



**Notice of a public meeting of
Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

To: Councillors Baker, Barker, Daubeney (Chair), Fenton,
Fitzpatrick, Heaton and Webb (Vice-Chair)

Date: Wednesday, 13 April 2022

Time: 5.30 pm

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

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests.

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 04 January 2022.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at our meetings. The deadline for registering is **5.00pm on Friday, 08 April 2022**. Members of the public can speak on agenda items or matters within the remit of the committee.

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill out an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting please contact the Democracy Officer for the meeting whose details can be found at the foot of the agenda.

Webcasting of Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The public meeting can be viewed on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

During coronavirus, we've made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our coronavirus updates (www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy) for more information on meetings and decisions.

- 4. Cultural Strategy Update** (Pages 7 - 22)
This report provides an update on the culture sector in York and the implementation and delivery of the city's Culture Strategy, York's Creative Future, 2020 – 25.
- 5. Finance Third Quarter Monitoring Report, Children's Services** (Pages 23 - 30)
This report provides an analysis of the latest performance for 2021/22 and forecasts the financial outturn position by reference to the services plans and budgets falling under the committee's responsibilities.
- 6. Children and Young People in Care Update** (Pages 31 - 42)
This is an update relating to children and young people in care, key performance information and areas of priority.
- 7. Scrutiny Review Update - School Holiday Food** (Pages 43 - 70)
Members will receive an interim progress update from the School Holiday Food Task Group.
- 8. Work Plan** (Pages 71 - 72)
To consider the Committee's work plan.

9. Urgent Business

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

Democracy Officer

Jane Meller

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 555209
- Email – jane.meller@york.gov.uk

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

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

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

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

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

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

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

 (01904) 551550

This page is intentionally left blank

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Date	4 January 2022
Present	Councillors Barker, Daubeney (Chair), Fenton, Fitzpatrick, Heaton and Webb (Vice-Chair)
In Attendance	Councillors Cuthbertson (Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education) and Smalley (Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Communities)
Apologies	Councillor Baker

In light of the changing circumstances around the Covid-19 pandemic, this meeting was held remotely. Scrutiny Committees are not decision making meetings. Therefore the outcomes recorded in these minutes are **not** subject to approval by the Chief Operating Officer under his emergency delegated powers.

20. Declarations of Interest

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

None were declared.

21. Minutes

Cllr Webb noted that Members had not been provided with the data regarding the 12 month spend on agency staff requested at the meeting on 27 September 2021. He also noted a typographical error in the minutes of 06 October 2021, in that in minute number seventeen, fourth paragraph, second bullet point it should have read 'complexity' rather than 'complicity'.

Resolved:

- i. That the typographical error be corrected and a further request for the data be made.
- ii. That the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 27 September 2021 and 06 October 2021 be approved as a correct record and then signed by the Chair at a later date.

22. Public Participation

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

23. Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme 2021 Update

Members considered a report that updated them on the delivery of the new Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme in 2021 and the future delivery plans in 2022.

The Head of Education Support Services and the Community and Partnerships Officer were in attendance to present the report and answer questions from Members. They noted the following:

- Where possible, the holiday activity should include a hot meal. Providing a hot meal had proved difficult, especially for smaller activity providers. Food provision had been mainly in the form of packed lunches and hampers for families.
- Covid had made delivery of the programme difficult, particularly at Christmas with the Omicron variant. Families had tended to be more insular over the Christmas period.
- During the summer approximately 20% of eligible families benefitted from the scheme, with 25% benefitting at Christmas. This contrasts with approximately 10% in other local areas.

Officers responded to a variety of questions from Members covering a range of topics that included the differences in take up between the summer and Christmas provision, the level of take up compared to the funding available and the feedback received from families. They noted the following:

- The budget for HAF hot meals was £2.63 per head, this had been set on the basis that school canteens was to have been providing the meals. Community kitchens and smaller providers had not been able to match that budget requirement and could not be expected to do so. The food provision must align with school food standards.
- It had been difficult to find outreach projects for older children.
- Food vouchers had not been provided during HAF weeks.

At this point in the meeting the Chair noted that the Director of Children's Services had confirmed to him via email that the health checks for two year olds were reviewed by the Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny committee.

The Director of Customer and Communities then drew Members' attention to the Executive Members' request for the committee to consider the effectiveness of the food voucher scheme for children receiving free school meals. This provision had been extended to February half term 2022.

She gave some background information to the scheme and there followed a brief discussion as to the best way to proceed. Cllrs Daubeney, Fenton and Fitzpatrick agreed to form a task group and requested that the Director of Customer and Communities provide the details of Officers who would assist with the task.

Resolved:

- i. That the report be noted.
- ii. That a Task Group be formed to consider the effectiveness, impact and funding of the voucher scheme alongside other grassroots community-based provision and other schemes to address the impact of food poverty.

Reason: To ensure that the committee were kept up to date with the new HAF programme and to provide detailed scrutiny of the school holiday food provision voucher scheme.

