative trust schools where parents, teachers and the local community come together to help govern their local school.
- Where parents are dissatisfied with the choice of secondary schools in an area, local authorities will be required to act, securing take-overs of poor schools, the expansion of good schools, or in some cases, entirely new provision. Where parents at an individual school want change, they will be able to trigger a ballot on whether to bring in a new leadership team from a proven and trusted accredited provider.
- School Report Cards will give every parent clear information on standards, levels of parental satisfaction and behaviour and bullying. They will provide information on the progress being made by all pupils, not just by some. We will consult on giving every school an overall grade for its performance.
- We reject a return to the 11-plus or a free-for-all admission system. Our commitment to fair admissions is essential to liberating the potential of every child. Ensuring all pupils make progress also requires a fair funding system, so we will introduce a local pupil premium to guarantee that extra funding to take account of deprivation follows the pupil. Barriers to social mobility will be tackled by giving disadvantaged families free access to broadband to support their child’s learning. All parents will be guaranteed online information about their child’s progress and behaviour.
- We have high expectations for children with special educational needs and schools will be held to account for how well they meet the needs of these pupils. We are expanding the number of specialist dyslexia teachers and improving teacher training for children with autism. The statementing process will be improved to give more support to parents, and the supply of teachers with the specialist skills needed to teach pupils with severe learning disabilities in special schools will be increased.
- Our primary curriculum reforms will create more flexibility for teachers to offer a broad, challenging and engaging education, with opportunities to play sport, and to take part in arts, culture and music, including the chance to learn a musical instrument. As part of these reforms, all primary schools will teach a modern foreign language. We will create a specialist Mandarin teacher training qualification, so that many more primary schools have access to a qualified primary teacher able to teach Mandarin.
- Parents will be given a ‘3Rs Guarantee’ that every pupil who falls behind at primary school and early in secondary school will receive special one-to-one or small-group catch-up provision. This will include up to 40,000 six and seven year olds benefiting from extra tuition in English and Maths through ‘Every Child a Reader’ and ‘Every Child Counts’, and 300,000 receiving ten hours of one-to-one tuition in both English and Maths when they are older.
- For primary-age children, we are guaranteeing childcare and constructive activities from 8am until 6pm in term-time at their own or a neighbouring school; this entitlement will particularly help busy working parents juggle work and family life. We are extending the provision of free school meals so that an additional half a million primary school children in families on low incomes will benefit from healthy and nutritious food, and we are trialing free school meals for all primary school children in pilot areas across the country. Together, these schemes will thoroughly test the case for universal free school meals, with the results available by autumn 2011.

- All secondary school pupils will have a Personal Tutor of Studies, and we will work with schools to extend one-to-one or small-group tuition to pupils in the run-up to their GCSEs. Such an education should no longer be the preserve of the wealthiest few, but a central part of the curriculum.
- More young people will be able to study single science subjects and modern foreign languages. Diplomas will strengthen the status and quality of vocational study and bring together academic and vocational programmes. And the Gifted and Talented programme will be reformed and improved, guaranteeing additional personalised support. We will review the qualifications system in 2013, with any changes taking place in the Parliament after next. Meanwhile, the new independent exam regulator will ensure that standards are being maintained.
- Because the learning environment itself matters, we will take forward our Building Schools for the Future programme to rebuild or refurbish secondary schools, giving our children first-rate facilities that support inspirational teaching and access to ICT, sports and the arts.
- Teachers have strong new powers to ensure order and discipline and we will support their use. Home School Agreements will be strengthened, making clear the responsibilities of families and pupils. Every parent will agree to adhere to the school's behaviour rules, signing contracts each year facing real consequences if they fail to live up to them, including the option of a court-imposed parenting order. Safer School Partnerships will be extended to every school where the head or parents demand it.
- Alternative education for excluded pupils will be transformed. New providers will be encouraged to take over existing Pupil Referral Units, pioneering approaches that bring order and discipline back to young people's lives. More will be invested in anti-bullying interventions including tackling homophobic bullying.
- Cadet forces will move increasingly into state schools and we will expand spare time activities for young people, doubling those available – including sport – on Friday and Saturday nights, with neighbourhood police teams closely involved in areas where youth crime is highest. Teacher training institutions will be asked to provide specialist courses for teachers in promoting pupils' resilience and responsibility.
- We are determined to narrow the gap between these children and their peers, and to continue to invest in specialist services, including short breaks for disabled children. Learning from the best systems around the world, we will improve foster and residential care. We will expand specialised foster care for the most vulnerable children and the Care2Work programme for all care leavers.
- Through Children's Trusts, children and youth services will work closely with schools and colleges, increasingly co-locating wider children's services with schools. Early intervention programmes with a proven impact will be promoted. We will continue to reduce teenage pregnancy rates, with compulsory, high-quality Sex and Relationship Education.
- Ensuring all children are safe from abuse and harm will remain a top priority. The new Vetting and Barring system will protect children without being unduly burdensome or interfering in private family arrangements. Social work training will be radically overhauled, raising the status and standards of the profession, and we will establish a National College of Social Work. We will publish detailed Serious Case Review summaries that explain the facts, but keep full reports out of the public domain in order to protect children's identities.
- We are committed to an historic change: raising the education and training leaving age to 18. All young people will stay on in learning until 18, Education Maintenance Allowances will be retained and there will be an entitlement to an apprenticeship place in 2013 for all suitably qualified 16-18 year olds.
- Further education colleges are the backbone of our post-school education system and they are leading the way with new Diplomas, working with schools. We will introduce greater freedom for all colleges to respond to local community needs and free them up from red tape. Students will be given clearer information on the quality of courses on offer, with a 'traffic-light' grading system for all courses and colleges. To complement vocational learning for 14-19 year olds in schools and colleges, we will pioneer University Technical Colleges and new Studio Schools that offer innovative curricula involving practical learning and paid work.
- Advanced apprenticeships will be radically expanded, creating up to 70,000 places a year. These provide well-respected routes into high-skilled careers and further study at university and will support our ambition that three-quarters of young people enter higher education or complete an advanced apprenticeship or equivalent technician-level qualification by the time they are 30. New apprenticeship scholarships will enable the best apprentices to go on to higher education.
- We will open up opportunity for people from families on low incomes to enter professions like the media and law, expanding paid internships for students. To increase social mobility, careers advice for young people, including for younger children, will be overhauled, ensuring much better information and guidance.

## Liberal Democrat Manifesto

- Ensure children get the individual attention they need by **cutting class sizes (Pupil Premium)**. To give every child a fair start in life, the Liberal Democrats will spend an extra £2.5bn on schools, guaranteeing them the money they need to support children who are struggling. It will be **targeted at schools taking on children who need more help** and can be used to cut class sizes and make sure they get the individual support they need. An average primary school could cut classes to 20, with a typical secondary school able to cut classes to just 16 or start a programme of catch-up classes for 160 pupils.
- **Scrap unfair University Tuition Fees**. To get a degree, young people are saddled with thousands of pounds of debt when it is tough enough to get a job, get on the housing ladder and make ends meet. The Liberal Democrats are the only party which believes university education should be free and admissions based on ability not bank balance. We will scrap unfair tuition fees for all students taking their first degrees saving them nearly £10,000 each. We have a financially responsible plan to phase fees out over six years, so that the change is affordable in these difficult economic times. In our first year, we will scrap fees for final year students, so future graduates have their debt slashed by over £3,000.
- Education Freedom Act. Teachers want to get the best from children but they are held back because of constant government interference which stops them from spending time with their pupils. The Liberal Democrats believe that **all schools should be free from meddling politicians to work in creative and interesting ways** to make sure every child gets a fair start in life. We will slim down the curriculum and pass an Education Freedom Act banning politicians from getting involved in the day to day running of schools.
- Introduce a **Pupil Premium to close the performance gap between children from rich and poor families**. £2.5bn extra would be used immediately to bring the funding of the poorest and most educationally disadvantaged 1 million children up to levels in private schools. Within one Parliament extend the Pupil Premium to other disadvantaged pupils, to cover around 2.5 million children in total. Allow schools to spend the Pupil Premium on cutting class sizes, boosting one to one tuition, financial incentives for teachers to work in the most challenging schools, extended school days or after school tuition and holiday support. Provide funding to cut class sizes for children aged 5-7 to private school levels – to around 15 children per class.
- Scrap the 600 page National Curriculum and replace it with a slimmed down **Minimum Curriculum Entitlement**.
- Radically **slim down the system of national testing**, and re-invest the savings in diagnostic assessment and supporting early interventions to help improve pupils' literacy and numeracy.
- Introduce a **General Diploma, to be taken by all pupils, incorporating within it GCSEs, A Levels**, and existing proven vocational qualifications.
- Ensure there are **incentives to stretch all pupils** by replacing the Government's present GCSE target which places too much emphasis on C/D borderline pupils.
- Require the General Teaching Council to develop a **formal programme of continuous professional development** (including a requirement for a Masters qualification) as part of a new system requiring teachers regularly to re-certify their fitness to practice, as in other professions.
- Reform teacher training by increasing learning overseen by established teachers in the classroom.
- **Reform the existing rigid and bureaucratic National Pay and Conditions** rules, to give schools and colleges more freedom, including in offering financial and other incentives to attract teachers – particularly in shortage subjects and in schools with the most challenging catchments, while ensuring all staff receive the minimum national pay award.
- Review the existing funding formula for schools and introduce a **Fair Funding settlement for all institutions**. We would bring funding in all schools up to the level of Specialist Schools.
- **Close the unfair funding gap between pupils in school sixth forms and colleges**, by immediately raising college funding to school levels, paid for by ending the Education Maintenance Allowance bonus payments.
- Take action to ensure that every neighbourhood is served by an excellent local school or college. We would give **Local Authorities a clear strategic responsibility for oversight of school performance, along with appropriate powers of intervention**. We would ensure that all pupils leaving primary and secondary education have the skills they need.
- Extend the freedom to innovate to all schools, while ensuring a level playing field on admissions and funding through a new model of **Sponsor Managed Schools**, which would replace Academies, and which would end Labour's unfair two tier system and **restore strategic Local Authority oversight and commissioning**.
- **Strengthen school governing bodies**, with: incentives for employers to release staff; additional governor training; and remuneration for Chairs of Governors on the same basis as for NHS Trust members.
- Pass an Education Freedom Act, to **devolve power from central government to schools, local authorities and parents**. The central department of Children, Schools and Families' would lose powers to micro-manage education and be more than halved in size.
- Establish an independent Educational Standards Authority (ESA) to restore confidence in standards.
- **Allow parents and pupils to choose schools, and not schools to choose pupils**, by stopping the establishment of new schools which select by ability, aptitude or faith, and by introducing policies to reduce radically all existing forms of selection.
- Require **local authorities to run a truly independent career and course advisory service** for young people
- Introduce a new pupil right to move from school to **college or work-related learning provider at age 14**.

- Scrap the Labour Government's plan to criminalise young people who leave education before age 18, and replace it with a more flexible entitlement for young people to take the additional 2 years of post-16 education when they wish to do so.

#### Liberal Democrats: A New Role for Local Government

- Local Government would have new and more powerful strategic powers to enable councils to deliver their statutory role as strategic commissioners for services to children in their locality. We want local authorities to act as champions of children, parents and families, ensuring that the delivery of education is not dependent only on individual institutions. We would give councils the powers they need to fulfil this role.
- Local Government would be:
  - Strategic commissioners of services for children 0-19, including local education services.
  - Responsible for ensuring there are sufficient 5-19 school and college places and that pupils can access their full curriculum entitlement within the locality.
  - The first tier of accountability for all state funded schools and colleges, including all schools presently within the Academies and Trust Schools programmes. Local Authorities would be enabled to consolidate the School Improvement Partner model in their own arrangements for school support and improvement.
  - Empowered to intervene where state funded schools are failing.
  - Charged with purchasing or providing school support services such as those presently provided through 'National Strategies', where this responsibility cannot be devolved to schools themselves.
  - Co-ordinator of children's social and welfare services, supporting schools and colleges.
  - Charged with strategic oversight of local admissions, to ensure adherence to the Admissions Code.
  - Responsible for ensuring that all pupils have access to independent, objective advice at key change points in their educational career.
  - In control of the principal programme of capital investment to maintain high quality buildings and to provide for new capacity.
  - Responsible for the assessment and, where necessary, commissioning of support for children with higher levels of SEN.
  - Able to top up the funding levels for children from the local authority area, above and beyond the levels fixed by the Pupil Premium.
  - Overseen in its functions by the Audit Commission and OFSTED.
  - Responsible for ensuring compliance by all schools with equality and human rights legislation.

This page is intentionally left blank





---

**Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

13 July 2010

**Casual Play Opportunities Scrutiny Review – Draft Final Report****Background**

1. In coming to a decision to review this topic, the Committee recognised certain key objectives and the following remit was agreed:

**Remit**

To participate in the consultation on the revisions to CYC's Play Policy, and carry out a comparison of the play opportunities for 5-13yr olds, within a number of residential areas/wards (one city centre, one suburban and one village)

**Objectives**

- i. to understand the different types of provision suitable for each type of area
  - ii. to assess the potential space within the identified areas/wards that could be utilised for play
  - iii. to recommend a strategy for the provision of suitable play opportunities within the identified areas
  - iv. To be consulted on the revisions to the Council's play policy and if appropriate, the Local Development Framework (LDF)
2. At a meeting in January 2010, Members agreed to focus their review on St Pauls (central), Fishergate (suburban) and Deighton (village), and to carry out informal visits to those schools to gather the views of parents on the opportunities for casual play in their area.

**Consultation**

3. In April 2010, the Committee held an informal meeting to consult with representatives from Playspace, and to consider the information gathered since their last formal meeting.

**Information Gathered**

4. Members received an information pack before the informal meeting on 13 April 2010, to inform their discussions. The pack contained the following:
  - York Playspace 'Mobile Playspace Report 2009'
  - The results from the TellUs3 and TellUs4 survey

- Feedback from the completed parents questionnaires
5. York Playspace

Representatives from Playspace discussed with Members their delivery of play opportunities for children throughout the city (in both urban and rural areas). Their Summer 2009 report gave details on the mobile and venue-based playschemes they provided during summer 2009, together with information on how these were funded, attendance levels and a summary of the feedback received from parents/carers and children. Many of the locations used by Playspace have been used for 14-15 years. These are well known and well advertised and therefore the take up is always high. Playspace recognise that when introducing a playscheme in a new area, the take up is likely to be poor at first, and that they will need to persevere in order to build a relationship with families in the area based on mutual respect and confidence in the play opportunities they provide. That is why one-off visits to a site are often unsuccessful e.g. Cleveland Street / Danebury Drive.
  6. In regard to Deighton, Playspace confirmed they had previously worked with individuals in the area to identify a suitable space for children to play. The local Hall was deemed to be unusable due to its size and the lack of appropriate toilet facilities, and there is no suitable public outdoor space available. Local Farmers had been approached to ascertain if they were prepared to make available any small piece of land close the village centre but this had proved unsuccessful. Playspace had therefore suggested the village work with another village in the area i.e. Wheldrake, to perhaps pool their resources and provide some space for play that way.
  7. Chill Out Zones (aimed at children aged 8-13) – unlike playschemes, Playspace provide these 46-48 weeks of the year, and they are venue based in three specific areas of the city – Tanghall Community Centre; 68 Centre; and Moor Lane Youth Centre. They provide children with open access to child led activities, in a safe environment. As well as receiving funding from the Play Team (40k), the Tanghall and 68 Centre chill out zones are also well supported by ward committee funding. The Moor Lane zone is not as well supported by the relevant ward committees, and therefore it is partly funded by a play grant from City of York Council. Feedback from parents shows that they are at ease knowing adults are on site supervising the activities.
  8. Training of staff and volunteers – Playspace currently have funding from North Yorkshire Learning Consortium to provide training for their volunteers over the next six months. They have already trained five volunteers who are now actively supporting the three Chill Out zones across the city, and are hoping to train a further twenty. They would also like to develop this further by offering training to volunteers working with other smaller play organisations in the city.
  9. TellUs Survey Results

Members had intended comparing the survey results from 2008-09 (TellUs3) and 2009-10 (TellUs4), in order to identify and investigate the reasons for any changes in the views of children and young people over the two year period. Unfortunately, the number of questions relating to play and out of school

activities had been seriously reduced in the TellUs4 survey making it difficult to carry out such a comparison – see Annex B.

