

**Councillor Stuart Rawlings, Executive Member for Education,
Children and Young People**

Report to Full Council - October 2016

Could I take this opportunity to thank officers, past portfolio holders of all parties and fellow members for their help and support since taking over the portfolio some 4 months ago. Clearly this is a challenging area but with challenge comes opportunity. I am pleased to have met with the shadow portfolio holder on a number of occasions to discuss my objectives and ideas and hope these open discussions will continue.

1. Education and Skills

Ofsted

The percentage of pupils in good and outstanding schools in York remains high against both national and regional averages. It has risen by 5.8% since March 2015

% of pupils in good or outstanding schools	York	Yorkshire and Humber	England
All schools	92.8%	82.2%	86.6%
Primary Schools	91.4%	85.4%	89.7%
Secondary Schools	94.9%	77%	82%

This means that the vast majority of children in York have access to good or outstanding schools and are able to then move on to provision which is 100% good or outstanding in our sixth forms and at York College and Askham Bryan.

2016 has seen significant changes to the school curriculum and assessment systems in both primary and secondary schools. The standards required at the end of key stages are now higher than in previous years and new performance measures have been introduced for both attainment and progress.

Performance at KS5 has remained significantly above the national average in all our school sixth forms and York College. Provisional value

added data for York indicates that all school sixth forms are performing in the top quartile nationally for A level outcomes.

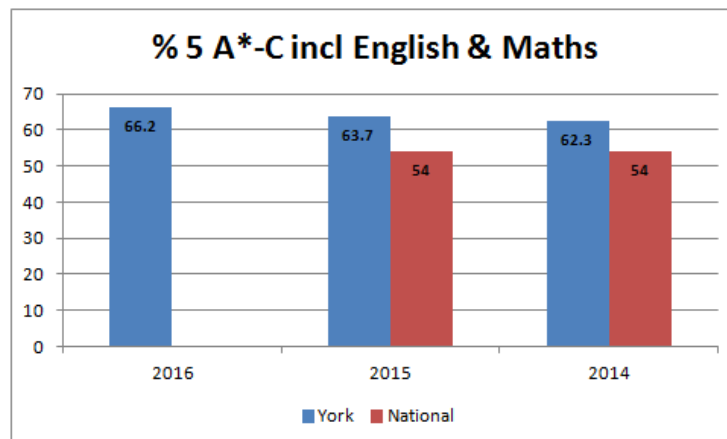
Participation

York has fantastic participation rates with 98.5% of young people having an identified destination in employment, education or training after Year 11.

Apprenticeships, which sit outside my portfolio, are critical to the development of young people and the transfer to adult life. So I continue to work closely with the executive member to increase the percentage of higher level apprenticeships, in line with the city's economic growth priorities.

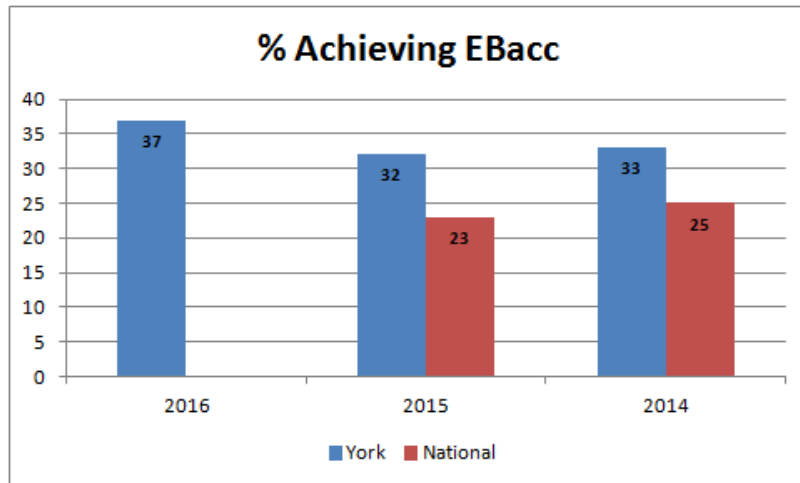
KS4

In Key Stage 4 new performance indicators for attainment and progress, attainment 8 and progress 8 have been introduced. National comparative data is not currently available for these indicators, however, York's secondary schools saw an improving trend for the percentage of pupils achieving 5A*- C including English and Maths, with 66.2% achieving this benchmark, an increase of 2.5 percentage points on the previous year. This is significantly above the 2015 national average of 54%. Provisional regional data indicates that York's performance was 1st out of 15 LAs on this measure in 2016.