24. Finance Second Quarter Monitoring Report - Children's Services

The committee considered a report that analysed the latest performance for 2021/22 and forecasted the financial outturn position by reference to the Children's Services plans and budgets falling under the responsibility of the Children's Services elements of this committee's responsibilities.

The Head of Finance: Adults, Children & Education presented the report and referred to the summary of the service plan variations shown in table 1. He highlighted the forecasted overspend in Children's Specialist Services which was primarily due to the increase in the number of children in care and the associated costs of placements and staffing.

The Director of Children's Services and the Head of Finance then responded to a number of questions from Members covering the impact of Covid, out of city placements, spending trends, the local care system and staffing. They noted the following:

- The Q3 monitor would provide more detailed information regarding costs.
- 283 children were in care at the time of the meeting.
- The Children Resource Panel started in December and was chaired by the Director of Children's Services. It aimed to make highly scrutinised, rapid response decisions to ensure that the right children were in care, working with early help and the targeted intervention service. It also aimed to make better use of the legal system and manage risk better within the community. Decisions regarding children in permanent care were also referred to the Panel.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To update the committee on the latest financial position for 2021/22.

25. Early Help via CYC Local Area Teams

The Head of Service Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Assessment and Targeted Intervention presented a report which provided an overview of 'Early Help' within the city and the Child and Family Targeted Intervention Service.

The Officer, together with the Director of Children's Services responded to questions from Members covering the effectiveness of the new early intervention arrangements, the co-design of family hubs and the timescales for implementation, training and support. They noted that:

- A 'team around a child' approach was used which included all partners such as schools, health and housing and created a co-ordinated plan.
- Family hubs were 12 months from being implemented.
- Current staffing levels had the capacity to support the team around the child. Training was provided by partners.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To keep the committee updated.

[Cllr Smalley left the meeting during the discussion of this item.]

[Meeting adjourned 19:13 to 19:25]

26. Community Hubs Scrutiny Review - Interim Report

Cllr Webb presented a paper that updated the committee on the progress of the scrutiny review, on behalf of the Community Hub review group members (Cllrs Webb, Fenton & Fitzpatrick). He noted that it had been difficult to secure resources to undertake the review and highlighted the report in appendix 1 on Community Hubs, which had been written by an intern. Cllr Webb noted that the report had been marked as draft to highlight that it had been written by a politician, rather than an Officer.

In response to questions, the review group proposed that the next stage would be to investigate hubs in other areas and host an online meeting to share experience and best practice. This would assist in informing the Community Hub strategy.

Cllr Webb requested additional scrutiny resources so that the report could be finalised.

Resolved:

- i. That the report be noted.
- ii. That the review group meet with other local areas and providers.
- iii. That the review group investigate securing resources to finalise the report.

Reason: To ensure the committee were kept up to date with the progress of the task group.

27. Work Plan

Members considered the committee's work plan for the current municipal year. It was noted that there was an error on the work plan; the correct date for the meeting in April was 13/04/22.

[Cllr Cuthbertson left the meeting during discussion of the item.]

Following discussions, it was:

Resolved:

- i. That an update from Make It York regarding cultural activities be received on 13 April 2022.
- ii. That the York Learning annual update report be moved to the first committee meeting in the next municipal year.
- iii. That the annual update from York Explore and GLL Leisure be provided at the first committee meeting in the next municipal year.

Reason: To keep the work plan updated.

Cllr S Daubeney, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.31 pm and finished at 7.48 pm].

MakeItYork

Children, Education & Communities Policy & Scrutiny Committee

This report provides an update on the culture sector in York and on the implementation and delivery of the city's Culture Strategy, York's Creative Future, 2020 – 25.

Make It York Business Plan

Our first Make It York business plan, published in March 2022, sets out a clear and commercially viable plan, which at the same time accepts the commercial risk associated with focusing more closely on cultural and eco-tourism, as well as including more resident-focused activity in our marketing and event plans.

The business plan has a strong focus on culture, and in particular outlines our culture-specific priorities, in line with our SLA with City of York Council.

We will:

- Develop, promote and manage the City's Culture Strategy, York's Creative Future, 2020 - 25. by working with partners to deliver an ambitious and cohesive range of programmes. Promoting the culture and creative sector through media channels, policy work, networking opportunities, working groups and forums.
- Develop an Events Framework for the Culture Strategy that enables the City to proactively identify events it wishes to host and attract.
- Promote and maximise York's UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts Status.
- Support cultural events and initiatives, such as the York Mystery Plays.

Read the full business plan here: [MIY-Business-Plan-22-25.pdf](#)
(makeityork.com)

Culture Strategy update

The York Culture Strategy 2020 – 25, York's Creative Future, has inclusion and participation at its core; showcasing the city's commitment

to ensuring culture is relevant and accessible to everybody in York. It places culture at the heart of activities from major capital developments to residents' wellbeing and works to ensure cultural entitlement for every child.