10. Parents Questionnaires

The responses from parents with children at St Pauls School and Fishergate School are shown at Annex C. Members recognised that the perceived barriers to play would need to be addressed to achieve a marked increase in the take up of casual play opportunities.

11. In response to the 'Barriers to play' identified in the completed questionnaires, the Head of Play provided information on a number of CYC initiatives currently ongoing and scheduled for 2010-11 which aim to address these issues of concern – see Annex D.

## **Analysis**

12. Evidence gathered nationally shows a marked decline in the extent of outdoor play for children as their freedom to roam has been curtailed compared with previous generations. 71% of adults used to play near their home every day when they were a child compared to only 21% of children today. A recent nationwide poll showed that 83% of British adults think the next government should have policies that ensure children can play outside more.

13. With this mind, Play England and its partners have produced a 'Manifesto for Children's Play' calling for the next government to make play a priority (see copy at Annex E). It asks all political parties to make 3 simple pledges for all children and young people to have the freedom and space to play enjoyed by previous generations:

- To make all residential neighbourhoods child-friendly places where children can play outside
- To give all children the time and opportunity to play throughout childhood
- To give all children somewhere to play - in freedom and safety - after school and in the holidays

14. The nationally developed Playshaper training event held in York in 2009 brought together multi agency representatives including Play, Police, Housing, Parks and Open Spaces, the voluntary sector, City Strategy, Transport and Planning, all of whom have an impact upon children's quality of life.

15. The training focused on child-friendly design, planning and management of public space and enabled local authority colleagues and other stakeholders to consider how design, planning and management of public space can help deliver on a range of local priorities including community cohesion, health targets, regeneration aims and how addressing the needs of children, young people and their parents in the built environment can potentially reduce crime, fear of crime and accidents.

16. For York, there were a number of outcomes from the event which included:

- Identifying new partners who pledged to assist in the development of play opportunities in the city
  - The formation of a new strategic board to ensure the development and implementation of the 'Taking Play Forward' policy
17. In carrying out the review, the Committee recognised that in some areas of the city there is a zero tolerance towards children playing in open spaces near homes. Members suggested that Ward Committees may be able to reach out to their local communities and work with them to encourage a more positive attitude. For example, the replacement of negative signage like 'No Ball Games' with positive signage like 'You Can Play Here'.
18. With this in mind and in order to recommend a strategy for the provision of suitable play opportunities within specific areas of the city (in line with objective (iii) of this review), the Committee agreed to recommend that a pilot scheme be undertaken involving all the relevant agencies (as listed in paragraph 13 above), to include:
- Working with children and parents through schools in the area to identify what they perceive to be barriers to play
  - Holding a public meeting to gather the views of other residents, local businesses and other interested parties
  - Building on the school's travel plans to create a 'Safe Routes to Play' document for the area
  - Identify any improvements required to road crossings/markings to reduce the danger of traffic
19. Identifying the right pilot area and communication with residents in the area through the ward committee, were identified as being key to a successful pilot scheme.
20. Their ideas around the introduction of a pilot scheme were considered at the first meeting of the new 'Taking Play Forward' Strategic Board, which met for the first time late April 2010. They agreed with the suggested approach and as an outcome from their meeting, officers were asked to:
- Send the board a draft version of the 2010 Taking Play Forward, play policy.
  - Gather relevant information to help inform the selection of a suitable pilot area in line with the outcome from the scrutiny review on 'Casual Play Opportunities - suggestions, included number of 5-13 years olds per ward, areas of deprivation etc - see attached
  - Invite other representatives to the next meeting including tenancy federation, disability and the play voluntary and community sector
  - Feed back to the YorOk Board about the Playshaper and new Play Policy
  - Arrange for a representative from Housing to participate in future meetings
  - Liaise with Police to work with the Police Architectural Liaison officers
21. CYC Draft Play Policy  
In support of objective (iv) of the review, the Committee wanted to be consulted on the draft Play Policy that officers were working on. However following the

general election and the resulting change in government, CYC officers took the decision to wait for information before finalising their work on the draft policy, to ensure it properly reflected any forthcoming changes to government policy. The Committee took the view that the delay in releasing the draft did not affect their ability to proceed with making recommendations on this review, but requested they still be consulted once the draft was released in the new municipal year.

22 Other Issues

As part of the council's ongoing organisational review, officers are currently looking at a more joined up way of working around 'area based service delivery', involving all services provided by the council including the Play Team and those CYC services identified in paragraph 14 above. The intention is to pilot this new working approach in one area of the city first, and the area being considered is a large section of the west of the city.

23. The pilot scheme being recommended as a result of this scrutiny review may well benefit from being incorporated into this new organisational approach to service delivery as officers from all of the relevant services will be involved, preventing any duplication of work.

### **Options**

24. Having considered all of the information contained within this report and its associated annexes, Members may amend and/or agree the suggested recommendations and identify any amendments required to the draft final report.

### **Implications**

25. There are no known significant Financial, HR, Equalities, Legal Crime & Disorder, Property or Other implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However, there may be some small administrative costs associated with introducing a pilot scheme as recommended below

### **Corporate Strategy**

23. The review of this topic supports the Council's corporate aim to inspire residents and visitors to free their creative talents and make York the most active city in the country, by providing high quality cultural and sporting activities for all.
24. It also supports the Council's aim to make York a 'Healthy City' by improving the provision of facilities for children and teenagers to participate in active play.

### **Risk Management**

25. There are no known risks associated with the recommendation in this report.

## Recommendations

26. The Committee are asked to consider the suggested recommendations below and agree the wording of these and any other recommendations they wish to make, in order that they may included in the final report arising from this review:

### Suggested Recommendations

- i. The Executive to authorise officers to:
- a) support the introduction of a pilot scheme by working with the new 'Taking Play Forward' Strategic Board to:
    - identify an area of the city which would benefit from such a scheme
    - identify all the relevant parties from within the council, external organisations, and from within the identified area of the city to participate in the scheme
    - draft a framework for the scheme for the Executive's consideration
  - b) promote the value of outdoor play and take up any opportunities for encouraging community buy in to play opportunities in their locality
27. Finally, Members are also asked to agree the draft final report subject to the inclusion of any agreed recommendations.

Reason: To identify the optimum recommendations arising from this review and conclude the review in line with scrutiny procedures and protocols

### Contact Details

**Author:**

Melanie Carr  
Scrutiny officer  
Scrutiny Services  
Tel. 01904 552063

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Andrew Docherty  
Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

**Interim Report Approved**



**Date**

2 July 2010

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** N/A

**Wards Affected:**

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** None

- Annex A** – Playspace Summer 2009 Report
- Annex B** – TellUs Survey Results
- Annex C** – Parents Questionnaire Responses
- Annex D** – CYC Projects & Initiatives
- Annex E** – Play England's 'Manifesto for Children's Play'

# YORK PLAYSPACE

## SUMMER 2009

# MOBILE PLAYScheme REPORT



# SUMMER 2009

## MOBILE PLAYScheme REPORT

York Playspace is a registered Charity no. 505921.

The aims of the Charity are to promote Children's Play in and around the York area. The Charity was established over 35 years ago. During that time the Charity has had a great deal of experience in promoting, delivering and developing PLAY in communities.

Our work includes:-

- Mobile Playschemes which benefit Children and Young People in both the urban and rural areas in and around York.
- Venue based Playschemes, both open access and pre-booked places.
- Chill Outs Zones which benefit Children and Young People aged 8 -13 yrs in three specific area of York; they include the Tang Hall area, 68 Centre area of Heworth and Dringhouses area.
- Playwork Promotion
- Playwork information and networking to support other organisations committed to play.
- Local Compact Champions for Play.
- Representation of the Voluntary Sector and also be Open Access Play on Strategic Boards.
- Inform National Policy with local Practises
- Work in partnership with local communities to establish Play/Chill Out Zones in their own areas.
- Play Consultation work.





## WHAT IS A MOBILE PLAYScheme?

A mobile playscheme team consists of 3 Playworkers, who travel to different rural villages and a few inner-city sites, in a van full of sports equipment, arts and crafts and play equipment. They have a large tent which provides shelter from either the sun or the rain. The Playworkers often endure high winds, torrential rain, and if they are lucky lovely hot sunny days. Regardless of the weather they still pitch their tent and interact with the Children that attend.

Each session is for 2 hours and we run 2 sessions per day; the morning or AM session is from 10.30am – 12.30pm and the afternoon or PM session is from 1.30 – 3.30pm. Each session is aimed at Children aged 5 years to 13 years. As the sessions are held in open public spaces we do not exclude any Children or Young People from the sessions that are younger or older, this year we have had over 147 children under the age of 5 attending the Mobiles, they either come with older siblings that can be anything from 8 years – 16 years old, or with their parents/carers and the playworkers welcome them all.

During each session we provide the Children and Young People with supervised activities with many arts, crafts and sports activities including circle and team games. The Children and Young are also given a drink of juice and a biscuit, and this is all for FREE.

This year the mobile Playschemes have been funded through 2 different funding streams. The City of York Council Play Grant funded 2 mobile Playschemes over a 4 week period and City of York Council Ward Committee funded an additional 2 mobile Playschemes over a 5 week period.

**WARD FUNDED MOBILES**

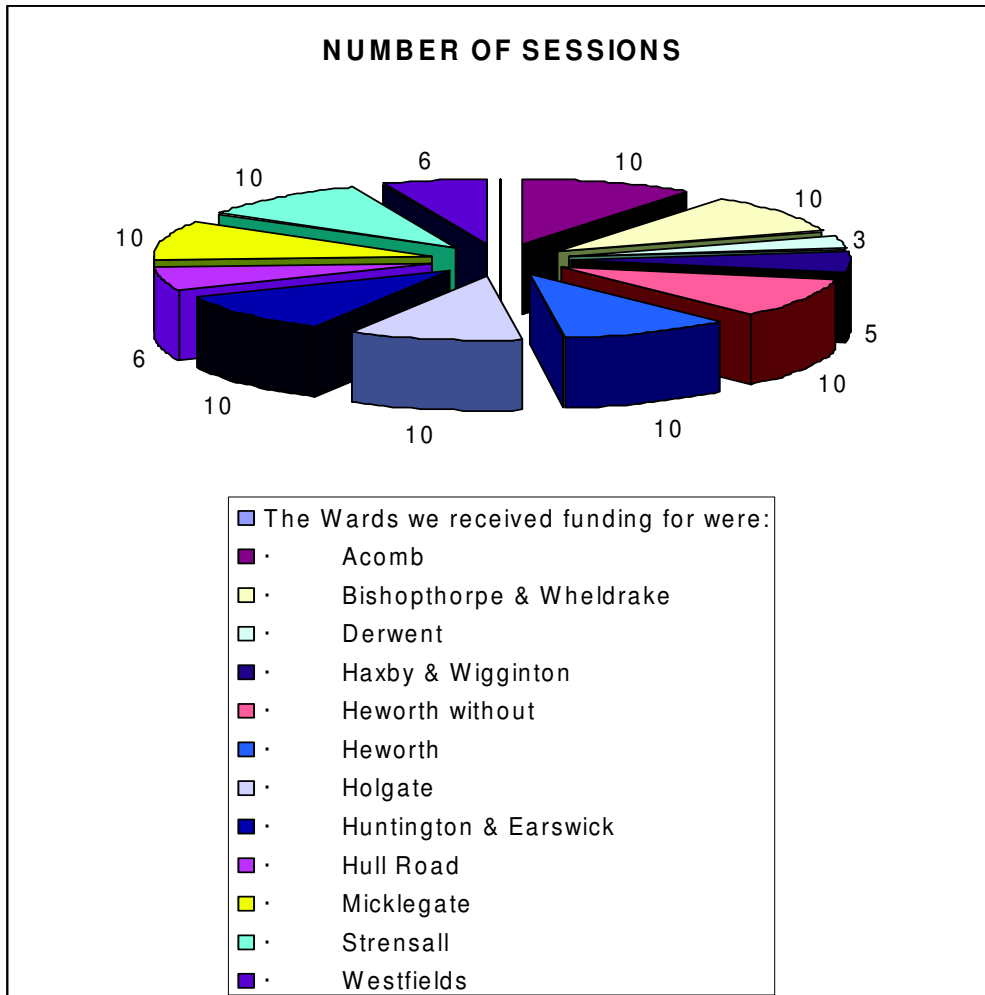
Each year residents within the Wards vote on what they would like to see the allocation of Ward Money spent within their Ward. Playspace were asked to put applications in to the wards to run playschemes in their area. The residents vote on all the applications that have been submitted as to what they want their ward money spent on and how much. We were invited to the Ward meetings to show what we did and this year we attended 10 Ward Meetings.

This year we were granted funds from 12 Wards to run a total of 95 x 2 hour sessions over a five week period from 21<sup>st</sup> July to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2009 inclusive. This enabled us to have 2 teams running for 5 weeks; in 2007 we only received enough funding for 1 team doing 4 weeks and in 2008 we received no ward funding.

**The Wards we received funding for were:**

- **Acomb** - 10 sessions
- **Bishopthorpe & Wheldrake** -10 sessions
- **Derwent** - 3 sessions
- **Heworth without** - 10 sessions
- **Heworth** - 10 sessions
- **Holgate** - 10 sessions
- **Huntington & Earswick** - 10 sessions
- **Hull Road** - 6 sessions
- **Micklegate** - 10 sessions
- **Strensall** - 10 sessions
- **Westfield's** - 6 sessions

Please see the graph on next page showing number of sessions per ward.



This year due to the extra ward funding we were able to provide the following additional service:-

- 95 extra sessions,
- Attended an extra 30 different sites; on at least 2 separate visits, some got 4.
- In total we ran over 175 x 2 hour play sessions and were able to visit lots more inner city sites.
- This year with the ward funding we visited new sites in Acomb, Holgate, Huntington, Micklegate and Westfield Wards; these wards would not have been visited without the extra funding.

Thanks to both sets of funding this year we provided Play experiences and opportunities for over 2, 500 children and young people (last year we provided 1,082)

We liaised with other partners within the City, such as Parks and Events Managers, Park Rangers, Running Wild, Sports Bus, Youth Services and Global.

**CHILDREN'S ATTENDANCE MOBILE 1 SUMMER 2009** Annex A

DATE	VENUE	Under 8's	Over 8's	TOTAL
Mon 27 July	Rawcliffe - Recreation Centre	49	15	64
Tues 28 July	Millennium Field-Fishergate	14	9	23
Weds 29 July	Naburn - Village Hall	11	15	26
<b>Thurs 30 July</b>	<b>Wheldrake – Nr Village Hall</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>
Fri 31 July	Bishopthorpe - Acaster Lane P.F.	10	22	32
Mon 3 Aug	Stockton-on-Forest - Stone Rigg	5	9	14
Tues 4 Aug	Millennium Field - Fishergate	10	8	18
Weds 5 Aug	Wigginton - Mill Lane P Fields	7	7	14
Thurs 6 Aug	Osbalwick - The Leyes	15	9	24
Fri 7 Aug	Poppleton Park-Esk Drive	17	24	41
<b>Mon 10 Aug</b>	<b>Rawcliffe - Recreation Centre</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>
Tues 11 Aug	Rufforth - Playing Fields	3	7	10
Weds 12 Aug	Naburn - Village Hall	9	11	20
Thurs 13 Aug	Wheldrake - nr village hall	13	20	33
<b>Fri 14 Aug - AM</b>	<b>Ashton Avenue - Clifton</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>
Fri 14 Aug - PM	George V Playing Field (Dodsworth Ave)	9	9	18
Mon 17 Aug	Stockton-on-Forest - Stone Rigg	13	8	21
<b>Tues 18 Aug</b>	<b>Rufforth - Playing Fields</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>
Weds 19 Aug	Wigginton - Mill Lane P Fields	9	5	14
Thurs 20 Aug	Osbalwick - The Leyes	8	15	23
Fri 21 Aug	Poppleton Park – Esk drive	10	20	30
<b>2009</b>	<b>MOBILE 1 TOTALS</b>	244	258	502

 = Days that were raining.