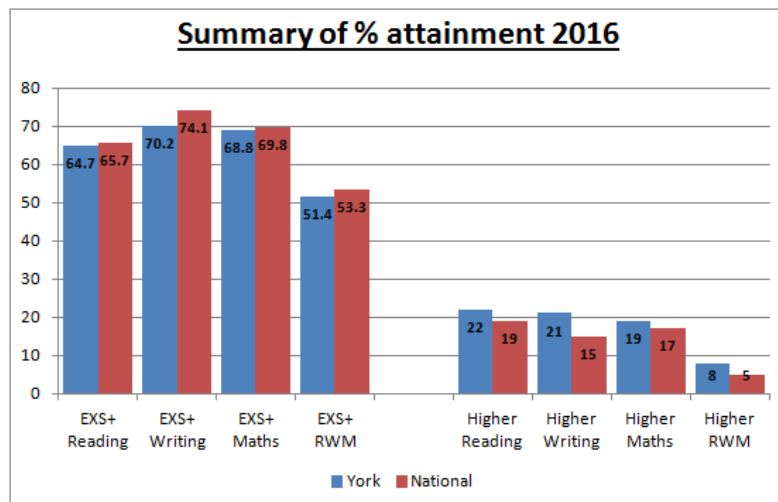
English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

York's secondary schools continue to perform well against the new EBacc performance indicator which measures the performance of pupils in the academic core curriculum. In 2016 the percentage of pupils achieving grade C and above in 5 EBacc subjects improved by 5 percentage points and is significantly above both national and regional averages.



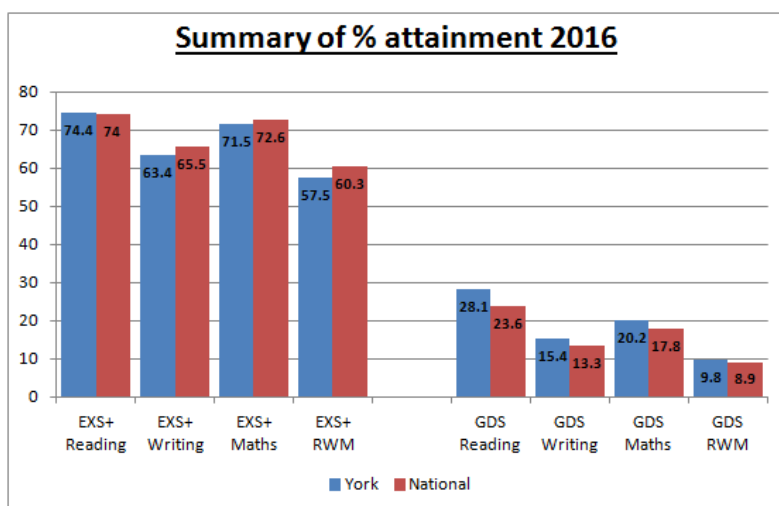
KS2

In KS2 new performance measures have been introduced for both attainment and progress. In 2016 York's performance is in line with the national average for both attainment and progress for the percentage achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined. The percentage of pupils achieving the higher standard in reading, writing and mathematics is significantly above the national average.



KS1

In KS1 performance was in line with national for the percentage achieving the expected standards in reading, writing and mathematics, the percentage achieving the good standard being significantly above the national average.



There were significant improvements in outcomes in the Early Years Foundation Stage and Year 1 Phonics in 2016, with York’s performance showing an improving trend and both indicators being 4 percentage points above the national average.