The Culture Strategy launched in December 2020, following extensive consultation across and beyond the creative sector. Find the full strategy here: [Yorks-Creative-Future-York-Culture-Strategy-2020-2025.pdf \(makeityork.com\)](https://www.makeityork.com/yorks-creative-future-york-culture-strategy-2020-2025.pdf)

The strategy identifies six priority areas:

- Cultural Engagement, Participation and Relevance
- Placemaking
- Children and Young People
- Talent Development and Retention
- Culture and Wellbeing
- York's National and International Profile

Make It York, as the organisation leading the delivery of the strategy, works closely with City of York Council and the culture and creative sector, to prioritise the strategy's implementation and to ensure that its key priorities and delivery remains on track.

Culture Strategy Governance and New Culture Forum

The Culture Strategy's development and its future direction has previously been guided by the Cultural Leaders Group Strategy Steering Group, which fed into the broader Cultural Leaders Group, of c.40 individuals from across the culture and creative sector.

A key priority within the Culture Strategy has been to prioritise reforming the CLG Strategy Steering Group (CLG SSG) and Cultural Leaders Group (CLG) meetings into a more open and inclusive format.

Accordingly, we have prioritised creating new, more democratic and open structures, in agreement with these existing bodies. The governance documents and process for a new Culture Forum and Culture Executive structure were completed and signed off by the CLG Strategy Steering Group in November 2021. This then passed to the CLG and has now been ratified. This included a Terms of Reference, a

Person Specification for Exec Group members, and details of how the election process, to form the new Exec Group, will work.

There are two main components of this new structure, as follows:

- The Culture Forum will be a large unincorporated group that is open to everyone working in the cultural and creative sector in York, which enables knowledge sharing, partnership development and network building. Culture Forum members have the opportunity to stand for elections to the Culture Executive: in doing so, York will become the first city with an elected cultural executive group in the UK.
- The Culture Exec will oversee the direction and implementation of the Culture Strategy, being elected to have authority in this by the Forum, as their representatives.

Sign-ups to the York Culture Forum opened in December 2021. The first meeting of the Culture Forum took place on zoom in January 2022 (replacing the previous York Cultural Leaders Group meetings), followed by a second in-person meeting this March.

It is anticipated that this change will enable a broader and more diverse group of representatives to contribute to future direction of the Culture Strategy, and to enable knowledge sharing, partnership development and network building.

The next meeting of the Culture Forum will be an extraordinary meeting in early May, on the Executive Group nominations and election process. Following this, the subsequent meeting of the Culture Forum will begin the election process to the Culture Executive (which replaces the previous CLG Strategy Steering Group).

Culture Sector Meetings

The Cultural Leaders Group met on a monthly basis throughout 2021. This open and continuous communication with the culture sector has allowed us to keep up-to-date on their situations, facilitate collaboration, as well as inviting guest speakers to present. This frequency of meetings was requested by the sector who found the regular updates and ability to share their experiences helpful during the pandemic. We held our first in-person meeting since early 2020, in September 2021.

Meetings of the new Culture Forum now take place on a bi-monthly basis, by agreement with the sector. Meetings of the new Culture Exec

will start to take place on a bi-monthly basis once they have been elected.

Culture Sector Communications

MIY provides a fortnightly Culture e-news update, with latest culture news, funding updates, and MIY news, which we encourage the sector to contribute to, to act as a further information channel. We have now expanded its readership – while previously a resource for CLG members, it is now open to anyone interested in signing up (which can be done via the MIY website). The e-news currently has a readership of 149 people, and growing.

We have now completed the new Culture Hub on the MIY website, which hosts the Culture Strategy and acts as a hub for the city's creative and cultural activity. This features information about the new Culture Forum and how to sign up, as well as pages for each of the Culture Strategy's six Key Priorities – Engagement, Placemaking, Children and Young People, Talent Development, Culture and Wellbeing, and York's National and International Profile – which share information and progress on each area, as well as relating them back to the strategy's recommendations and outcomes.

Action Plan

The MIY Culture, Wellbeing and Events team produced an action plan for the Culture Strategy in early 2021, which takes the form of a RAG report with key actions to achieve the outcomes/ recommendations within the strategy and a quarterly reporting framework.

From this, we also produce a quarterly written update report. We host this quarterly report on the Culture Hub for information on strategy progress. It can be accessed here:

<https://www.makeityork.com/culture/yorks-creative-future-york-culture-strategy-2020-2025/>

The progress across each Key Priority for the strategy has included:

Engagement:

- Building on research and initial meetings, MIY have become established members of engagement focused groups, including 100% Digital York, CYC's Our Big Conversation consultancy group, and the York Multiple Complex Needs network.

- Connections are now being established and built with organisations tackling racism in York and diversity specialists, including Speak Up Diversity. The CLG publicly supported the motion for York to become an anti-racist and inclusive city in October 2021.
- Much engagement work is focused around attracting new participants to the Culture Forum, with over 90 freelancers and new organisations signed up to join so far. MIY ran taster sessions throughout January to introduce the Culture Strategy and Forum to new members.
- Plans for York Trailblazers (formerly known as Makers and Shapers) have progressed with York Civic Trust and partners, with community engagement at the heart of the design process and a legacy project to ensure future engagement. A bid is being prepared to support the programme of events and activities planned for 2022 -24.