**MOBILE 1**


**Attendance by under eights: girls = 100, boys = 144**

**Attendance by over eights: girls = 126, boys = 133**

**Attendance Total: 502**

**CHILDRENS ATTENDANCE MOBILE 2 SUMMER 2009**

DATE	VENUE	Under 8's	Over 8's	TOTAL
Mon 27 July	Askham Bryan Playing Fields	16	14	30
Tues 28 July	Elvington-Sports Field	12	7	19
Weds 29 July	Strensall - Northfields	14	9	23
<b>Thurs 30 July</b>	<b>Haxby - Ethel Ward Playing Fields</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>34</b>
Fri 31 July	Copmanthorpe Sports Club	25	13	38
Mon 3 Aug	Askham Bryan playing fields	10	13	23
Tues 4 Aug	Knapton	11	15	26
Weds 5 Aug	Dunnington – Intake Lane P.A.	10	7	17
Thurs 6 Aug	Poppleton - Comm Centre	18	10	28
Fri 7 Aug - AM	Skelton - Brexfields	8	9	17
Fri 7 Aug - PM	Skelton - The Pastures	26	9	35
<b>Mon 10 Aug</b>	<b>Askham Bryan Playing Fields</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>
Tues 11 Aug	Elvington-Sports Field	13	9	22
Weds 12 Aug	Dunnington-Intake Lane	12	6	18
Thurs 13 Aug	Haxby - Ethel Ward Playing Fields	21	12	33
<b>Fri 14 Aug</b>	<b>Copmanthorpe Sports Club</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>
Mon 17 Aug	Poppleton - Comm Centre	10	11	21
<b>Tues 18 Aug</b>	<b>Knapton</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>
Weds 19 Aug	Strensall - Northfields	10	7	17
Thurs 20 Aug	Haxby - Ethel Ward Playing Fields	8	7	15
Fri 21 Aug	Skelton – The Pastures	9	6	15
<b>2009</b>	<b>Mobile 2 TOTALS</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>475</b>

 = Days that were raining.

**MOBILE 2**

**Attendance by under eights: girls = 146, boys = 129**

**Attendance by over eights: girls = 82, boys = 118**

**Attendance Total: 475**

**CHILDRENS ATTENDANCE WARD MOBILE 1 SUMMER 2009**

DATE	VENUE	Under 8's	Over 8's	TOTAL
Tues 21 July	Huntington – Orchard Park	15	13	28
<b>Weds 22 July</b>	<b>Dunnington-Intake Lane</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>
Thurs 23 July	Wheldrake – Nr Village Hall	15	16	31
Fri 24 July	Bishopthorpe – Keebal Park	9	13	22
Mon 27 July	Badger Hill –Off Hull Road	15	7	22
Tues 28 July	Huntington – Orchard Park	19	19	38
<b>Weds 29 July</b>	<b>Viking Road Park - Acomb</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Thurs 30 July</b>	<b>Earswick – Nr Village Hall</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>
Fri 31 July	Carr Junior School PF - Acomb	27	30	57
Mon 3 Aug - AM	Badger Hill –Off Hull Road	16	11	27
Mon 3 Aug - PM	Hull Road Park – off Melrosegate	15	13	28
Tues 4 Aug	Huntington – Orchard Park	19	8	27
Weds 5 Aug -AM	Heworth Without PF – Rugby ground	4	4	8
Weds 5 Aug - PM	Heworth Without PF – Applecroft Rd	9	8	17
Thurs 6 Aug	Wheldrake – Nr Village Hall	9	11	20
Fri 7 Aug - AM	Bishopthorpe – Keebal Park	9	13	22
Fri 7 Aug - PM	Bishopthorpe – Acaster Lane	11	16	27
<b>Mon 10 Aug</b>	<b>Hull Road Park – off Melrosegate</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>30</b>
Tues 11 Aug	New Earswick – Rec ground nr school	8	8	16
Weds 12 Aug	Heworth Without PF – Applecroft Rd	26	12	38
Thurs 13 Aug	Earswick – Nr Village Hall	16	10	26
<b>Fri 14 Aug</b>	<b>Bishopthorpe – Acaster Lane</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>33</b>
Mon 17 Aug	Hob Moor – behind E Wilson pool	7	9	16
<b>Tues 18 Aug</b>	<b>New Earswick – Rec ground nr school</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>33</b>
Weds 19 Aug - AM	Dunnington-Intake Lane	5	5	10
Weds 19 Aug - PM	Heworth Without PF – Applecroft Rd	15	14	29
Thurs 20 Aug	Chesney PF – Foxwood Lane	19	13	32
Fri 21 Aug -AM	Heworth Without PF – nr Rugby ground	16	8	24
<b>2009</b>	<b>WARD Mobile 1 TOTALS</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>722</b>

 = Days that it rained

**WARD MOBILE 1**


**Attendance by under eights: girls = 180, boys = 219**

**Attendance by over eights: girls = 111, boys = 212**

**Attendance Total: 722**

**CHILDRENS ATTENDANCE WARD MOBILE 2 SUMMER 2009**

DATE	VENUE	Under 8's	Over 8's	TOTAL
Tues 21 July	George V PF – Dodsworth Ave	8	7	15
Weds 22 July	Strensall – nr Hirst Hall	24	30	54
Thurs 23 July -AM	Heworth Without PF – nr Rugby ground	9	10	19
Thurs 23 July - PM	Heworth Without PF – Applecroft Rd	16	12	28
Fri 24 July	Scarcroft Park – Scarcroft Rd	12	7	19
Mon 27 July	Stockton-on-the-Forest – Stone Rigg	5	6	11
Tues 28 July	Glen Gardens - Heworth	25	16	41
Weds 29 July	West Bank Park – off Hamilton drive	14	15	29
Thurs 30 July - AM	Heworth Without PF – nr Rugby ground	6	6	12
Thurs 30 July - PM	Heworth Without PF – Straylands	4	2	6
Fri 31 July	Scarcroft Park – Scarcroft Rd	8	18	26
Mon 3 Aug - AM	Cleavland street Play area - Holgate	0	0	0
Mon 3 Aug - PM	Balfour street – Lemman Road	0	0	0
Tues 4 Aug	Tang Hall PF – Fifth Ave	11	14	25
Weds 5 Aug	Strensall – nr Hirst Hall	15	20	35
Thurs 6 Aug -AM	Acomb Green - Acomb	21	7	28
Thurs 6 Aug - PM	Viking Rd Park - Acomb	11	13	24
Fri 7 Aug	Butchers Terrace field (off Butchers ter)	10	11	21
Mon 10 Aug	Lindsey Ave Park – off Poppleton rd	4	4	8
Tues 11 Aug	Monks Stray – Stockton Lane	7	13	20
Weds 12 Aug	Railway institute – Hamilton Drive	15	15	30
Thurs 13 Aug - AM	Fishponds wood – Danebury Drive	0	0	0
Thurs 13 Aug -PM	Viking Rd Park - Acomb	7	10	17
Fri 14 Aug	Butchers Terrace field (off Butchers ter)	11	6	17
Mon 17 Aug	Carr Junior School PF - Acomb	9	9	18
Tues 18 Aug	South Beck Field – off Byland Ave	9	6	15
Weds 19 Aug	Salisbury Rd Play area – Lemman Rd	6	6	12
Thurs 20 Aug	Viking Rd Park - Acomb	10	15	25
Fri 21 Aug	Little Knavesmire – Knavesmire Rd	15	14	29
<b>2009</b>	<b>WARD Mobile 2 TOTALS</b>	292	292	584

 = Days that it rained

**WARD MOBILE 2**

**Attendance by under eights: girls = 132, boys = 160**

**Attendance by over eights: girls = 134, boys = 158**

**Attendance Total: 584**

**TOTAL children and young people that attended all 4 summer  
MOBILE TEAMS**

- **Attendance by under eights: girls = 558      boys = 652**  
(With 147 being under 5)
  - **Attendance by over eights: girls = 453      boys = 621**
    - **Total girls = 1,001      Boys = 1,273**
    - **Attendance Total: 2,284**
- 

PIC



Annex A

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED EACH  
WARD/SITE:  
21 JULY - 21 AUGUST 09**

**ACOMB – (10 Sessions Ward funded)**

166 Children attended over 10 sessions (average 17 children per session)

**Bishopthorpe & Wheldrake - (10 Sessions Ward funded)**

246 Children attended over 16 sessions (average 16 children per session)

**DERWENT - (3 Sessions Ward funded)**

65 Children attended over 6 sessions (average 10 children per session)

**HEWORTH WITHOUT - (10 Sessions Ward funded)**

186 Children attended over 14 sessions (average 17 children per session)

**HEWORTH - (10 Sessions Ward funded)**

134 Children attended over 12 sessions (average 12 children per session)

**HOLGATE, Poppleton Rd -(3 Sessions Ward funded)**

8 Children attended over 3 sessions (average 4 children per session)

**HOLGATE, Leeman Rd - (3 Sessions Ward funded)**

12 Children attended over 3 sessions (average 6 children per session)

**HOLGATE, Hamilton Dr - (4 Sessions Ward funded)**

59 Children attended over 4 sessions (average 15 children per session)

**HULL Rd - (6 Sessions Ward funded)**

107 Children attended over 6 sessions (average 18 children per session)

**HUNTINGTON & NEW EARSWICK - (10 Sessions Ward funded)**

149 Children attended over 10 sessions (average 15 children per session)

**STRENSALL, EARSWICK & STOCKTON ON FOREST -(10 Sessions Ward funded)**

217 Children attended over 17 sessions (average 13 children per session)

**MICKLEGATE - (10 Sessions Ward funded)**

112 Children attended over 6 sessions (average 12 children per session)

**WESTFIELDS, North - (2 Sessions Ward funded)**

52 Children attended over 2 sessions (average 26 children per session)

**WESTFIELDS, Foxwood - (2 Sessions Ward funded)**

32 Children attended over 2 sessions (average 16 children per session)

**WESTFIELDS - (2 Sessions Ward funded)**

16 Children attended over 2 sessions (average 8 children per session)

**RURAL WEST -**

120 Children attended over 8 sessions (average 16 children per session)

**ASKHAM BRYAN**

58 Children attended over 4 sessions (average 15 children per session)

**ELVINGTON**

48 Children attended over 4 sessions (average 12 children per session)

**COPMANTHORPE**

58 Children attended over 4 sessions (average 14 children per session)

**KNAPTON**

46 Children attended over 4 sessions (average 12 children per session)

**SKELTON**

67 Children attended over 4 sessions (average 17 children per session)

**NABURN**

49 Children attended over 4 sessions (average 13 children per session)

**RUFFORTH**

29 Children attended over 4 sessions (average 8 children per session)

**RAWCLIFFE**

86 Children attended over 4 sessions (average 22 children per session)

**MILLENNIUM FIELD - Fishergate**

41 Children attended over 4 sessions (average 10 children per session)

**HAXBY & WIGGINGTON -**

115 Children attended over 10 sessions (average 12 children per session)



## 2009 Parent/Carers Evaluations

### Parent/carers 76 returned:

	Great	OK	Poor
b) The Location	73	3	0
c) The Programme times	73	3	0
d) The activities/workshops	71	5	0
e) The Playworkers	75	1	0
f) Your child's enjoyment	75	1	0

### We asked "would you like us to come again"

YES = 76                      NO = 0

### We asked, "How many children of yours have attended":

1 Child = 11                      2 Children = 42                      3 Children = 11  
4 Children = 4                      5 Children = 4

### Ages of Children attending:

Under 8 = 106                      8 and Over = 53

### Parents/carers comments

- Bishopthorpe      Fantastic – could be better publicity via local schools
- Bishopthorpe      It's great –they love it
- Stockton on Forest - Children enjoyed company of play workers – some  
   Balls broken
- Rawcliffe              Please come to Rawcliffe more often
- Rawcliffe              Excellent – enjoyed cat & mouse and cricket
- Rawcliffe              Just wish it could be more often throughout the hols
- Rawcliffe              Great fun, girls only planned on attending morning  
   Session such fun came for afternoon session as well

- Butcher's Terrace - It is nice to have a playscheme near our home
- Osboldwick They loved it
- Wheldrake Played really well, a change from mum, gluing and Sticking was done with different things from home – Mum had a couple of hours break
- Carr School More advertising
- Badger Hill Better advertised
- Bishopthorpe Male playworker was particularly good (Paul).
- Bishopthorpe Great idea, both children enjoyed the sessions – good Team
- Wheldrake Would have liked longer sessions
- Wheldrake Fantastic to live somewhere which offer a free play Setting so children can play with their friends during the Holidays
- Orchard Park How about having a donation box to raise funds?
- Wheldrake Fantastic! Great opportunities for the children
- Scarcroft Indoor hall, maybe toilet
- M Bridge More advertising for under fives, playgroup, access to toilets
- M Bridge Larger tent, café for parents! /? more activities for Pre-school children
- Knapton More structured activities, there seems little point in putting out a few cones and footballs if the play workers are sitting and talking and not organising play – a bit more structure would be great.
- Poppleton Display ideas of previous work on tent ceiling
- Poppleton Good fun
- Ethel Ward Weather was OK
- Elvington Fantastic, thank you!
- Tang Hall Could be better advertised
- Tang Hall PF A sign post to advertise it
- Scarcroft Park Excellent idea – needs more advertising I think

- Acomb Green Wonderful free facility
- Acomb Green Great location and free play
- Viking Road They have been amazing, the kids have loved it, it saved me a lot of money, they wanted to come everyday
- Various Excellent idea, my kids have begged to go everyday – they have made the summer holidays a lot of fun.
  
- Acomb Green I asked someone to organise a game of football as my son was expected to play with balls, etc with just his friends – I expected more planned activities.
- Bishopthorpe Great idea
- Butchers Ter More sports based activity
- Osbaldwick We'd like it here more often even if we had to make a payment. More please, Aleisha has loved this for the last three years.
  
- Heworth RC Brilliant
- Butchers Ter Advertising could do with a bit of work
- West Bank Pk Shame it was raining, need more equipment and varied
- West Bank Pk Well placed near park equipment, shame about the weather prevented outside play
  
- Heworth RC Signage to show sight needed, arrived and went home to phone office, then came back to tent, sure this would have been great on a fine day. Play workers friendly and helped Lewis make a candle but was only child on site. Stayed for half an hour.
  
- Glen Gardens Didn't realise the tent would be here today.
- Glen Gardens Could be better advertised

## 2009 Children's Evaluations

Out of the 182 evaluation forms that we received back from the children, asking them how they enjoyed the wick-kid mobile, below is the information that we obtained.