Gap

Unfortunately the gap in attainment between pupil premium children and their peers has widened in our primary schools. However the headline attainment of the pupil premium cohort improved. The gap between pupil premium children and non pupil premium children has widened due to the continued improvement in the outcomes of the non pupil premium children. It is important to note that a significantly higher proportion of pupil premium children in York have a special educational need and/or disability than is the case in the cohort as a whole. In 2016, 31% of the KS2 pupil premium children had a special educational need, compared to 10% of non pupil premium children. In KS1 26% of pupil premium children have special educational needs, compared to 10% of non pupil premium children. This has important implications for the focused work that is being developed to share best practice from inside York but also from other parts of the country that are successfully narrowing the gap to improve the outcomes for pupil premium children in 2017. A contributing factor to the widening of the gap in 2016 has also been the improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving the higher standards of performance at both KS1 and KS2.

Responding to a changing landscape

The pace of change in education continues to be rapid and York is continuing to see an increase in the number of schools converting to academy status and forming or joining multi academy trusts. Despite these changes there remains a strong commitment to partnership working with the local authority. During 2015-16 the work between the local authority and the Ebor and Pathfinder teaching schools alliances was central to developing the new school improvement arrangements, which are centred around the use of resources from the dedicated schools grant to deliver an extensive programme of continuing professional development for schools, by schools and school to school support. Having the best leaders and teachers in all our schools remains one of this administrations main priorities. This aspiration is at the heart of our school improvement arrangements. The diversity of provision across the school system in York and the high quality outcomes against both regional and national performance continues to be a cause for pride and it is important that current city wide partnership arrangements can be maintained as schools move to new organisational structures.

Services to Schools

During 2015-16 work has been taking place to refresh and improve the local authority's services to schools. This has been developed in consultation with headteachers and governors and has led to the development of a dedicated digital platform for services to schools. (school bus plus) This will provide a gateway for schools to access both York based and national advice and guidance across a range of statutory and non-statutory education services. Developing and continuing to grow the quality of the services to schools offer is an important part of maintaining a strong relationship with schools.

Pre School Education

In 2015 York became the only LA to be identified to fully roll out the 30 hours of free child care as part of a pilot scheme which will inform the national roll out from September 2017. York's position as the only early implementer local authority has brought national attention and continues to be an important piece of work during 2016-17. I'm pleased to report that almost all York's pre school providers are taking part in this scheme

Sufficiency

Ensuring a sufficient supply of school places is an increasingly important focus within the portfolio. Work has taken place to add additional school places at existing schools. Two new school buildings, Carr Infant and

Lord Deramore's are being built through the priority schools building scheme to replace existing buildings which were in poor condition. The Carr Infant project has been completed and the new school is now open. Lord Deramore's are due to move to their new school building in the spring term 2017. The growth of the city in the next few years will see the need for new schools to be built and this administration will continue to work in partnership with existing schools and multi-academy trusts to develop new provision, including new academies and free schools where they are needed to ensure all children have access to good schools close to where they live.

2. Early Help and Prevention

Local Area Teams

At the heart of our approach to help children and young people achieve their full potential is our strategy to respond at the earliest point to any emerging need or vulnerability. This approach can prevent the escalation of problems and reduce the need for more intensive or specialist help later on. York has a well established history of delivering early help and over the past year we have been working hard with our partners to further develop and strengthen these arrangements.

Work to develop the new operating model for early help and prevention has made good progress during 2015-16. This will see the introduction of new multi-disciplinary and multi-agency Local Area Teams in three locality bases in the East, North and West of the city from January 2016. The new approach to early help will focus on the development of children's centre services and a new approach to city centre Youth provision.

Healthy Child Service

In April 2016 the 0-19 Healthy Child Service, comprising health visitors and school nurses, successfully transferred from the NHS to City of York Council. The on-going work to fully embed the service within the new early help arrangements is providing the opportunity to further develop the universal and targeted public health offer to children and families to improve outcomes, narrow gaps and ensure that all children are healthy and ready to learn.

3. Children's Social Care

Reforms

Over the past twelve months Childrens Social Care has been the subject of continued national scrutiny, discussion and challenge. In York our services have continued to develop and to embrace as opportunities many of the challenges the rapidly changing policy and regulatory environment has presented. Very reassuringly the publication of the Government's paper *Childrens Social Care Reform – A Vision for Change* in January of this year has confirmed the direction of travel we have chosen for our local service arrangements.