Placemaking:

- Monthly Creative Workspace meetings started between Guild of Media Arts, York Creatives, University of York, CYC, York Conservation Trust and MIY representatives in 2021, to consider availability and need of creative workspaces within the city, and to help simplify processes to access these for creatives. These meetings continue and MIY is an active participant.
- Conversations are ongoing with regional and national culture representatives. Links are also being developed across the north as part of MIY's role on the Northern Culture Consortium, which advocates together for the importance of northern culture.
- My City Centre Draft Vision published Sept 2021, with revitalising empty units through experience-based businesses and temporary arts spaces, utilising underused upper floor spaces for SMEs and gaining Purple Flag status as key objectives. Make It York will play a key role in the culture, city-centre and tourism specific objectives for this vision.

Children and Young People:

- MIY are supporting REACH, the Cultural Education Partnership, and have created and update a web page hub for them to showcase cultural and creative activity for children and young people in York, on the Culture hub of the MIY website, as they do not have their own website.

- REACH have a temporary home at York Theatre Royal (as they themselves are unconstituted). This new home has enabled them to unlock £50k of funding from IVE, with £25k of match funding from City of York Council, to develop cultural initiatives for children and young people. Make It York are playing a key role in this, working closely with REACH to develop their online offering, and with the MIY Creative and Cultural Development Manager now sitting on the REACH Steering Group.

Talent Development:

- Ongoing conversations with organisations and higher education providers to help shape the direction of this priority, including meeting with University of York Careers department to discuss changes in talent development during the pandemic and issues facing students in the city.
- Developing relationship with CYC data department to facilitate up-to-date data on the cultural and creative sector, including number of people it now employs in the city.
- SLAP have developed an artist accelerator programme, to support new artists in the city. This is supported by an Arts Council England grant, which MIY wrote in support of and we are providing support in kind.

Culture and Wellbeing

- The Culture Commissioning Partnership (CCP), with Chair and Secretariat by MIY, leads on the Culture and Wellbeing Priority within the Culture Strategy. A new Terms of Reference for the partnership was agreed in July. Following this, two workshops were held for the CCP in late 2021, to create an action plan across communications and engagement, funding, people and strategy, to ensure a joined-up citywide approach to culture and wellbeing for partners.
- Next steps will be to finalise the action plan and start to implement key deliverables, which include a range of activities from site visits, best practice review, to future joint funding bids and building engagement.
- Nineteen York-based charities, social enterprises, voluntary and community groups, received social and Cultural Wellbeing Grants in summer 2021, to the total value of £60k, in a process co-led by Make It York, City of York Council and York CVS, funded through the Better Care Fund. Projects spanned a diverse range of activities, including

fairy trails, youth theatre workshops, excavation projects and creative cafes. Evaluation will begin when the funding period ends at 31 March 2022.

- Case studies from the 2020 round of this grant funding are live on the Culture and Wellbeing page on the Culture hub of the MIY website. We plan to grow this case study resource, to become a qualitative evaluation measure that captures the impact of culture and wellbeing projects, in line with the recommendation for Cultural and Wellbeing evaluation in the Culture Strategy.

York's National and International Profile:

- Make It York have worked alongside CYC and the cultural sector to contribute to a number of significant national policy reports and inquiries on culture, on behalf of the city: including the NP11 Place Strategy, the Northern Culture APPG on Levelling Up Culture, and the recent DCMS inquiry on cultural placemaking.
- The UNESCO Creative City partner packs launched during York Business Week (please see UNESCO section below for full update).
- The cultural leaders have been supporting and inputting into the process for a city-wide cultural listings guide: this will now be hosted on the Visit York website and is currently in development.
- Planning for York Trailblazers (formerly known as Makers and Shapers) has restarted, led by York Civic Trust and Make It York, with support from other partners. Ambition is for this to be a city-wide project from 2022-24, celebrating the anniversaries of past innovators and inspiring those of today and the future and re-introducing the role, reputation and history of York as a cutting-edge city.
- A culture addition to the CYC International Prospectus written and submitted with strong focus on innovation, cultural industries and media arts.

UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts Designation

Mediale are collaborating with fellow UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts, Viborg in Denmark, in creating a hybrid artist residency, running from April – September 2022, for emerging to mid-career artists and studios working in animation, performance and play. This has been made possible through funding by Arts Council England and the Danish Embassy, and has been supported by Make It York, on behalf of the city, and by the Guild of Media Arts.

The UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts working group of the Guild of Media Arts, York Mediale, City of York Council and Make It York, started in early 2021 and meets on a regular basis, to collaboratively work together to profile raise for the city's media arts designation.