	<b>Great</b>	<b>OK</b>	<b>Not Good</b>
a) The wick-kid mobile is:	<b>158</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>
b) The things to do are:	<b>149</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>
c) The Playworkers are:	<b>160</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>

### My favourite things at the Playscheme are:

Arts & Crafts - 38	Playing - 5	Clay - 2
Cricket - 20	Mirrors - 4	Rounder's - 2
Different sports - 13	Face Painting - 4	Treasure Hunt - 1
Games e.g. twister, cards. Piggy in middle - 12	Playworkers joining in - 4	Biscuits - 1
Everything - 11	Bracelets - 3	Making Cushions - 1
Parachute - 9	Cat & Mouse - 3	Hoops - 1
Model magic - 8	Connect 4 - 2	Having Fun - 1
Sewing - 8	Making Candles - 2	Stain glass - 1
Making new friends and playing with - 8	Hopper - 2	Sword Fighting - 1

### The thing I liked least at the Playscheme are:

Nothing - 40	Connect 4 - 1	Playing Tig - 1
Arts & Crafts - 8	Clay - 1	Not Having a drink - 1
Sports - 7	Biscuits - 1	Drawing - 1
Weather/ rain- 5	Fish( cards ) - 1	Model Magic - 1
Cricket - 3	Cat & Mouse - 1	Rounder's - 1
Tents - 2	Really Hot - 1	Playworkers - 1
Sewing - 2	Little Kids - 1	Parachute - 1
Not so many things to do - 1	Tennis - 1	

### Would you like to come again to the wick-kid mobile?

**Yes – 162**

**No – 1**

### How old are you?

**Under 5 Years - 10**

**5 Years – 12**

**6 years – 31**

**7 years – 21**

**8 years - 33**

**9 years – 35**

**10 years – 23**

**11 years – 12**

**11 years - 7**

**12 years - 7**

**13 years – 1**

**Under 8 = 74**

**8's & over = 118**

**Boys = 69**

**Girls = 113**

Children's comments:-

- Stone Riggs It's great
- Stone Riggs Great but not brilliant
- Rawcliffe I really liked it – I had such a lot of fun!
- Rawcliffe They were good
- Osballdwick Should do a little bit more fun games
- Osballdwick Fun for younger kids
- Osballdwick Think we should have more things to do
- Badger Hill It was better
- Bishopthorpe It was an excellent opportunity to make new friends
- M Bridge Their so cool
- Stone Riggs It has gathered quite a few people
- Bishopthorpe Good
- Poppleton More games
- Poppleton It was great
- Viking Road It was great!
- Acomb Road Enjoyed it a lot – really liked it too
- Butcher's Terrace It's great
- Butcher's Terrace Cool tent
- Butcher's Terrace Lots of space
- Bishopthorpe Cool
- Bishopthorpe The adults play with you
- Glen Gardens It's very good
- Glen Gardens It's great
- Manthorpe Park It's great
- Osballdwick I liked everything about it
- Heworth RG It was really good but there should have been a few more games
- Rawcliffe It was excellent I want you to come again
- Rawcliffe They were good
- Elvington Thank you
- Askham Bryan The tent fell on me!
- Haxby It was great fun
- Copmanthorpe Great
- Copmanthorpe It is better fun than staying in
- Knapton It is brilliant !!!!!
- Skelton It is very fun – come every year
- Skelton I thought there would be more things to do
- Poppleton I liked it a lot – the best sports I have every done
- Poppleton I think it was great and the workers are

## ACTIVITIES

### Activities that the children & young people participated in this year

<b>SPORTS &amp; OUTDOOR PLAY</b>	<b>MULTICULTURAL &amp; THEMES</b>	
Obstacle courses	Hawaii flower garlands	Junk Modelling
Cricket	Multicultural people	Window Fish
Tennis	Divali candles	Model Magic Animals
Skipping	Japanese fish cricket	Sand Pictures
Parachute games	Hindu masks	Leaf collage
Ball games with rackets	Kites	Face paints
Stilts	Leaf collecting	Lollipop Fish
Frisbee	Chinese lanterns	Animal masks
Hoops	Divali pop up elephants	Beastie Bugs
Mini tent	Spanish Fans	Giant Painty bugs
Pogo sticks	Space Pictures	Penguins
Football	Flag Making	Colouring sheets
Bean bag races	Music box	Animal Drawings
Tig	Lace Painting	Door hangers
3 legged race	Pirates	Clay modelling
Wet play outside	Treasure hunts	Split pin Animals
Tug-of-war	Spiders webs	Stained glass windows
Dodge Ball	Grass & Stick Pictures	Glass Painting
Hockey	<b>ARTS AND CRAFTS</b>	Egg box monsters
Water Fun	Pastel/oil pictures	Tent Decorating
Bows and Arrows	Felt Magnets	Teddy Making
Running Races	Friendship Bracelets	Candle making
Rounders	Newspaper cloths	Glitter globes
Space hoppers	Sewing purses/stuffed animals	Picture Magnets
Piggy in Middle	Cardboard Box cars/rockets	Broom making
Stuck in the Mud	Dominoes	Wand Making
Scavenger Hunt	Doll Making	Mirror decorating
Horse shoes	Pillow Making	Rubbings
Bramble Picking	Glass mobiles	Blow Painting
Secret codes	Finger puppets	Stick People
Giant connect 4	Pom pom bugs	Flowers & Flower pots
Circle games	Badge & mirror making	Magic Modelling
Tree climbing	Flower Making	Drawing

## INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS

5 Minor Accidents over the 5 weeks of 4 Mobile Playschemes.



VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS TO THE SITES WERE:

Alex Leahy – Play Development Officer, York Playspace  
Alison Shepherd – Manager, York Playspace  
Gaye Chambers – Volunteer, York Playspace  
Gordana Trefzer - Volunteer, York Playspace  
Courtney Hawkins – Junior Volunteer, Rufforth age 16  
Vicky Wood – Childminder  
Karen Robinson – Childminder  
Lisa Dixon – Childminder  
Angela Atkin – Childminder  
Sue Hays – Childminder  
Sarah Pawlec – Childminder  
Shona Clark – Childminder  
Jackie Kuchkan – Childminder  
Sandra Housecroft-Jones - Parent  
Jade Brookes – Parent  
Hysane Byrne – Parent  
Sally Sanderson – Parent  
Freya Mulholand – Parent  
Susan Scholefield – Parent  
Stacey Mason – Parent  
Barbara Callahan – Parent  
Denise Mawhood – Parent



## **TRAINING:**

At York Playspace we invest a great deal of time and money into the training and development of our staff and volunteers. We believe that by having staff and volunteers appropriately trained in their areas of expertise, we are providing the Parents/Carers and the children, with a quality service.

All the Playworkers that worked on the summer playschemes attended a half day Playspace Induction and a three day Playwork training course that covered: The importance of Play and Playwork, Playwork roles and responsibilities, Health & safety, Promoting Positive behaviour, Conflict resolution, Supporting Children, Planning and resources, Play activities, Team Work, basic first Aid and Accident and emergency procedures. At least one member of the team undertook the 12 hour Paediatric First Aid Course. All Playworkers also have their Basic child protection Certificate.

The Playworkers all benefited from the courses attended. In addition, it gave them time to meet their team and gave them some new activities and games to do with the children.

## **OVERVIEW & CONCLUSION OF SUMMER MOBILE PLAYSCHMES**

### **ATTENDANCE**

The Mobile Playschemes this year have again been very well attended and a great success even though there were a few days of rain and wind. This year's with our additional funding from the Wards we were able to:-

- Run 2 Ward Funded Mobile Play teams for 5 weeks
- Run 100 extra sessions.
- Attended an extra 30 different sites; on at least 2 separate visits, some got 4.
- Ran over 175 x 2 hour play sessions with an average of 15 children per session and were able to visit lots more inner city sites.
- Enabled us to visit new sites such as Glen Gardens, New Earswick, Carr Junior School and Hamilton Drive among other in Acomb, Holgate,

Huntington, Micklegate and Westfield Wards; these wards would not have been visited without this extra funding. Annex A

I have been very happy with the attendance this year as we are reaching more children in more locations that have very little or no play provision; thus giving the children & Young people in these areas, positive play opportunities.

Thanks to both sets of funding this year we provided Play experiences and opportunities for over 2, 500 children and young people (last year we provided 1,082)

**The most popular sites were:**

- Rawcliffe - Recreation Centre
- Bishopthorpe - Acaster lane P.F
- Wheldrake
- Poppleton Park -Esk drive
- Haxby - Ethel Ward playing fields
- Copmanthorpe - Sports Club
- Skelton
- Strensall - Near Hirst Hall
- Glen Gardens - Heworth (new site)
- The RI - Hamilton Drive (new site)
- Huntington - Orchard Park (new site)
- Carr Junior School (new site)
- Hull Road Park
- Applecroft Play area - Heworth Without (new site)
- New Earswick - Recreation Ground (new site)
- Foxwood Lane - Chesney PF (new site)

**PLAYWORKERS COMENTS:**

**Rawcliffe** - Parents at very demanding and spoil fun for the kids – they wanted face paints and refreshments for them; the kids didn't

**Poppleton Park** - Parents at sent 3 and 4 year olds on there own or signed them in and disappeared. Alex told staff this was unacceptable and all Parents of under 5's had to stay with their children.

**Knapton** - Problems pitching tent as under grass all stones and pegs would not go in.

**Fishpond wood, Acomb** – Very unsafe, Workers were called names. Children<sup>Annex A</sup> informed the workers that their parents would not let them play in the woods and that they didn't even cycle through. Adult walker said that it was used by drug users and people drinking and was not a safe place to be. We won't be going there again.

**Balfor Street and Cleveland Street** – Were much the same as Fishpond wood it was used by drug users and people drinking and was not safe places to be and the children said that they would never play at the Balfore street play area.

**Railway Institute** – Great location and Popular.

Inner-city sites with no access to water and toilets a bit of a problem, especially when they are there all day

**Hull Road Park – Problems** with older children from the start especially the older boys. Unable to do the afternoon session due to the older boys taking the equipment and throwing them in the trees and broke some of the equipment, they also tried getting in the Van and take things out of it.

**Hob Moor** – Was a bit difficult to do Sports events due to Cow Fowling and long grass, also some cows came to play which worked well as the children were interested in the cows.

**The playworkers** this year had very good working relationship both in their teams and with all the other staff working on other Mobiles; they had a few nights out together. The only complaints were that they would like more access to toilets and that some areas were poorly advertised. All enjoyed the Mobile playschemes and would like to work for us again.

**Playspace Volunteers:**

This year we were lucky to have 2 excellent Volunteers join our team; Gaye Chambers & Gordana Trefzer. They went round all our summer projects and helped with the evaluations and also spent time speaking to the Parents/Carers, Children and the Staff.

## The Playschemes

The Playschemes are advertised and aimed at children aged 5-13 years old, but on some sessions there were younger children as well, up to three or four at each session, all with their parents or carers. Last year we decided to buy some equipment for the younger children. We did and this went down well but we still need to have more.

### Parent/carers

- From the evaluations taken from the Parents and the information collated from our Volunteers we had the following feedback.
- The Parents were very pleased with having a place to go where their children are able to play with other children under supervision.
- Overall parents thought that it would be great if there could be more such opportunities and were very positive in their view of the Locations.
- Activities and the Playworkers were of a very high standard.
- A few have suggested us having a donation box on the site (**we also thought that this was a good idea and may peruse next year**).

There were few with negative feedback; they were the lack of publicity and that there should be table's chairs and refreshments provided for the Parents, that we should come more often and that there should be more activities for pre-school children.

We thought that next year we would do extra publicise by us Local shops and cafes e.g. Acomb Green & Viking Rd Park to put Flyers and posters in the local shops and Café. Request that information about Summer Playschemes are publicised in Ward newsletters.

The children were all very positive; they loved both the activities and the playworkers. The Children/Young people liked the fact that they had the choice of a quiet sit down activity or a physical activity, as shown with what they likes best on the evaluation breakdown.

We had a few problems with older Children this year at Hull Road, Tang Hall and George V playing fields but in general no real problems or issues at all which is always a good thing. A concern was that at Poppleton parents left 3 & 4 year olds for workers to look after.

Total number of Under 5 year olds that attended all schemes were = 197. This needs to be discussed with Play Team before next year.

All in all this year has been a very positive one for all involved, roll on next year.

*I would like to thank all the playworkers that worked on the mobile playschemes for all of their hard work, Playspace management for their support, Mary Bailey and for her support and funding, All of the Wards that provided funding for us to run another 2 Mobiles for 5 weeks.*

I would also like to thanks the Children & young people that attended, the Parents/Carers for their positive feedback, kind comments and their support of the playschemes.

*Alex Leahy  
Play Development Officer  
York Playspace*

## **TellUs Survey Results Pertaining to Play Opportunities**

The TellUs survey is a survey of children and young people across England, asking their views about their local area, and including questions covering the five Every Child Matters outcomes.

For each yearly survey a sample of schools are selected within each local authority, representing the different types of schools in each area. The schools are then provided with guidance detailing how to select pupils to take part in the survey.

The results pertaining to play and activities from the 2008 & 2009 surveys are presented below. The questions are shown in the same way they were presented to respondents. The questions were developed through cognitive testing with children, to ensure they understood the questions and could answer them in a meaningful way. This means that some of the questions, such as self-defining a disability, may not give data consistent with 'standard' definitions.

The responses from the survey were weighted to ensure that the report at local authority and national level is representative of the population of Year 6, 8 and 10 children within that area in terms of the following characteristics: gender, proportion of children eligible for free school meals in the school (as a proxy for deprivation) and type of school.

In regard to the Tellus3 Survey, population data for 2007 from the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) was used to derive the weights, and the number of children attending Pupil Referral Units was obtained from the 2007 School Level Annual School Census (SLASC).

In regard to the Tellus4 Survey, population data for 2008 from the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) was used to derive the weights, and the number of children attending Pupil Referral Units was obtained from the 2008 School Level Annual School Census (SLASC).

Please note there was a low participation rate for Tellus3 and no year 10 pupils took part.

<b>Tellus3</b>	
LA	NAT
All (%)	All (%)

<b>Category</b>	All (%)	All (%)
<b>Which of these, if any, would you like to go to that you don't at the moment? (Tick all that apply)</b>		
Local park or playground	19	18
Cinema or theatre	41	37
A music concert or gig	42	39
Swimming pool (not in school lessons)	32	29
Sports club or class (where I've done sport not just watched it)	19	20
Gym	39	38
A youth club or youth group with organised activities run by adults	18	16
Faith or community group	5	6
A youth centre/café to meet friends (with few or no organised activities)	20	18
Art, craft, dance, drama, film/video-making group or class (not in school lessons)	28	26
Music group or lesson (not in school lessons)	18	14
Library/museum	14	14
Residential course (e.g. outward bound)	18	13
Something else	21	21
Nothing (I don't want to go to anything else)	8	11

<b>Overall, what do you think of the activities and things to do in your area? (Tick one option only)</b>		
Very good	18	14
Fairly good	39	35
Neither good nor poor	22	22
Fairly poor	9	14
Very poor	9	12
Don't know	2	3



<b>In the last four weeks, have you participated in any group activity led by an adult outside school lessons (such as sports, arts, or a youth group)? (Tick one option only)</b>		
Yes	73	62
No	22	34
Don't know	5	5

<b>Which of these things have you been to in the last four weeks (not including things as part of school lessons)? (Tick all options that apply)</b>		
Local park or playground	77	74
Cinema or theatre	54	56
A music concert or gig	13	15
Swimming pool (not in school lessons)	58	46
Sports club or class (where I've done sport not just watched it)	68	58
Gym	24	27
A youth club or youth group with organised activities run by adults	40	32
Faith or community group	14	13
A youth centre/café to meet friends (with few or no organised activities)	36	36
Art, craft, dance, drama, film/video-making group or class	37	27
Music group or lesson (not in school lessons)	22	19
Library/museum	45	34
Residential course (e.g. outward bound)	12	10
Something else	69	68

Which of these things would do the most to make your area a better place for you to live? (Tick all options that apply)		
Better shops	33	45
Cleaner and less litter	47	48
Better sports clubs or centres	36	44
Better public transport (such as buses, trains, underground)	16	25
Safer roads	37	37
Better activities for children and young people	42	46
Safer area or less crime	31	39
Better parks and play areas	55	47
Fewer young people hanging around	31	27
Something else	9	10
Don't know	1	3
None (the area is fine as it is)	4	4

What do you think of the parks and play areas in your area? (Tick one option only)		
Very good	9	10
Fairly good	40	34
Neither good nor poor	24	23
Fairly poor	14	15
Very poor	12	15
Don't know	1	3

Thinking about all of the things that have been covered in the survey, what if anything, would do most to make your life better? (Tick one option only)		
More help to do better at school	8	11
Better school lessons	7	11
Less bullying	9	9
More organised activities and things to do	9	8
More places where I can go to spend time with my friends	28	22
More say in how things are run at school or in the local area	4	3
More ways I can volunteer or help people	3	2
More advice about being healthy	4	2
More help to plan for my future	12	15
More help to feel safer at school and in the local area	3	4
Something else	5	4
Don't know	5	5
None of these	4	4

Tellus4	
LA	NAT
All (%)	All (%)

What do you think of the parks and play areas in your area?		
Very good	14	15
Fairly good	35	39
Neither good nor poor	18	18
Fairly poor	12	11
Very poor	13	12
Don't know	7	4

Which of these have you been to in your free time in the last 4 weeks? (Please do not count things that were part of school lessons)		
Local park or playground	63	66
Sports club or class (not in school lessons and only count where you've done sport not	53	52
A youth centre or club to take part in organised activities	30	28
A youth centre or club with few or no organised activities	13	14
Religious, faith or community group (not including services)	9	17
Art, craft, dance, drama, film/videomaking group (not in school lessons)	27	27
Music group or lesson (not in school lessons)	22	20
Given your time to help a charity, a local voluntary group or done some organised	13	17
Something else	61	62

Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Review of Casual Play Opportunities

**Fishergate School - Parent Questionnaire Responses**

Questions								
Where did you most often play		Outside house in cul-de-sac	Local park & back garden	Streets an fields around local area, park	Garden & local park	Garden, friends house; nearby countryside	Streets & park	Park and own street
Memorable play experience		Summer Holidays - all the back gdns large tent in one	cycling & exploring by ourselves in big park	playing in local fields; big games of cricket, rounders; exploring	playing in fields; visiting play park at weekends	playing in fields around my house	figths; out all night; football	Playing Tig
Would you let your children play in the same way		No - traffic too busy streets in this area not suitable for playing out in	No - big park was right next to us	No - anxiety about traffic and safety	No - more traffic; less community awareness; more strangers	Not necessarily - I grew up in a village with no park / play space	No - too many fast cars	No - not as safe as it used to be (drugs / gangs etc)
Where does your child most often play		Own home and Rowntrees & Cemetry Rd Park - older ones in town	home & local playground	park; own home; friends home; cycling in the street (whilst we watch)	school field; local park; home; not in street - traffic too fast	Garden; Cemetry Rd Park; Home	Back yard; local park	At home in house
Barriers to play		bullying; space; traffic; poor facilities for teenage children	traffic; stranger danger; own anxiety	weather; traffic; stranger danger; own anxiety	space; traffic; stranger danger	travel; traffic; don't drive so limited to walking / cycling	traffic	bullying; traffic; stranger danger; poor facilities; drug users
What would enhance your childs play		local swimming pool; more facilities and outdoor clubs / covered area for teens	big safe green area near house to explore in	local indoor play area - we loved the Barbican! Improvements to Cemetry Rd Park	more supervised play facilities & soft play indoor space nearby; wild areas	Safer road crossing on Cemetry Rd	Slower traffic	more safe play areas
Suitable age for activities	Cross the road	10-11yrs	?	11	9	10	9	No
	Attend organised activity	8-9yrs	5	4	6	5	8	11
	Visit shops	8-9yrs	11	11	9	10	9	No
	Visit friends	10-11yrs	9 or 10	11	9	10	9	No
	Play outdoors	8-9yrs	From birth	4 (supervised)	No	3 in garden	8	No
Play =	Sports	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Hanging around shops							
	Hanging around parks	✓				✓	✓	
	Visiting friends	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Playing outdoors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Other		Toys; Exploring		social interaction with friends; woods etc to play in			
How Many children		5	2	2	5	2	2	1
Ages		20; 18; 16; 13; 11	4 + 2	7 + 4	22; 18; 16; 16; 9	5 + 9	8 + 4	7

Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Review of Casual Play Opportunities

**St Paul's School - Parent Questionnaire Responses**

Questions		Street; Fields; Friends Homes	Back garden; in street	Rowntrees Park; Streets	Outside	Park; Home; Friends House	Park	In cul-de-sac	Acomb Green; West Bank Park; Lindsey Ave	In street
Where did you most often play		Street; Fields; Friends Homes	Back garden; in street	Rowntrees Park; Streets	Outside	Park; Home; Friends House	Park	In cul-de-sac	Acomb Green; West Bank Park; Lindsey Ave	In street
Memorable play experience		Swap Scraps; Skipping	lots of children all allowed out in street - meeting up with friends	Fishing net in Park	Swings	Playing on the river with an inner tube (not Ouse)	Messing around with friends in park	Playing out on bikes and in neighbours	Exploring by myself - went a long way, parents didn't know	Netball at school
Would you let your children play in the same way		No - safety issues; traffic; undesirables	No - can ride bikes in back alley and big garden	No - traffic - safety	Yes	No - unsafe	No - not as safe now	No - children don't play in street	No - too dangerous	No - grandson is too young and has learning difficulties
Where does your child most often play		In garden; Grandmas (live on main rd)	Garden; West Bank Park (in summer also Rowntrees Park)	Parks; swimming; friends; church groups	Park or garden	Home; Parks & woods (accompanied)	Garden and park when accompanied	Garden; at friends; West Bank Park in summer (v.good)	West Bank Park; Back yard; in the house	At home
Barriers to play		traffic; stranger danger; own anxiety	traffic; stranger danger; own anxiety	traffic; stranger danger; own anxiety	Bullying; stranger danger; own anxiety	own anxiety	stranger danger; own anxiety	time (work); weather; space (v. small gdn); traffic; age; stranger danger; own anxiety	space; traffic; poor facilities; own anxiety small yard & main road	his anxieties and confidence
What would enhance your childs play		safety perception	getting older	more organised play	More PCSOs keeping an eye on playspaces	No they do everything with us	more secure organised play	more planned activities - go to lots of after school things	better facilities nearby - Rowntrees Park is good	more freely available football and swimming facilities
Suitable age for activities	Cross the road	10	8	11	8	10	11	11	10	No
	Attend organised activity		3	5	8	5	5	11	No	5
	Visit shops	8	8	11	8	12	11	10	8	No
	Visit friends	8	8	11	8	12	11	8	10	9
	Play outdoors	No		11	8	8	11	5 (gdn)	10	14
Play =	Sports	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Hanging around									
	Hanging around parks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	?
	Visiting friends	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Playing outdoors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Other					picnics; parties; walking; trips				
How Many children		2	2	2	2	3	1	2	3	1 Grandson
Ages		8 + 10	5 + 3	5 + 9	8 + 9	6, 4 + 8wks	5	5 + 7	6, 9 + 12	5

## Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Review of Casual Play Opportunities

### Deighton Village - Survey Responses and Comments on Village Amenities for Children

Questions		Response	Other Comments re Deighton
Where did you most often play		In the streets - not much traffic	No indoor space in the village for organised activities as Chapel has now closed.
Memorable play experience			
Would you let your children play in the same way		Allowed from 8+ to play in street but under 8 the main road is a great worry	Two families have recently moved out of the village
Where does your child most often play		In each others garden or houses - backwards & forwards; In street sometimes when its quiet	A lot of property is let leading to a constant turnover of people
Barriers to play		Time; Space; Traffic; No facilities; Anxiety (for up to 8s)	20 children in the village up to the age of 16/18
What would enhance your childs play		Play park after school (next to Escrick) or taken at weekends	No parish land
Suitable age for activities	Cross the road	8 in village	
	Attend organised activity	7 or 8	
	Visit shops	N/A	
	Visit friends	Children have to be taken as majority of friends live outside of village	
	Play outdoors	4 (in garden) 8	
Play =	Sports	✓	
	Hanging around shops		
	Hanging around parks	✓	
	Visiting friends	✓	
	Playing outdoors	✓	
	Other		
How Many children			
Ages			

This page is intentionally left blank



## Learning and Culture Overview Scrutiny Committee – Review of Casual Play Opportunities

**Projects & Initiatives within the City that are working to address the issues raised through the Parent Questionnaire**

<b>Barriers to play – Parents perceptions</b>	<b>Initiatives and projects</b>
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a large number of initiatives relating to road safety - cycling and walking to school. All schools are encouraged to produce a travel plans for their pupils - <a href="http://www.york.gov.uk/transport/Road_safety/schoolroutes/">http://www.york.gov.uk/transport/Road_safety/schoolroutes/</a></li> </ul>
Strangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safer York Partnership operates a scheme called <b>Crucial Crew</b>, which present a variety of scenarios with a wide range of potentially dangerous and challenging situations to groups of children and young people. Previous Crucial Crew events scenarios have included strangers in the Park. <a href="http://www.crucial-crew.org/yorkselby/cfdocs/aboutsaferyork.cfm">http://www.crucial-crew.org/yorkselby/cfdocs/aboutsaferyork.cfm</a></li> </ul>
Anxiety and confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the Playbuilder project, a commission to produce a <b>guide for parents</b> which will myth buster parental anxieties about play will be produced by Yorkshire Play, a regional non profit making organisation that supports play and playwork in the Yorkshire and Humber region.</li> <li>• Play England and partners have produced a <b>Manifesto for Children’s Play</b> calling for the next government to make play a priority. It asks all political parties to make 3 simple pledges for all children and young people to have the freedom and space to play enjoyed by previous generations.</li> </ul>
Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2009 of the <b>Take Over day</b>. Two groups of young people took over the YorOK website for <a href="#">Takeover Day in November 2009</a> and made a section about bullying.</li> </ul>
Space and quality of facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>£328K Lottery Funding</b> has supported the development of 4 projects to improve the quality of outdoor play opportunities in the city. These include the installation of climbing boulders at Rawcliffe Country Park, the upgrade of Leaside play area, installation of adventure play equipment at Park Grove School and Running Wild a environmental play project that operates at 5 sites across the city.</li> <li>• <b>Playbuilder</b> an investment of £1.2 million to upgrade or install 22 new play areas.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the <b>Schools Out</b> summer 2010 programme, the mobile playschemes will link directly with Play Day which this year is themed 'Our Place' which aims to put children at the heart of our communities, and asks everyone, young and old, to help create better places for all of us to live and play. The mobile schemes will deliver play based consultation activities in a number of targeted areas where there is a need to develop how the space is used by children and the community.</li> <li>• In 2009 York hosted a nationally developed <b>Playshaper</b> training event which brought together multi agency representatives including Play, Police, Housing, Parks and Open Spaces, the voluntary sector, City Strategy, Transport and Planning. The training focused on child-friendly design, planning and management of public space and enabled local authority colleagues and other stakeholders to come together and consider how; the design, planning and management of public space are fundamental to children's quality of life; consideration of children's play and active travel can help deliver on a range of local priorities including community cohesion, health targets and regeneration aims and addressing the needs of children, young people and their parents in the built environment can potentially reduce crime, fear of crime and accidents. There were a number of outcomes from the event which included:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New partners were identified who made pledges to assist in the development of play opportunities in the city</li> <li>2. The formation of a new strategic board to ensure the development and implementation of the Taking Play Forward policy</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
--	--

#### Taking Play Forward policy (draft 2010)– priority areas

- **Embedding Play in Strategy** - Make sure that Play is at the heart of relevant plans
- **Raise quality and inclusiveness of Play provision within formal and informal settings** - Quality play for all
- **Ensure that Children & Young People's voices are heard & influence decisions that will affect them** - Listening and Acting upon what is said
- **Supporting the development of risk and challenge in all play activities in York** - Risky Play
- **Supporting the pledges within Play England's Manifesto** - Working with communities to enable children and young people to have the freedom and space to play



# A manifesto for children's play

# A manifesto for children's play

What do you remember best about growing up? Your favourite games? Best friends? The sense of freedom and adventure you got from playing in the outdoor world?

Children today do not have the same freedom.

Play is fundamental to children's enjoyment of childhood and the key to how they learn about the world. It is essential to their health, well-being and development.

But traffic, crime, poor planning and a perception that the outdoor world is a hostile place for them, means that many children's lives are mostly spent inside, fearful of the world around them or protected from it by anxious parents – with serious consequences for their health and happiness.

Whilst children's play is instinctive and natural – best enjoyed with as little adult intervention as possible – addressing the barriers to play is very much a task for government. Policy on planning, parks, traffic and housing as well as schools and childcare each have a direct bearing on children's opportunity to play.

**Play England and partners are calling for the next government to make play a priority.**

**We are asking all political parties to make three simple pledges for all children and young people to have the freedom and space to play enjoyed by previous generations.**



# 1

## To make all residential neighbourhoods child-friendly places where children can play outside Annex E

“ We need:

- to be able to walk or cycle somewhere nearby to have fun, like a park or exciting play space
- to feel safe playing outside with our friends, and for our families to feel confident to let us
- to be welcome where we live and feel part of our community. ”

### This will become a reality when:

- Planning and regeneration takes account of children's play – protecting play areas and building new ones, and ensuring that children have safe routes to them and to local green spaces
- Roads in all residential areas have a 20mph maximum speed limit and there are more pedestrian zones
- Public space is designed, managed and supervised with a better understanding of children and their need to play
- All places where children live offer genuinely inclusive play opportunities

‘I'm only allowed to play in the house or next door – Mum and Dad don't want to lose me, the cars will follow me.’

71% of adults used to play near their home everyday when they were a child compared to only 21% of children today.

(ICM opinion poll for Playday 2007)

# 2 To give all children the time and opportunity to play throughout childhood

“ We need:

- the time and space to run around and let off steam, when we're at home and at school
- adults to value the time we spend playing, and people who work with us to understand why play is important, helping us to be happy and healthy
- welcoming places to play and unwind if we spend time in places like hospital, or visiting prisons, or if we are looked-after. ”

## This will become a reality when:

- Policies for housing, education, childcare, health, arts, the environment and sport – nationally and locally – recognise and respond to the importance of children's play
- Parents are listened to and given information about what play provision is available locally
- Schools are required to protect playtime for play and to provide good outdoor play areas
- People who work and volunteer with children and young people are encouraged to understand and support the benefits of play

‘Our park is great because it keeps us out of trouble.’

Letting children go out to play is one of the best things that parents can do for their children's health.

*(Making children's lives more active, University College London, 2004)*

# 3 To give all children somewhere to play – in freedom and safety – after school and in the holidays

Annex E

“ We need:

- our parents to feel confident about leaving us with other adults
- people to understand that sometimes we need playworkers around to help us if we need them
- to make our own mistakes and learn about the world around us, without being wrapped in cotton wool. ”

## This will become a reality when:

- More children have access to staffed play services
- There is more support for volunteering in play
- All group childcare and after school clubs can access training in playwork and good outdoor play areas
- After-school clubs and holiday schemes have quality standards for play provision as well as safety and wellbeing

‘They come home absolutely plastered in wet and mud with a grin from ear to ear.’

Having more places where they can go to spend time with their friends, is the main thing that children and young people (42%) say would make their lives better.

*(TellUs 4 Survey, 2010)*

## Get involved!

Visit [www.playengland.org.uk](http://www.playengland.org.uk) to:

- Endorse this manifesto
- Campaign for play in your local area
- Find out how Play England can help you
- Find out what you can do to make this manifesto a reality
- See what others are doing to support play

**Together, we can ensure that all children and young people have the freedom and space to play.**

'Today just one in five children regularly play outside in their neighbourhood. The rest are denied the chance to get out of the house and have the everyday adventures that – to people of my generation – are what childhood is all about.'

David Cameron, 2009

'If we want this country to recover from this huge economic shock we've suffered; we've got to start with our children.'

Nick Clegg, 2009

'Whatever the pressures, each of us has a responsibility to do the best for our children - and that goes for business, it goes for Government, and it goes for mums and dads too.'

Gordon Brown, 2010

Teenagers need equal support to enjoy their right to free time. The opportunity to interact with each other and spend time doing their own thing, is crucial for young people's developing confidence and independence.



Play England, 8 Wakley Street, London. EC1V 7QE

Tel 020 7843 6300

Email [playengland@ncb.org.uk](mailto:playengland@ncb.org.uk)

Play England is part of NCB and is supported by the Big Lottery Fund.

The UK is currently bottom of an international league table for child well-being across 21 industrialised countries.

(UNICEF, Child poverty in perspective: An overview of child well-being in rich countries)

## Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2010-11

Chairs Brief	Meeting Date	Work Programme
TBA	13 July 2010 @ 5:15pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2009-10 Year End Outturn Report</li> <li>2. Briefing from Director of Adults, Children &amp; Education on changes to Govt. policy post general election</li> <li>3. Draft Final Report - Review of Casual Play Opportunities</li> </ol> <p><u>For information Only</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. York Theatre Royal – Service Level Agreement Performance Update Report</li> <li>5. York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan – Performance Update Report</li> <li>6. Workplan</li> </ol>
TBA	29 Sept 2010 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First Quarter Monitoring Report</li> <li>2. Draft Play Policy</li> <li>3. Suggested Report on Opportunities for Public Art at new CYC HQ</li> <li>4. Workplan</li> </ol>
TBA	8 Dec 2010 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Second Quarter Monitoring Report</li> <li>2. York Theatre Royal – Service Level Agreement Performance Update Report</li> <li>3. York Museums Trust Partnership Delivery Plan – Performance Update Report</li> <li>4. Workplan</li> </ol>
TBA	26 Jan 2011 @ 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Workplan</li> </ol>

This page is intentionally left blank





---

**Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee**

13 July 2010

Report of the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

**YORK THEATRE ROYAL SERVICE AGREEMENT:  
2009/10 END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE UPDATE****Summary**

1. This report is to inform the Scrutiny Committee of the progress and performance of the York Theatre Royal under the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) which runs to March 2012.