Echoing our York vision for childrens social care published in June 2013 and updated October 2015, the government's reform paper describes a vision where

..... every child in the country, whatever their background, whatever their age, whatever their ethnicity or gender, to have the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Children's social care services have an essential role to play – whether by keeping children safe from harm, finding the best possible care when children cannot live at home, or creating the conditions that enable children to thrive and achieve. To make that happen, it is essential that everybody working within children's social care has the knowledge and skills to do their jobs well, and the organisational leadership and culture to support and challenge them to keep improving.¹

The government's vision emphasises the need for strong leadership, good governance, child centred practice and a suitably skilled workforce. I am pleased to report that it is exactly in these areas where we have been focussing our energies here in York and as a consequence are very well placed to continue to keep safe and improve the outcomes especially for some of the City's most vulnerable children and young people.

Following a programme of review and extensive consultation a significantly reconfigured and strengthened childrens social work service was launched in September this year. This work has seen the introduction of more specialist teams that will focus on key areas of vulnerability and need (including a response team to prevent young people in crisis needing to enter care).

¹ *Childrens Social Care Reform – A Vision for Change Jan 2016 Department for Education*

The new arrangements saw the introduction of a dedicated Advanced Social Work Practitioner with responsibility for monitoring and ensuring effective responses to any concerns for child sexual exploitation or missing children.

A very experienced Principal Social Worker has been appointed to lead the development of excellence in local practice and a greatly strengthened quality assurance and review arrangements have been introduced.

Scrutiny and Review

Of course in this area of work there can be no room for complacency. Over the past year our services have been scrutinised through a variety of mechanisms including;

- a shadowing visit by the chair of the Local Safeguarding Board to the local authority's referral and assessment service
- inspection by Ofsted of our residential short breaks service The Glen
- Care Quality Commission inspection of our community short break arrangements
- a fact finding visit by the Deputy Director – Safeguarding for the Department for Education

The outcomes and feedback from this visit confirm that arrangements in these areas are robust and effective.

Working Beyond York

Over the past year York has been able to take a leadership role in the region in relation to some key areas of work.

Specifically, we are leading the development of a regional adoption agency to improve further the timeliness of the adoption process and the experience of those families wishing to adopt.

The year long *ItsNotOk* campaign has helped to raise awareness across the City and beyond to the issue of child sexual abuse in all its forms and crucially has made it easier for children and young people to ask for help if needed.

Perhaps the most significant issue to report is the continued excellent partnership working with health, police and voluntary sector colleagues. No single agency can deliver the outcomes needed to keep children and

to support their resilience and achievement. We know that where agencies work closely together services are most effective. A good example of this collaborative working here in York can be seen at our Frontdoor where Police, Health and social work staff are collocated to ensure a well informed and joined up response wherever a child is identified as in need or at risk.

Looked After Children

We know that most children are best cared for and achieve the best outcomes living at home. We work hard to keep children at home and support that arrangement wherever possible and safe to do so. Our strengthened childrens social care services and the constant updating of our social workers skills and tools for intervention has contributed to a stable population of those young people who need to be looked after.

York's looked after children population trend over the past four years

Number of CYPIC										
					Historical Performance				Comparators	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	Regional	National
Number CYPIC	199	203	188	191	191	197	222	243	491	457
No. per 10k	55	56	52	53	53	54	61	68	65	60

However for those children and young people who cannot be cared for at home or within their extended family we will continue to work hard to secure their safe and effective alternative permanent care.

Our *Make York Home* innovation programme was launched last year to ensure that wherever a child did need alternative care we could look after them in or as close to their local community as possible. Such arrangements can minimise the disruption of coming into care on a child or young person's wider life experience. This work which included young people, parents / carers and other professionals has achieved a significant decrease in the number of children who have been cared for in placements outside of the authority.

York's historical placements trends by distance from York

	Historical			
	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13
New Placements in LA	47	35	46	38
New Placements outside LA	22	29	16	16
New Placements +20miles	4	11	10	14

Voice and Inclusion

Central to all of the work of this service is a voice of the child / young people.

Our Children's Rights and Advocacy Service (known as Speak Up) promotes children's rights and provides advocacy for children and young people who are looked after, on a child protection plan or want to make a complaint against the council. The service provides issue-based advocacy and only exists for the time it takes to resolve the specific issue. A review of the activity of this service over the past year gives confidence that where children and young people are worried or concerned about a service they receive they are able to say so and to get help.