As part of this, the group has created a new toolkit and social media assets have been created for York's UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts designation. The packs include key information on York as a UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts, the aims of Creative Cities around creative activity and collaboration, information on key media arts organisations in the city, and how partners can get involved in promoting York as a UNESCO Creative City. This launched in November 2021, as part of a York UNESCO Creative City event at Business Week, organised by MIY and the Guild of Media Arts, which attracted a small, but highly engaged audience of c.25 participants. The packs and event promotion were shared across MIY and partner organisation channels.

The next steps for the UNESCO working group include producing an engagement plan and identifying further events and opportunities to take part in, to continue to profile raise for the designation.

The MIY Head of Culture and Wellbeing attends Guild of Media Arts Court Meetings as an Observer.

City Funding Support for Culture and Events

Financial support for some major events and live music venues was announced by City of York Council during the pandemic, with £100K of their ARG funding given to live events and £100K to live music venues, with grants confirmed to York Music Venues, York Design Week, Aesthetica Film Festival, the Ice Trail, and Jorvik Viking Week.

In February 2022, it was approved that a further £50k allocation from the Council's ARG Budget would be provided to Make It York to support a broader range of festivals and events to take place across York this year. The purpose for this grant funding is to support the delivery of events and festivals which would have happened in 2020 and/or 2021, as well as new events and festivals led by York-based organisations who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic and therefore unable to fund the overall costs of such activities themselves. Make It York has developed an open grant application process for the fund, where applicants must demonstrate how their event supports economic

recovery, residents, communities, plus the aims and ambitions of the York Culture Strategy.

Grant funding will be delivered in consultation with the Executive Members for Culture & Communities and Economy & Strategic Planning. This grants fund is currently live on the MIY website here and we will let applicants know if they have been successful by the end of April: [ARG Events and Festivals Grant Scheme now open for applications \(makeityork.com\)](#)

City of York Council has just confirmed a further £45K of ARG funding to Make It York, to support the delivery of local projects designed to improve city centre footfall, support a vibrant city centre, and boost trade and economic recovery. MIY are pleased to receive the ARG funding which will help support an Art Trail in York later this year. We will be working with partners to develop the trail and will unveil the plans over the coming months.

Events and Festivals

MIY's Culture, Wellbeing and Events team oversees a year-round programme of events and festivals, many of which have a strong cultural focus.

We have a number of mechanisms in place to support our events delivery. These include:

- Members of MIY's cross-departmental Events Committee oversee the delivery of MIY's annual calendar of events, review applications for third-party events, raise the profile for events, and ensure a responsive and coordinated internal approach.
- A new Events section is on the MIY website, outlining MIY's role in delivering, attracting and facilitating events and festivals, which explains how to book an event/hire city centre space –along with associated online documents and booking forms.
- Planning on the Events Strategy and Event Framework begins in 2022: the Events Strategy will focus on alignment with both the Culture and Tourism Strategies.
- To help secure value for money and promote fair and transparent procurement, Make It York often uses a tender process to award major contracts to suppliers. Details of our latest advertised tenders, including instructions on how to submit a tender, are published on the MIY website.

- The team continues to build and maintain partnerships for specific initiatives through both our events and cultural work, to ensure engagement with event delivery partners and to advocate for forthcoming cultural events.
- A new and comprehensive events calendar publication is currently in development, to provide a one-stop guide to major events and festivals in the city throughout the year.

Events programme:

Make It York's annual programme of events includes the following cultural events, which we deliver:

Residents Festival

The traditional Residents Festival went ahead across the weekend of 29/30th January 2022, with offers and discounts for residents from attractions and local businesses.

In addition to this, City of York Council are supporting the development of a city centre offer, the York Life Festival, to enhance the impact of the current Residents Festival, which features a programmed stage of mixed acts, curated by the York Venue Network in the city, and an entertainment hub area on Parliament St. This takes place on 2 - 3 April (rather than alongside the traditional offer, due to covid considerations).

York Ice Trail

The York Ice Trail took place on the weekend of 5/6th March 2022 (postponed from February, to ensure a safe and successful event, given uncertainties with Covid and based on guidance from the city's Safety Advisory Group, Public Health and City of York Council). There were over 40 sponsored sculptures across the city, curated to an 'Around the World' theme. Sponsors consisted of retailers, attractions, business services, restaurants and bars. CYC supported the event with a grant which enabled a 'headline' sculpture and evaluation report, helping to secure the viability of the event for future years.

York Trailblazers

MIY are working with York Civic Trust on plans for a city-wide celebration of York's heritage spanning 2022-2024. Current partners are a broad coalition of heritage, voluntary and cultural groups, with over twenty organisations and societies, committed to developing and

delivering a programme of events and activities that will celebrate and build links between the past and the present in the city. Our ambition is to make York Trailblazers city-wide in its action and international in its impact and collaboration by utilising existing networks, especially York's UNESCO Creative City status and creating new ones.