**Background**

2. The four year SLA is a joint agreement between the Council and the York Theatre Royal. It sets out:
  - the key objectives of the partnership
  - performance targets and indicators to be met by the Theatre
  - performance information to be provided
  - review and reporting procedures
  - partnership arrangements between the Council and the Theatre
3. Reports are brought to Overview and Scrutiny at the half-year point and again in July to report on full year performance against the outcomes agreed in the SLA 2009 – 2012. This report covers the financial year 2009/10 with emphasis on the second half of the year.
4. The SLA provides a process whereby the agreement with the Theatre will be formally reviewed by the Council towards the end of those four years and a further plan for the next four years will be agreed. The Council's funding for 2009/10 under the SLA was £304k. The Theatre also receives funding from the Education budget of £15k to support the Partners in Education and Theatre (PET) scheme. This is included in the performance report from the Theatre (Annex 1).
5. The key partnership requirements covered in the SLA are:
  - The need to provide a year round programme of high quality work promoting the city regionally, nationally and internationally

- The potential for the theatre to take a more significant role in supporting children and young people to enjoy and achieve in schools and in extended schools settings
  - The opportunity for the Studio theatre to support new talent in the creative sector in the region
  - The need to ensure that the theatre was accessible and developed its audiences especially within those sectors of the community that traditionally had low attendance or participation rates
  - The need to improve the proportion of earned income against public investment
6. The report from York Theatre Royal (Annex 1) sets out how they have addressed these issues over the past six months, and also gives an outline of what they will be developing moving forward.

### **Consultation**

7. This report is for information and there is no consultation to consider.

### **Options**

8. This report is for information and there are no options to consider.

### **Corporate Objectives**

9. The York Theatre Royal contributes to a number of corporate objectives including developing opportunities for residents and visitors to experience York as a vibrant and eventful city, improving opportunities for learning, and in strengthening York's economy through investment in the tourism infrastructure.

### **Implications**

10. The report has no additional implications relating to:
- Finance
  - Human Resources
  - Legal
  - Crime and Disorder
  - Information Technology
11. Annex 1 details the contribution the Theatre makes to supporting our Equalities agenda. In particular their Free theatre Tickets for Young people has been particularly well used as has the provision of an audio description service for each main house production.

### **Risk Management**

12. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy there are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

**Recommendations**

- 13. The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment upon the performance of the York Theatre Royal.

Reason: To fulfil the Council's role under the Service Agreement

**Contact Details**

**Authors:**

Gill Cooper  
Head of Arts and Culture  
Ext. 4671

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Charlie Croft  
Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

**Report  
Approved**

**Date** 5.7.10.

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

Service Level agreement 2009-2012 contained as Annex 3 in January 2008 performance report

**Annexes**

Annex 1: Theatre Royal Performance Report April – September 2009

This page is intentionally left blank

**YORK THEATRE ROYAL SERVICE AGREEMENT:  
2009/10 END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

June 2010

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 It has been a challenging six months for York Theatre Royal as the economic climate in the country shifted. Having said that the Theatre has maintained strong audiences throughout the year and has continued to be able to provide a huge variety of performance and participatory work for York.

**2 ARTISTIC PROGRAMME**

- 2.2 Over the last six months the Theatre Royal has provided a varied programme of artistic experiences that adds to its reputation for offering diversity to its population.
- 2.3 The period was dominated by the legendary York Theatre Royal Pantomime. Once again the theatre broke its box office record, with attendance at just under 55,000. As always an extraordinary time at the theatre with huge audiences and strong community pride in a unique phenomena. This show really puts the spotlight on York in terms of national profile and is frequently described in the national media as the best pantomime in the country.
- 2.4 In addition to the pantomime the theatre produced three other shows during this period. **Whatever Next!** was an adaptation of the well-known children's book by Jill Murphy, it enjoyed a three week sell-out run in the Studio before going out on a national tour with our partners Tutti Frutti.
- 2.5 The theatre began a new relationship with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama to produce a new version of Chekhov's **The Seagull** from the well known Scottish playwright, Stuart Patterson. This is a ground-breaking venture in professional theatre to support graduating students from one of the country's most prestigious drama schools to experience work in a professional theatre. It gave the Theatre Royal the opportunity to support new actors and technicians coming into our industry as well supporting the theatre to produce a large cast show for York audiences. It attracted national attention from both professional theatres and higher education institutions and is a continuing demonstration of the role that York Theatre Royal plays in supporting young people.
- 2.6 The final new production of this period was **Catcher** a new commission by Richard Hurford. This was an intriguing new work that looked at the very

contemporary issue of the nature of fame through the story of the man who shot and killed John Lennon. This production is a co-production with Pilot Theatre Company who is based at the Theatre Royal and will tour following the performances in York.

- 2.7 During the last few months the theatre also played host to some of the best amateur companies in York in both the Studio and Main Theatres. This relationship with locally-produced work is such an integral part of the artistic programme at York Theatre Royal. The quality of the productions of York Light, Old Bomb Theatre Company, Settlement Players and York Musical Theatre Company are a testament to the creative talent in York. In this season the productions included **Beauty & the Beast**, Chekhov's **Three Sisters** and **The Wizard of Oz**. Audiences for this work over the last few months was over 15,000 people.
- 2.8 One of the areas of work that needs special mention is a project that the Theatre Royal supports with People First in York. Once Seen Theatre Company is a group of adults with learning difficulties who meet at the Theatre Royal every two weeks and worked in this last period on a production about the social history of a community in one road in York, **Haver Lane**. The production was a fine piece of theatre and the Theatre Royal will be working with the group to raise new funds to support their work and find a wider audience.
- 2.9 The Theatre Royal main house also played host to some of the finest touring theatre companies in the country across the Spring months with a very popular and high quality programme that included **Morecombe**, **Oh What a Lovely War**, **The 39 Steps** and **Sherlock Holmes**.
- 2.10 In the next few months the theatre continues a programme of theatre tours into the Main and Studio Theatres. This includes the first ever Children's Theatre Festival in June called **Little Feet**. Through extra funding for this initiative the Theatre Royal has been able to bring the best in National and International Children's companies to York. At the time of writing most of the performances during the week have sold out showing the huge appetite for performance for Children and Young People in York.
- 2.11 Over the next month the Theatre will be building to two significant productions. **The Wind in the Willows** is the summer family production in York, following on from the success of **The Railway Children** at the NRM. **The Wind in the Willows** will see the theatre transformed to an "in the round" space in the main auditorium and the foyer and café bar areas will resemble the Wild Woods that surround a crumbling Toad Hall. The Theatre is also presenting its production of **The Railway Children** at the old Eurostar platforms in Waterloo Station in London. Following on from the success that the theatre enjoyed at The National Railway Museum over two summer runs in York the production is now going to seen at an 1,000 seat venue at the station in London. The Theatre

Royal is also investigating presenting the production in other cities in the future.

### **3 EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION**

- 3.1 The Partnership in Education project is a complementary service that the Theatre Royal provides alongside its partners at City of York Council. The Theatre Royal dedicates two members of staff to the project and this year added a further member of staff through the employment of an Education Intern.
- 3.2 In the last six months we have been working with the following 7 schools:
- Park Grove Primary
  - Knavesmire Primary
  - St Oswald's primary
  - Hob Moor Primary and Hob Moor Oaks
  - Acomb primary
  - Carr Juniors
  - Joseph Rowntree Secondary School
- 3.3 The Theatre Royal provides a tailor-made service to the schools that encourages them to consider drama as a teaching tool across the curriculum and gives access to the whole of the staff body of the Theatre Royal for all of the Schools involved. These long-term and regular relationships with schools as part of the PET project have been particularly beneficial for the participants.
- 3.4 The Theatre Royal receives a contribution of £15,000 from CYC towards the cost of the scheme. In addition schools pay a fee of £3,000 per annum to participate.
- 3.5 Applications to become a PET school for the 2010-2011 academic year were sent out in early Spring. This year's 3D marketing tool is a set of three coasters, with project information on them, which we hope will encourage the schools to engage with the project as they place their cups of coffee on them and read about the fantastic partnership opportunity available through PET.
- 3.6 The Theatre Royal manages a national playwriting project on behalf of 4 theatres. The Playhouse project commissions and workshops new plays written for 8 - 10 yr olds to perform. This is part of the Theatre Royal's continuing commitment to producing work for a young audience and results in a performance project with York Schools who work with the Theatre on the World Premiere productions with some of the country's leading playwrights. The playwright's involved in this year include Tanika Gupta, Fraser Grace, Dan Jamieson and Richard Hurford, as well as two previous Playhouse commissions by Neil Duffield and Nick Wood. Teachers from 5 local schools joined the

Theatre staff and playwrights on a retreat to develop the plays and then they have worked with their pupils on the productions. Schools working with the Playhouse project this year are Knavesmire, Park Grove, Wigginton, Sand Hutton and Archbishop of York - and the 6<sup>th</sup> play will be performed by a new group drawn from our 8 - 10 waiting list for Youth Theatre. The productions will be performed at the Theatre Royal in July 2010.

- 3.7 The Playhouse project produces a significant national legacy for the country and there are plans to publish the plays that have been written to create a new body of writing for 8 - 10 year olds to perform across the country.
- 3.8 The other theatres involved in the Playhouse project are Dundee Rep, Theatre Royal Plymouth and the Polka Theatre in London.
- 3.9 The Theatre Royal started a new weekly Adult Drama workshop led by the York-based actor Michael Lambourne. It became oversubscribed very quickly so we will be looking at extending our Adult classes and courses from the Autumn when the theatre anticipates being able to move into the De Grey Rooms.
- 3.10 The Theatre has also been developing its Early Years work and we have been awarded an Involve Partnerships Grant to work with Mud Pie Arts to provide a midweek pre-school interactive storytelling session at the theatre, in the weeks leading up to the Little Feet Children's Festival in June 2010.
- 3.11 The Theatre Royal's Youth Theatres have been very busy in the last few months. The Theatre works with over 300 young people through 14 youth theatre groups. Each group works towards a production each year. In the last few months this has included **A Midsummer Night's Dream** and **Romeo and Juliet** with the 5 - 7 year old groups and **CSI: York** with the 14 - 16 year old groups, this brought together youth theatre groups from Riding Lights Theatre Company and the Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh to produce 6 different plays with a crime theme. The 11 - 13 year groups have been working with playwright Kevin Dyer on a new piece of theatre, **Don't Worry, Be Happy**. This has been funded through the Centre for Global Education at York St John University and is a play that explores themes around Climate Change. This will be performed by the youth theatre in June 2010. The Theatre Royal's recently formed Young Actors Company of young people who have left the Youth Theatre also produced a Studio production of **Terrorism** in April.
- 3.12 The Theatre Royal has just cast its Main House Youth Theatre production which will take place in August. **Coram Boy** was originally commissioned by the National Theatre. It will have a cast of 35 young people and will include a choir of 30 recruited through a collaboration with the National Centre for Early Music.



- 3.13 Other department activities recently have included running workshops on creativity for 120 children as part of the Primary Schools Council Conference, which the theatre hosted, and delivering a new February Play in a Week for 8 - 10 yr olds over half-term.
- 3.14 The Theatre has been involved in the delivery of Volunteering Days with York CVS, CYC and York Cares through the DCSF pilot Youth Community Action Scheme in York. The Theatre has also applied through the Community Action Grant Fund to provide over 100 new volunteering opportunities for 14-16 year olds in York.
- 3.15 The Theatre has recruited its new cohort of TakeOver young people who will take on the responsibility for the running the theatre over 2 Festival periods in October 2010 and March 2011. 8 young people between the ages of 18 - 25 have initially been recruited to be the Senior Management Team for the TakeOver project and a Board for the initiative has now been formed. This is part of the national initiative, A Night Less Ordinary, and as part of the project the Theatre Royal continues to offer free theatre tickets to young people under the age of 26 to all theatre productions. Over 5,000 Free Theatre memberships have been issued by York Theatre Royal. This means that over 5,000 young people have independently registered with the theatre to take advantage of free tickets. This is one of the highest registration figures in the country and is once again a testament to the reputation that the Theatre Royal has for attracting young people to the theatre.
- 3.16 The Theatre Royal has been chosen to be a Regional Centre for the National Association of Youth Theatres. This will mean that York will host an annual youth theatre conference and festival with over 20 youth theatres visiting York for skills development and to present productions. The annual festival will take place in February 2011.

#### **4 OTHER ACTIVITY**

- 4.1 We have agreed a new shape for Takeover 2010/11 as it is still a pilot initiative for the theatre. For this year we have decided that we are going to split the Takeover Festival into two parts. One week over the October half-term and the two weeks in March . The aim with doing this is to allow the young people involved in the project to gain experience from programming and running the theatre for the first week before they embark on the two week Festival in February.
- 4.2 The Theatre Royal has been part of a Partnership project to develop cultural leadership with other cultural organisations in York. The Four York programme with Pilot Theatre, York Museums Trust and City Libraries and Archives has provided a range of training and development opportunities for staff in the four

organisations and will pay dividends in terms of partnership working in the city in the future.

## **5 MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 Liz Wilson joined the Theatre Royal as Chief Executive in December 2010.
- 5.2 The Theatre has started work on a new Business Plan and will be working with staff and major stakeholders on a five year vision and action plan for the theatre. This is due to be completed in December 2010. This will set the theatre's priority aims and objectives with its major partners, the City of York Council and Arts Council England.
- 5.3 The Theatre has started work on its Investors in People re-accreditation which is due in September 2010.

## **6 THEATRE BUILDINGS**

- 6.1 The Theatre has submitted a Heritage Lottery Fund application with York Conservation Trust to support the enhancement of the De Grey rooms that will improve public access and use of the rooms. The application is for capital works and a learning and participation programme for young people to explore the heritage of the rooms through the use of them across the last 100 years.
- 6.2 The Theatre has also been working with York Conservation Trust to realise the vision of the Theatre Royal to create a dynamic creative hub for the city through the expansion of a creative participation and performance programme in the De Grey Rooms and ultimately the De Grey House. The vision for the theatre that is supported by York Conservation Trust is to link the Theatre Royal with the De Grey House and Rooms. The first stage of that project will be a move into the De Grey Rooms by the Theatre in September 2010. This will bring the Theatre Royal creative operation into St Leonard's Place and Exhibition Square and will be an important part of the development of the Cultural Quarter. Essential capital works will take place over the Summer 2010 to adapt and upgrade the De Grey Rooms for the theatre.

## **7 FINANCE**

- 7.1 The Theatre has had a strong year financially in a very volatile economic climate. Shortfalls in income during the year have come primarily from reductions in Corporate support and Bank Interest. The box office has continued to perform well through most of the year and the Theatre Royal finds itself in a much better position than some other theatres around the country.

7.2 The Theatre was able to take advantage of the Arts Council's Sustain Fund to assist arts organisations who had found themselves in financial difficulty due to the economic recession. The Theatre Royal was awarded £110,000 over 2009/10 and 2010/11 to support any financial shortfalls to projected income from corporate sector and other sources.

## **8 THE FUTURE**

8.1 The Theatre is working on a new Associate Artist scheme to increase the number of artists in the organisation to respond to the creative aspirations of people living in the city. We hope that this will lead to new theatre projects being developed with people of all ages in the city. The Theatre Royal has a reputation for being a very open and accessible organisation and an increase of artists will help in creating new opportunities. The Theatre has discussed this project with Arts Council England and will be applying to the Arts Council's Grants for the Arts Scheme to support the project.

8.2 The Theatre has also put a first stage application into the Esmée Fairbairn Trust to support the continuation of the concept of the TakeOver initiative. This project will create further ways in which young people take an active and responsible role in directing and influencing the work of the theatre.