To view all the events MIY deliver, please visit: [Make It York Events](#)

Culture Sector Overview

There are at least 94 professional arts and heritage organisations operating in the city and over 750 creative industries businesses, with over 4,400 employees. The sector is worth £33m to the local economy. York's universities and colleges, have also recently invested over £100m in creative facilities and new schools of performance.

York is home to four Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations: York Theatre Royal, Pilot Theatre, York Museums Trust and The National Centre for Early Music. It is also home to many vibrant, leading media arts organisations, events and initiatives – international media arts charity York Mediale, the Guild of Media Arts, the Aesthetica Short Film Festival, and XR Stories.

Culture Sector Pandemic Update

Many arts and heritage organisations operate on charity or not-for profit models and rely on grant funding and commercialising their venues through ticketing and gift shop revenue to sustain their businesses. This model left the cultural sector particularly vulnerable during the covid pandemic as they were forced to close for long periods while needing to maintain heritage buildings and core operations.

Arts Council England provided rounds of emergency grant funding to many York organisations during the pandemic, which alongside the furlough scheme, enabled them to avoid closure. The sector is inherently creative and adaptable; however, many were still forced to make valued employees redundant and many freelancers had to leave the sector to survive. Most adjusted their models during the lockdowns to offer online experiences, outdoor, socially distanced events and bring culture to local communities. The extent to which these pandemic-induced changes will continue is not yet clear.

As spring into summer 2021 saw a gradual phasing out of pandemic restrictions, some venues reported a return to pre-pandemic levels of footfall. Non-socially distanced theatre and music events resumed, with reports of full and new audiences attending events. Others reported bumpier recovery, with cancelled events, low take-up on advance tickets, and difficulties recruiting front-of-house staff. Live music venues have been particularly affected by these challenges.

Some volunteers returned to in-person volunteering, with others choosing to step back all together. Many venues reported increasing reliance on volunteers and freelancers given the reduction in core staff. Recruiting new volunteers and staff is a key focus for many cultural organisations.

York's creative sector has now broadly transitioned from pandemic survival to recovery, bolstered by strong domestic tourism to the city, but uncertainty about the future and further setbacks may cause recovery to be fragile.

Autumn 2021 brought more significant activity in the cultural sector, including the return of York Design Week, Aesthetica Short Film Festival and the Yorkshire Schools Dance Festival. Other highlights included the York performances of Northern Girls, a Pilot Theatre project which invested heavily in a group of female writers, directors, and performers from the city to perform new monologues reflecting on what it means to be a northern girl in 2021. People We Love, Mediale's accessible and moving installation was reinstalled at York Minster after a thwarted run in November 2020. Featuring local people, the installation showed film of individuals looking at an image of a loved one.

The York Museums Trust were finalists for a national award in December 2021 for the #CuratorBattle social media campaign during the lockdowns and announced their partnership with international dementia awareness programme House of Memories during the quarter. The Yorkshire Museum closed from October for planned works on the building and to alleviate pressure on the museum's Covid recovery.

The emergence of a new Covid variant made for a more turbulent Christmas season which particularly affected live events, especially theatre. York Theatre Royal's pantomime was forced to close for several days due to isolation and illness and reported nationally the closure would incur a loss of around £200,000. The Grand Opera House also

closed for two performances, with their stars missing the final shows, and Riding Lights Theatre Company's Christmas schools tour was severely affected by schools cancelling performances and reduced the number of public performances.

Festive attractions and heritage organisations reported much lower levels of impact, with the Bar Convent seeing a 25% increase in footfall compared with 2019. York Archaeology reported around 1% increase on 2019 numbers but decided to postpone the Viking Festival in February 2022 due to uncertainty around the impact on events early in the year. It will now take place in May half term. Many attractions report the worse effect was covering staff absences due to illness/isolation, a trend which has continued into the new year.

Live music reported a busier period as rescheduled shows filled the programme. The frequency of shows meant audiences were more dispersed across events and artist cancellation remained a problem. Though venues are faring well, independent promoters have been hit extremely hard during the recovery period.

Helen Apsey, Head of Culture and Wellbeing, Make It York

helen.apsey@makeityork.com

Appendix: Culture, Wellbeing and Events SLA Priorities:

York Culture Strategy, York's Creative Future:

- Drive an ambitious and cohesive programme of cultural development for the city covering the arts, heritage and creative industries.
- Work with the CLG to lead on the development and evaluation of the Culture Strategy, ensuring full engagement with other city strategies and plans, including the Local Plan, Skills,
- Deliver/commission events both for the creative sector and for others, e.g. Culture Awards or equivalent that are profile raising, increase collaboration and demonstrate best practice.
- Convene and support the CLG as the strategy "owners", providing the secretariat and driving the agenda, resourcing the partnership and co-chairing alongside an elected cultural leader.
- Develop a sustainable independent executive structure and constitution for the CLG.
- Receive regular strategic advice from the both the cultural and creative sectors maintaining appropriate liaison arrangements to inform the Make It York board of directors and to steer the company's plans.
- Maintain positive and comprehensive relationships with national and regional strategic support bodies.
- Put together the necessary partnerships to make funding bids to deliver the Culture Strategy.
- Advise and support cultural providers with regard to new initiatives liaising with the council as appropriate.

UNESCO designation:

- Support the Guild of Media Arts as the focal point for UNESCO City of Media Arts designation by facilitating and undertaking activities that maximise the potential benefits of York's UNESCO designation and ensure sustained development in line with the Four Year Monitoring Report and Plan of 2018.
- Work with UNESCO Focal Point – the Guild of Media Arts – and the Council to deliver 2018- 22 UNESCO Creative City objectives.
- Support the focal point to convene wider stakeholder groups in the city to maximise the impact of the designation to the city.
- Communicate regularly with the creative sector e.g. through mailings and social media.
- Promote the creative sector through media channels highlighting York's profile as a Creative city.
- Monitor and evaluate progress leading to the 2022 Report to UNESCO.
- Support the Focal Point to collaborate with UK Creative Cities and other designations, UK UNESCO Commission, Media Arts Network, and Creative Cities Network.
- Promote the designation within the city, e.g. through the BID, Retail and Hospitality Forums.

City Centre Vibrancy:

City Centre:

- Make proposals to the Council for any new ideas for commercial exploitation of the Footstreets, Eye of York and Tower Gardens and Knavesmire.
- Contributing expertise, ideas and experiences to the MyCityCentre project which will set the city centre strategy.
- Contribute to the Council's Retail Strategy, and join with the BID, Retail Forum, Indie York and others to attempt to attract appropriate new retail operators to the city.
- Create a high-profile calendar of city centre festivals, activities and events ensuring that partners such as the BID are enabled to contribute. Identify times when new events would add value to the York experience and work on filling these gaps.
- Promote the events calendar through all appropriate means including through highly visible city centre information.

Glossary:

MIY: Make It York

CYC: City of York Council

CLG SSG: Cultural Leaders Group Strategy Steering Group

CLG: Cultural Leaders Group

CCP: Cultural Commissioning Partnership

ARG: Additional Restrictions Grant

DCMS: Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

SLA: Service Level Agreement

REACH: Reconnecting Education, the Arts, Creativity and Heritage



Children, Education & Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee

13 April 2022

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

2021/22 Finance Third Quarter Monitoring Report – Children, Education & Communities

Summary

- 1 This report analyses the latest performance for 2021/22 and forecasts the financial outturn position by reference to the services plans and budgets falling under this committee's responsibilities.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

- 2 A summary of the service plan variations is shown at table 1 below.

**Table 1: Children, Education & Communities Financial Projections
Summary 2021/22 – Quarter 3**

2021/22 Quarter 2 Variation £000		2021/22 Latest Approved Budget			2021/22 Projected Outturn Variation	
		Gross Spend £000	Income £000	Net Spend £000	£000	%
+6,419	Children's Specialist Services	21,149	2,668	18,480	+6,710	+36.3
+411	Education & Skills	20,763	5,022	15,741	+335	+2.1
0	School Funding & Assets	158,641	170,677	-12,036	0	0.0
+98	Director of People & Central Budgets	3,299	5,996	-2,697	+154	+5.7
0	Communities & Equalities	11,244	5,262	5,982	0	
6,928	Total	215,096	189,626	24,470	7,199	+29.4%

+ indicates increased expenditure or reduced income / - indicates reduced expenditure or increased income

- 3 A net overspend of £7.2m is forecast which is an increase of £0.3m from the Q2 projection, and primarily due to pressures within children's social care.

Children's Specialist Services

- 4 Before detailing the variances to be reported it is important to highlight some of the key reasons for the current budgetary position for Children's Social Care in York.
- 5 The number of Children & Young People in Care (CYPIC) in York has increased significantly in the past two and a half years. The CYPIC population had been stable for a number of years, in the range 190-210 at any one time. In 2019 the new Directorate Management Team identified unsafe drift and delay for some children in the system. This was subsequently identified by Ofsted and corrective action has led to significant recalibration in the system. Numbers of care orders and children on pre proceedings continues to be stable and those in need of child protection have now returned at or below our statistical neighbour average. This means the flow of children coming into the care has significantly reduced. However, the complexity of needs of these children remains high and capacity in the system to meet need at this level nationally is a significant challenge which is subject to an independent national care review.
- 6 At the time of this monitor the number of children and young people in care is 274. Our Permanence Policy and Permanence Trackers are making a difference. Children are presented at Children's Resource Panel, and tracked until they step down or move through to permanence. Our pre –birth protocol is effective this is evidenced by the number of unborn babies that we track in both Early Permanence and Letter Before Proceedings (LBP). Within the next three years some 25% of these will leave local authority care. The remodelling of the Corporate Parenting Board is an area of focus and a new constitution has been agreed in 2022. This new model has been developed with children and young people and will be supported following the recent recruitment of Corporate parenting Advisors to the DCS. Currently in their infancy the new Corporate Parenting Board arrangements will strengthen the corporate sense of responsibility for children in care and care leavers.
- 7 The placements budgets are predicted to overspend by a total of £3,639k. This includes variances of £1,227k on Fostering (including IFAs), £292k on adoption/SGO/CAO allowances and £2,435k on Out of City Placements together with a saving of £315k on the Hexagon Care contract, which ended in December 2021. As requested at the previous meeting, Annex 1 provides some more detail on the numbers and average costs of external placements.
- 8 The fostering projection is based on all local foster carer positions being filled, so where a child reaches 18 or a foster placement ends, then it is assumed that this is filled. Allowance does need to be made to ensure appropriate 'Staying put' arrangements are in place to support young people to stay with foster carers beyond 18 years old. In 2020/21 the percentage of care leavers (19 to 21 years old) living with former foster carers was 16% in York compared to 8% nationally, 11% regionally and 7.9% among statistical neighbours. The IFA and