8.3 York Theatre Royal, York Museums Trust and Riding Lights Theatre Company have formed a partnership to manage the York Mystery Plays in Museum Gardens as part of York800 and the Cultural Olympiad. Work has begun on developing the artistic vision, community participation and fundraising for this major cultural event. The Mystery plays Partnership is grateful to the City of York Council for its support for this project.

**Liz Wilson**  
**Chief Executive**

This page is intentionally left blank



---

**Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee**

13 July 2010

Report of the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

**YORK MUSEUMS TRUST PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY PLAN:  
2009/10 YEAR END PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

**Summary**

1. This report updates members on the current progress of the York Museums Trust (YMT) towards meeting the targets agreed in the Partnership Delivery Plan. The York Museums Trust's full report is at Annex 1.

**Background**

2. The Partnership Delivery Plan (PDP) approved by members in December 2007 outlined the key targets and objectives which the Council requires YMT to work towards over the next five years. Members have asked for regular updates on progress. Reports are brought to Overview and Scrutiny at the half-year point and again in July to report on full year performance. This report covers the year 2009/10 with particular emphasis on the second half of the financial year.
3. The key target areas set out in the PDP relate to:
  - a) Stabilising visitor figures
  - b) Delivering new income streams
  - c) New exhibitions and interpretative service
  - d) Create an education strategy
  - e) Increase use and involvement by residents
  - f) Achieve high visitor satisfaction
  - g) Ensure the cataloguing of the collection
4. The report from York Theatre Royal (Annex 1) sets out how they have addressed these issues over the past six months, and also gives an outline of what they will be developing moving forward.

### **Consultation**

5. This report is for information and there is no consultation to consider.

### **Options**

6. This report is for information and there are no options to consider.

### **Corporate Objectives**

7. YMT's business plan contributes to a number of corporate objectives including developing opportunities for residents and visitors to experience York as a vibrant and eventful city, improving opportunities for learning, and in strengthening York's economy through investment in the tourism infrastructure. Reinvestment in the museums is an identified priority within the sub-regional investment plan.

### **Implications**

8. **Finance:** The Council makes an annual grant to YMT which in 2009/10 was £1,550,070. The grant is uplifted for inflation each year. The current financial arrangements have been agreed to 2013.
9. The report has no implications relating to:
  - Human Resources
  - Equalities
  - Legal
  - Crime and Disorder
  - Information Technology
  - Property
  - Other

### **Risk Management**

10. This report is for information and there are no risks to consider.

### **Recommendations**

11. That members note and comment upon the performance of the York Museums Trust.

Reason: To fulfil the Council's role under the partnership delivery plan.

**Contact Details**

**Authors:**

Fiona Williams  
Head of Libraries and Heritage  
Tel No.3316

Janet Barnes  
Chief Executive YMT  
York Museums Trust

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Charlie Croft  
Assistant Director Lifelong Learning and  
Culture

**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 5.7.10.

**Wards Affected:**

**All**



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

Museums Trust: Partnership Delivery Plan December 2007.

Annex 1: York Museums Trust Performance Report.

This page is intentionally left blank



**York Museums Trust Performance Report: October 2009 – March 2010**

**Analysis of Performance**

1. The Partnership Delivery Plan (PDP) sets out a number of key targets relating to the Council's core objectives. The following paragraphs summarise the progress towards the 7 major targets outlined in the PDP.

a) Stabilising visitor figures

2. Visitor numbers have increased overall during 2009-2010 and amount to 531,101, representing a 8% increase from last year. It splits down as follows:
  - York Art Gallery 166,308 up 4 %
  - Yorkshire Museum 44,462 up 33% (this is the number equivalent to the same period the year before as the museum has been closed since November 2009)
  - York Castle Museum 290,052 up 7%
  - York St Mary's 30,279 up 3%

We put the increase down to the popularity of the **Stanley Spencer** exhibition at the York Art Gallery, the Vale of York Hoard exhibition (in conjunction with the Kids go Free offer) at the Yorkshire Museum and the opening of the York Castle Prison experience. We also think that 'staycation' has had some effect. Nevertheless we are pleased that even with the closure of one of our major venues for several months we have managed to increase numbers by this amount. Continued investment and effective marketing are crucial to increasing visitors and encouraging repeat visits. We were successful at the Visit York Awards on April 22, jointly winning the Best Marketing Campaign for York Castle Prison.

b) Delivering new income streams

3. We have raised additional funding from Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) to improve our financial sustainability by improving the catering and retail at York Castle Museum. The work was planned over the winter with a radical remodelling of the concourse to accommodate a new shop and café. We have appointed Elior as the caterers and we will be trading from June 2010. The Castle Museum remains open as usual with temporary catering arrangements.

We are planning to have a much needed large meeting room on the first floor where the Milburns café was. These plans have been developed with

the help of the Enterprises Board which is comprised of York based volunteers from the business community.

4. The Development Board has been working hard on the planning of the Yorkshire Dinner which is to take place on 20 May at the Hospitium and is a fundraising event. In the last report we still had £177k to raise for the Yorkshire Museum and this fundraising event is helping to close the gap. We are still looking for around £50k to complete the refurbishment.

We are very confident that the newly redisplayed Yorkshire Museum will attract many more visitors and thereby help us with our future income streams. The partnership with the British Museum has greatly helped with raising the profile as well as the promise of loans of important objects which will attract interest. We have also been working closely with Welcome to Yorkshire who have been very supportive of the marketing of the museum and have included it in their current advertisement on TV.

5. **Conferencing and Venue hire** The refurbished Hospitium has been a great success, especially in attracting weddings and even in difficult economic times the bookings remain strong. However the conference side of the business is not so good and we have not reached our targets. With an economic up-turn we expect that business will return.
6. **Renaissance in the Regions** continues to be an important income stream from Central Government, administered by the MLA. This funding is currently underpinning much of our work and development. In 2006/7 funding from Renaissance was £229,000; in 2007/8 it totalled £606,200 and in 2008/9 it was £593,382 and 2009/10 it totalled over £800,000. This includes the funding for the Castle café and shop and the **Letting in the Light** refurbishment at the Yorkshire Museum. This funding is due to stop in March 2011 and at the moment and we have no idea what will happen after that date.

c) New exhibitions and interpretative service

7. **York Art Gallery** has been undergoing a programme of refurbishment since 2004. We refurbished the first floor gallery which opened in September 2009 as the **Gallery of Pots**. This has been very well received by visitors as it enables us to display the important collection of British Studio Pots permanently through a series of changing exhibitions. The collection of British Studio Pottery in York is the largest outside London and represents around 3,500 pots plus an important archive of 20<sup>th</sup> century potters collected together by W. A. Ismay.

We are also planning the refurbishment of the Burton Gallery which is due to close in August 2010 and reopen in January 2011. This is the largest and most elegant of all the galleries and will be the last one to be refurbished. We have a grant from Wolfson and DCMS to help pay for this.

We have been working with Ushida Findlay, the architects, to produce an options appraisal on the how we can best use the space within the existing footprint of the gallery including the City Archives. We would very much like to develop the gallery further especially into the roof space that is above the main gallery. Reinstating the Victorian exhibition hall is an ambition of YMT. We would need to raise substantial funds to make this happen.

8. The exhibition programme at **York Art Gallery** has included the **Japanese Sashiko Textiles** exhibition which was organised by YMT and included loans largely from Japan. It has just finished touring to the Collins Gallery in Glasgow and will now be on display at Plymouth. We were very pleased with the design quality, the new research that went into this exhibition and the level of ambition demonstrated by our curatorial team.

We opened the **Contemporary Art Society** exhibition in February which celebrates the 100th anniversary of the CAS and has works from several galleries across Yorkshire.

9. The **Treasures of Medieval York** from the Yorkshire Museum is on show in the British Museum, and has created a lot of interest in the Yorkshire Museum. The exhibition was only possible because the museum is closed for refurbishment until 1 August when it reopens to the public. The Yorkshire Museum has now been cleared out, new toilets installed and all of the galleries have been stripped of all the clutter revealing the original Georgian layout. We believe that it will be a revelation to those who knew it before. The **Letting in the Light** project has done just that as the building is now light and airy and the research on the collections has underpinned the new displays. The project is currently on time and on budget.
10. The main development at **York Castle Museum** has been the redisplay of the York Castle Prison which is the first time that the building itself has been interpreted. The use of film and voice based on real people is a powerful way to tell the stories of the Debtors prison.
11. In York Art Gallery's **Little Gallery** we have shown the exhibitions: **Reflections on War** marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of WWII; this was followed by **Bird in the Hand**, which had as its focus a work by ceramicist Eve Bennett, complemented by objects from our collection. Currently **York Mystery Plays** is on display, looking at the medieval route the wagons took in the city.
12. **York St Mary's** was closed over the winter whilst the new commission **Flood** was being prepared. We are a little late this year due to the funding only being confirmed in April. The installation will involve use of computer components and is supported wholly by the Arts Council Yorkshire. It is due to open on June 17 and will run until late October.

13. The three York Castle Museum **Studios** – Military, Kitchen and Costume and Textiles continue to be very effective in engaging visitors. We have an ongoing programme of activities across all three where there is at least one operational at any one time and at holiday periods with all operating. Guiding staff now take an active part in the interpretation of the collections and are supported by volunteers. Themes over the last half year have included: Pirates, Marlborough's soldiers, Crumbs, Weapons from the Napoleonic wars, Mince pies, Knitting, and Bringing up baby,
14. **The Museum Gardens** are really beginning to look like a botanical garden as we have invested in the planting, especially in the borders and the rockery. The Garden Manager has made great inroads into raising the ambition and the skills of his team. Security is a constant issue and our Garden Guides, who give help and information to visitors, are making a difference although we still have some trouble with some groups of people. The garden security partnership with Safer York, the Police, National Railway Museum, University of York Kings Manor and CYC Children's and Young Peoples Services is working well; the summer time is when unsocial activity is more prevalent. We did some counting of the number of visitors and we estimate that some 1.3 million people pass through and visit the gardens each year. We now have a long term garden plan which will guide our activities.
15. The **Learning** team continues to offer an exciting learning service for schools. Despite the Yorkshire Museum being closed from November 1<sup>st</sup> we had 14,522 children come to all our sites from October to March, an overall drop of just 300. York Castle Museum had an increase of 1,363 children to a total of 10,822; York Art Gallery held steady with an increase of 62 to 2601. During this period 2809 York school children visited the sites. In partnership with the British Library and Canon Lee Secondary School, we have developed and piloted a new Key Stage 3 resource that encourages active citizenship through the exploration of historical campaigns. In January, 60 Year 9 students took part in the pilot sessions at York Castle Museum, where they met and engaged with William Wilberforce, Elizabeth Fry and a local militant Suffragette. The finished version will be available to all schools, complete with 6 week scheme of work for teachers to follow and extensive support materials from September.

Following the success of the York Can Cook project, we have continued to develop our partnership with St. Barnabas Primary. This term they have helped us to pilot a new WW2 active learning session which explores the impact of war life and the Beidecker Air Raid on York. We have written the Learning Strategy which will be going to Trustees for approval in the summer.

16. We are currently working with City partners on the Community Action plan to encourage 14 to 16 year olds to volunteer. We are helping to run an initial pilot taster day at Huntington School. Our contribution to the taster day will

include computer modelling, slam poetry, fashion, and a visit to the stores for the close examination and supervised handling of archaeological human remains. This project will fit very well with our **Precious Cargo** project. The Precious Cargo project is also funded by MLA and is part of a regional programme contributing to the Cultural Olympiad. It is aimed at encouraging young people to explore and interpret their cultural heritage and is based around the Roman collection and the anniversary in 2012 of the death of the Roman Emperor Septimius Severus.

17. The following York Schools, Nurseries, Colleges & Universities have visited York Museums Trust up to March 2010:

**Nurseries**

Bright Beginnings Nursery  
Home to Home Nursery  
Station House Nursery  
Sunshine Day Nursery  
Walmgate Day Nursery  
Wonder Years preschool / Jack in the Box Preschool  
York College Nursery

**Primary students**

Acomb Primary  
Archbishop of York Primary  
Badger Hill Primary  
Bootham Junior School  
Burton Green Primary School  
Carr Infant School  
Chapter House Prep  
Clifton Green Primary School  
Clifton Pre-Prep  
Clifton With Rawcliffe Primary  
Copmanthorpe Primary  
Derwent Junior School  
Dunnington School  
Elvington Primary School  
Fishergate Primary  
Great Ouseburn Primary  
Haxby Road Primary  
Headlands Primary  
Hempland Primary  
Heworth Primary  
Hob Moor Community Primary School  
Huntington Primary  
Lakeside Primary  
Lord Deramore's Primary  
Minster School  
Osbalwick Primary  
Our Lady's RC Primary  
Poppleton Road Primary  
Robert Wilkinson Primary

Rufforth Primary  
Scarcroft Road Primary  
St Aelred's Primary  
St Barnabas  
St Benedicts RC Primary  
St George's RC Primary  
St Lawrence's Primary  
St Martin's Primary  
St Mary's Primary  
St Paul's Primary  
St Wilfrid's RC Primary  
Tang Hall Primary School  
The Mount School  
Tregelles The Mount School  
Welburn Community Primary School  
Westfield Primary  
Wigginton Primary  
Woodthorpe Primary

Knavesmire Cool Kids Club  
Poppleton Ousebank School Art Club

**Secondary and A-level students**

All Saints RC School  
Ampleforth College  
Archbishop Holgate School  
Bootham School  
Canon Lee School  
Easingwold School  
English in York  
English Language Center  
Fulford School  
Hob Moor Oaks School  
Huntington School  
Joseph Rowntree School  
Lords Language Centre  
Melton College  
Millthorpe School  
The Mount School  
Wensleydale School

Woldgate College  
York College  
York Tutors  
**Universities**  
University of York,

York St John  
**SEN Schools**  
Applefields School  
The Dales School

18. Part of the refurbishment of the Yorkshire Museum includes the creation of the Learning Level. This will include the Science Lab, an Archaeology Lab, Reading Room and the historic Yorkshire Philosophical Society (YPS) library. It will be open to all visitors and will allow them to dig deeper into the collections. We are working in partnership with, local volunteers, the YPS and the U3A to provide some of the 'digging deeper' information. The dedicated learning spaces in the Castle Museum Prison exhibition are complete. The Teachers Advisory Panel has met to consider our E learning offer, and the impact of the new primary curriculum. The members of the panel are from York schools and colleges.
19. An article appeared in the journal *Antiquity* Volume: 84 Number: 323 Page: 131–145, *A Lady of York: migration, ethnicity and identity in Roman Britain*, S. Leach, H. Eckardt, C. Chenery, G. Müldner and M. Lewis. The first of several that will appear resulting from the AHRC-funded project looking at Roman Diaspora communities in York based on the Yorkshire Museum's collections. This created a great deal of interest in the regional, national and international press.
20. The **Portable Antiquities Scheme** has been successfully recording over 300 objects per month. We have been successful in securing a second Headley Trust Intern to support this work for this coming quarter.
21. **History of the World in 100 Objects** was launched on BBC Radio 4. The Yorkshire Museum's own Vale of York Viking Hoard is one of the 100 selected national objects. 6 of the 10 objects selected from regional museums in Yorkshire are from YMT collections. A half an hour programme on Radio York was dedicated to each object with members of the curatorial team acting as expert guests on each programme.

e) *Increase use and involvement by residents*

23. **The Territories** project based at York Art Gallery continues to deliver high quality creative opportunities to local residents. We have built on the success of our partnership with City of York Council's Adult & Community Education team. They have funded sessions for a group of adults with learning difficulties which finished in February - all those attending the 15 week course have achieved NOCN Entry Level 3: *Introduction to Mixed Media in 2D*. They are also funding a 10 week, non-accredited course for adults with mental health issues which began in January. The Travellers' Education Support

Team received a YorKash award for young travellers to work with the gallery and the YMT collections to create artwork inspired by Derby Porcelain. This application and its success is largely due to past Territories projects with young travellers. As a result Territories was chosen as a model of good practice by the MLA.

24. **Studio Saturdays, Residents first** and our **Curatorial talks** programme were all well attended and are aimed at local residents. The Ekphrasis workshop in partnership with the Centre for Lifelong Learning at York University was a great success with over 70 local people attending the final performance event.
25. **Adult Learning:** we received a grant from the MLA (Museums Libraries and archives) as part of their Learning Revolution of £57,000 and this was used to develop our adult learning provision. This saw an increase from 955 to 3497 people taking part in the last 6 months. The number of offers was increased to 50 from 20. Adult learning is an important priority for the Trust. The project was evaluated and the success has been acknowledged by the MLA with a further grant for this year of £7,500 to track the value of adult learning in Museums and Galleries and set up an adult learning photography project at York Castle Museum.
26. We currently have 208 active **Volunteers** across all sites. Nearly all of whom are York residents. There is a tremendous variety of opportunities to join in. All volunteers undergo substantial training not only in the subject specific areas of their involvement but also in customer care, object handling and working in museums. Volunteers play an increasingly important part in the delivery of the Studios programme at York Castle Museum.

The Observatory continues to establish its presence in the city. Visitor numbers have risen steadily since last year; an average Saturday opening from Jan–Mar this year has seen 175 visitors per session compared to an average of 104 per Saturday session for the same period last year.

The YPS library volunteers are working hard to prepare the library in the Yorkshire Museum for reopening in August 2010.

Volunteers at the Castle Museum have been able to open the Mill more regularly with the improved weather during March, welcoming 3104 visitors through the doors from Jan to Mar.

We are providing opportunities for volunteers from the North Yorkshire Supported Employment Service.

The Community Payback project team continue to work in the Museum Gardens.

f) *Achieve high visitor satisfaction*

27. We are participating in the **Visitor Quality Assured Standard** again for 2010 and are currently awaiting the process to take place. We anticipate a positive

response and have taken steps to tackle the specific issues identified in the 2009 survey.

28. Visitor feedback is recorded through visitor books, formal evaluation reports and the website. Feedback for formal learning is through the quizdom interactive that asks both teachers and pupils what they think. Some typical visitor comments received were:

*"Interesting reminds me of when I was in the plays in 1966!"*

*"Really incredibly interesting and a lovely introduction .....would appreciate a current York map to mark the 12 stations."*

*"Contacting you to say how much we enjoyed our visit to the Castle Museum yesterday. When I was a child (quite a few years ago!), I thought it was absolutely brilliant and I can honestly say you've improved it even further!! My own children loved the egg basket event and we were very touched by the level of care shown by your staff as we went round".*

29. Independent surveys of 400 visitors to York Castle Museum in August and November 2009 gave the following satisfaction ratings:

**Cleanliness: 96%**

**Helpfulness of staff: 98%**

**Value for money: 98%**

**Content of Museum 99%**

These results were bench-marked against other members of the Yorkshire Attractions Group and they compare favourably.

30. Feedback has also been sought specifically on the new attraction **York Castle Prison**. Almost all visitors rated it 'Good' or 'Very Good' and 27% of visitors rated it as their favourite gallery, second only to the Victorian Street (40%). Here are a few of the many positive visitor comments:

*"Excellent - gives an authentic taste of the sufferings of the prisoners!"*

*"Brilliant, what more can I say - fantastic, fab, value for money, best day's entertainment for a long time. WELL DONE."*

*"Very atmospheric. Scary cell with breathing very effective, but scary to walk into!"*

*"Incredible way of bringing history alive. Well done!!"*

*"Excellent, we are from York and have been to the museum many times as a child and now with my children. WE LOVE IT AND ARE VERY PROUD."*



g) *Ensure the cataloguing of the collection*

29. All curators worked on the Adlib upgrade which brought our data management system up to date with a newly released version of the software. Increased levels of data cleaning which were carried out in spring/summer 2009 in advance of the Adlib upgrade diverted a certain amount of effort from the creation of records for retrospective documentation but this was essential to ensure that the records carried good sound data and we eliminated a certain amount of common errors rather than leaving them to be perpetuated. Some work was also done by an external geology curator in cleaning data ready for the Adlib transfer.
30. The Adlib upgrade took place in summer 2009. The Registrar and Collections Manager worked with a member of staff from Adlib on site for a couple of days in April installing the trial version; all curators then had to check this data and confirm that records had transferred successfully and no data had been lost. The live data transfer took place in June and Adlib were back on site in July to implement data configurations specific to our set up. They attended York again in January 2010 to create brief displays for individual collections and make some customisations relating to access controls on the system to suit the way we use it. While there are lingering problems with the software, due to the fact that it is very new and we were the first institution to receive this version, no data has been lost in the transfer and that is largely down to the long lead in and time spent planning both by ourselves and Adlib project staff; the double checking undertaken by all our curators and the meticulous work done by our Registrar and Adlib staff.
31. In terms of activity 2009-2010 in adding records and cleaning data prior to the upgrade, the teams have achieved the following:

<b>Collections Management</b>	117 records created on Adlib 231,696 pieces of data edited/cleaned.
<b>The Archaeology Team</b>	2,262 retro records added to Adlib 2,238 records checked and edited
<b>Fine Art</b>	436 retro records added to Adlib 107 edited and cleaned
<b>Decorative Arts</b>	109 retro records added to Adlib
<b>The Science Team</b>	808 retro records added to Adlib 6,307 records checked and edited
<b>Social History</b>	1,096 retro records added to Adlib 1841 manual records created 82 records checked and edited
<b>Costume and textile</b>	674 retro records added to Adlib 446 manual retro records 181 manual records created by volunteers

**Military**

640 retro records added to Adlib  
182 records checked and edited

32. Subject teams have also continued to work on other activities; staff at the Yorkshire Museum have of course been directly involved with the development of content for the new displays at that site and the staff at York Art Gallery have continued to work on the demanding exhibition programme there, where the highlight of the year was probably the **Sashiko** exhibition, involving as it did so many fragile loans from Japan.
33. **Storage & Conservation** – small scale interventions to improve storage and collections care have been made this year. All off-site stores were visited by the Director of Collections and Collections Manager in summer 2009. They were assessed against MLA's Benchmarks in Collections Care and curators discussed areas where improvements could be made in the way they manage and operate in stores, which will result in better care of the objects. In addition, work started on building a new internal partitioned box for storing entomology at Birch Park; these collections need to be removed from basement rooms at St Mary's Lodge which have become too damp for safety and it is anticipated that the relocation will take place in May 2010. Collections staff at the Yorkshire Museum have done a lot of good work in relocating collections out of the building where appropriate in advance of the refurbishment and the increased pressure on space this caused has led to better management of the stores at Birch Park, which are now full. Collections which are receiving conservation work in advance of display include the ichthyosaur.
34. **Developing the collection** We have raised £4,400 from the Headley Trust and the V&A Purchase Fund to buy a silver medieval plaque of St Christopher found at Wistow in North Yorkshire. We have acquired a pastel by Huddersfield born artist David Blackburn, *Folded Hillside with White Cloud*, 2002. A stoneware vase by the French potter Emile Lenoble (1876 – 1939), has been purchased for £3,000 with a grant of £1,500 from the Friends of York Art Gallery. This pot was given to the donor's husband by the Very Revd Dean Milner White. We have also acquired a baluster jug by the Devon based potter Doug Fitch. We have been awarded £5,000 from the the Woodmansterne Conservation Awards to fund the conservation of our portrait of *Captain John Foote* by Joshua Reynolds. This painting will be conserved in time for redisplay in the refurbished Burton Gallery. A large Chinese Qing Dynasty dish (1662-1795) decorated with a miniature garden is currently being conserved. The dish is from the York Art Gallery's collection and will go on display in the **China: Journey to the East** exhibition, which will open in June, and is a British Museum touring exhibition.

**Detailed Visitor Numbers****Visitor Numbers**

12months from April 2009 to March 2010

*(excluding conference visitors)*

	Actual	Last year	% Change
Castle Museum	290,052	270,076	+7%
York Art Gallery	166,308	160,305	+4%
York St Mary's	30,279	29,203	+3%
Yorkshire Museum	44,462	33,370	+33%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>531,101</b>	<b>492,954</b>	<b>8%</b>

**Notes:**

Yorkshire Museum closed in November 2009.

**Financial Stability**

38. Draft accounts show that YMT made a small surplus in 2009-10 and continues to be financially stable, but it has always been recognised that in an increasingly competitive and demanding market it would require further investment funding and capital investment to prosper.
39. The investment in the Hospitium facilities is delivering profits and bookings are holding up well under the economic pressure. Work is nearly complete to improve the café and retail facilities at the Castle Museum with a view to increasing secondary spend.
40. Core funding for 2008-2013 has been agreed at the current level, plus an inflationary uplift.
41. CYC is now holding £200k of the original £1.9m of capital funding that was set aside when the trust was formed in 2002. The council has contributed £800k towards the £2.2m refurbishment of the Yorkshire Museum.

## Knowledge & Learning Figures

Oct 2009 - March 2010	Castle Museum	Yorkshire Museum	York Art Gallery	Observatory	York St Mary's	Total all sites
<b>Visiting children in York school groups (Ages 0-16)</b>		(including outreach workshops)		Schools included with YM		
• Nursery	94	0	154	0	0	248
• Primary	1,306	167	777	0	0	2,250
• Secondary	202	34	280	0	0	516
• Other	0	0	34	0	0	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>1,245</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,048</b>
<b>Visiting children in non-York school groups (Ages 0-16)</b>		(including outreach workshops)		Schools included with YM		
• Nursery	347	0	53	0	0	400
• Primary	4,483	625	481	0	0	5,589
• Secondary	3,003	160	327	0	0	3,490
• Other	791	0	108	0	0	899
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,624</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,378</b>
<b>Student Educational visits HE + FE (Ages 17+)</b>	276	53	347	0	0	676
<b>Students on a general visit HE + FE (Ages 17+)</b>	320	0	100	0	0	420
<b>Events (Extra activities taking place on site for the general visitor)</b>	39	7	23	10	0	79
<b>Number of visitors to events</b>	47,650	901	1,964	3,316	0	53,831
<b>Outreach events</b> (does not include outreach workshops)	4	9	2	2	0	17
<b>Number users of outreach events</b>	178	1,628	200	170	0	2,176
<b>Educational Activities (Workshops)</b>	162	50	76	0	0	288
<b>Informal Learning Groups on site (For example Territories etc...)</b>	21	10	101	7	0	139
<b>Users of informal Learning on site</b>	1,277	796	1,216	208	0	3,497
<b>Number of instances of teachers in contact with museums, excluding visits with school parties</b>	57	2	0	0	0	59

October 2009 - March 2010

	Transactions	Objects	Notes
Acquisitions	29	799	<p>Notable purchases during the year included the Vale of York Hoard acquired in partnership with the British Museum, a medieval plaque depicting the legend of Saint Christopher, 'Preparing for a Fancy Dress Ball' by William Etty and a vase by French potter Emile Lenoble (1920-1938); all purchases were supported by grant aid.</p> <p>Gifts included a portrait of John Carr, a pastel 'Folded Hillside with White Cloud' (2002) by David Blackburn and an earthenware bowl (1980-1990) by Sutton Taylor. Framed shop displays of badges, medals, ribbons and photographs were received from Andersons Gentleman's Outfitters on closure of the business. Other donations included a cannon ball from the Marston Moor battlefield and a handwritten notebook detailing the diets of prisoners in York Castle Prison 1856-1864. In order to keep the collections up to date some recent toys dating between the 1960s and 1990s were acquired.</p> <p>Henry Rothschild bequeathed 46 pieces of Studio Pottery.</p>
Archaeological sites	7	TBC	Accession numbers were issued to archaeological units for work within the collecting area: CS Archaeology, MAP Archaeological Consultancy, Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd and York Archaeological Trust.
Disposals	1	1	An unaccessioned lease regarding West Moors, Hatfield, 1789 is being transferred to Doncaster Archive Service. The lease has been on loan since 1976 and relates to the Doncaster area rather than York.
Loans In	21	153	Incoming loans for exhibitions at York Art Gallery included works belonging to the Arts Council for 'St Ives' and works from Harrogate Art Gallery, Ferens Art Gallery, Doncaster Museums & Art Gallery and Museums Sheffield for '100 Years of Gifts: the Centenary of the Contemporary Art Society'. 'Sashiko Japanese Textiles' was the first major Sashiko exhibition to be shown in this country and comprised of works borrowed from nine lenders in Japan and three in the UK. Two individual loans were made to York Art Gallery, both specially commissioned: 'Lythrum' by Paul Morrison and 'The Anonymous Rose' by Simon Periton.
Loans Out	22	338	<p>Objects have been loaned from the Archaeology collection to the following exhibitions: 'The History of Ballymoney', Ballymoney Museum; 'Shedding Light on the Dark Ages', Dudley Museum and Art Gallery and 'Treasures from the Yorkshire Museum', the British Museum.</p> <p>Ceramics have been displayed in: 'Hans Coper Retrospective: Innovation in 20th Century Ceramics', at the Museum of Ceramic Art, Hyogo and the Museum of Contemporary Ceramic Art, Koka City, Japan. 'Contemporary Fine and Applied Arts: 1928-2009', Tate Saint Ives; 'Fired Ceramics', Ryedale Folk Museum, 'Edward Hughes Retrospective', Manchester Metropolitan University.</p> <p>A sculpture was included in 'The Face and Figure of Shakespeare 1709-1790: How Britain's Sculptors Invented a National Hero', Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham.</p> <p>Paintings were borrowed for: 'Fools and Angels' and other works by Cecil Collins', Lethaby Gallery, Central St Martin's College of Art and Design, 'The Artist's Studio', Compton Verney and the Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts, 'Sacred Spain: Art and Belief in the Golden Age', the Indianapolis Museum of Art, 'Reunited Masterpieces: From Adam and Eve to George and Martha', Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art</p>

Connecticut, 'David Hockney in London and Los Angeles 1960-1968', Nottingham Contemporary and 'Paul Gauguin: The Elements', Dulwich Picture Gallery.

The exhibition 'Art in Life' comprising ceramics and Japanese prints was loaned to the Jersey Arts Centre and the 'Sashiko Japanese Textiles' exhibition has been transferred to the Collins Gallery, Glasgow.

Objects were loaned from the History collection for 'The 400th Anniversary of Lisburn', Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum.

<p>Conservation</p>	<p>13 65</p>	<p>Several objects in the Archaeology collection are being professionally conserved for inclusion in the new displays at the Yorkshire Museum.</p> <p>Items from the Art collection were sent for conservation prior to loans for 'Hans Coper Retrospective: Innovation in 20th Century Ceramics' and 'John Edward Champney: Philanthropist and Art Lover'.</p> <p>Works were mounted by a conservator ready for display in the following exhibitions: 'Reflections on War', 'A Bird in the Hand' and 'York Mystery Plays'.</p> <p>Conservation work has been carried out on the following objects from the History collection: a painting (framing), a long case clock and rocking horse.</p>
---------------------	--------------	--

## Fundraising

We have been successful in securing funds between October 2009 and March 2010 for the following:

<b>Funding Body</b>	<b>Reason for Application/funds</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Feoffees of St Michael's Spurriergate	Capital funding for the Yorkshire Museum Library	£5,000
MLA PRISM Grant Fund	Conservation of the type specimen of <i>Ichthyosaurus crassimanus</i>	£20,000
Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art	William Etty exhibition catalogue	£5,200
Woodmansterne Conservation Awards	Conservation of Joshua Reynolds' <i>Captain John Foote</i>	£5,300
Arts Action York (CYC),	To develop new activity for Early Years at YAG	£1,000
MLA Designation Development Fund	Project to unlock the potential of 'hidden' collections	£73,500
Arts Council England Grants for the Arts	Contemporary Visual Art in York (York St Mary's and York Art Gallery)	£70,000
Headley Museums Archaeological Acquisitions Fund	Purchase of a medieval St Christopher plaque	£2,000
MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund	Purchase of a medieval St Christopher plaque	£2,400
MLA	Adult Learning evaluation and photography project	£7,500
York Youth Community Action Pilot grant (supported by DCSF)	Pilot project to work with young people to gain new interpretation and reinterpretation of the collections	£6,000
Yorkshire Philosophical Society	fern garden in the Museum Gardens	£1,000
Arts and Humanities Research Council	William Etty doctoral research project (joint bid with University of York)	
	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£198,900.00</b>

This page is intentionally left blank