Out of City Placement projections are based on all existing placements at the monitor date and take account of all placements expected to end during 2021/22, with no provision included for any new placements. The Out of City placements overspend being reported here is a significant increase (£1.5m) on previous years due to the recalibration of the proportion of these costs between the General Fund and the DSG.

- 9 Staffing budgets within the Permanency Teams are also predicted to overspend by £363k, again due mainly to vacancies being filled by temporary staff. The Workforce Development Board (WFDB) is now in place on a fortnightly basis. This provides a clear grip of staffing matters and oversight of any staffing requests (staff leaving, requests to fill, changes to hours, agency usage etc.). We want to develop, retain and inspire our practitioners and managers through providing consistency of relationship with children and families and the wider system as a whole, inclusive of strong partnership working. A refreshed social care recruitment campaign was launched in December and a rolling advert is in place. Unfilled social worker posts (either vacant, covering sickness, covering maternity) are filled with agency staff so that we keep the conditions in which good practice flourishes as we know manageable caseloads retain staff and deliver timely decision making for children.
- 10 Safeguarding Interventions are predicted to overspend by approximately £796k, mainly due to the complexities of Court and Child Protection work. Legal fees are predicted to overspend by approximately £430k.
- 11 Staffing budgets with Children's Social Work Services are also predicted to overspend by approximately £298k. This is mainly due to temporary staffing across the service, which the directorate has worked hard to eliminate with permanent appointments.
- 12 Significant staffing overspends totalling £632k are predicted in the MASH and Assessment teams. This is in part due to vacancies being covered by temporary and agency staffing. The new structure introduced in 2022 for the MASH and assessments consolidates within budget a number of cost pressures in this area.
- 13 Within Disabled Children's Services overspends on Short Breaks of £140k, Direct Payments of £353k and staffing of £162k are predicted.
- 14 Additional Troubled Families income of £50k over budget has been assumed based on progress to date on reward grant claimed.
- 15 A number of other more minor variations make up the remaining projected net overspend.

Education and Skills

- 16 Education Psychology is predicted to overspend by £74k, mainly due to an unbudgeted post costing £43k and unachieved vacancy factor of £29k.
- 17 The Home to School Transport budget was already in a historic overspend position of approximately £200k. The savings targets for the SEND element of home to school transport have not been achieved because of a growth in the number of pupils/students requiring transport and the specialist requirements of that transport. The main increase in numbers have been at post 16/19 where, because of the city now being able to provide more specialist education provision for this group of students more locally, subsequently we have had to provide more transport to the likes of York College, Askham Bryan College, Choose 2 and Blueberry Academy. The changes in legislation to allow EHCPs to ages 19-25, resulting in significantly more students accessing this option, has significantly increased our transport spend accordingly. Reducing the costs of SEND home to school transport is a work stream in the Safety Valve Plan agreed with the Department for Education. Work has taken place to tighten the eligibility criteria in the Home to School Transport policy and the criteria are being rigorously applied. This includes ensuring that parental requests for out of city placements do not automatically result in transport being provided if an appropriate local placement has been identified.
- 18 The overall overspend on Home to School transport is predicted to be £283k. The main pressures are on SEN taxi transport budgets (both for children with SEND and also for children in care), but an additional pressure has been created due to the need for three additional buses as a result of increased numbers of children eligible for transport to Huntington and Fulford schools, offset by an increased allocation of Extended Rights for Free Travel grant for 2021/22.
- 19 Underspends are projected in both the Governance Service (£33k) due to increasing external income for services, and in Early Years (£30k) due to savings on non-staffing budgets and the effect of an increase in the 5% Early Years DSG contribution.

School Funding and Assets (including DSG)

- 20 The DSG position at 1st April 2021 is a deficit of £9.940m. At Q3 we are projecting a likely in-year deficit for 2021/22 in the region of £3.5m, an improvement of approximately £1.5m on the final 2020/21 position. However this position will increase the overall deficit to approximately £13.5m at the end of 2021/22. As at Q3, detailed work is ongoing in conjunction with colleagues at the Department for Education under their 'Safety Valve' programme to put in place a recovery plan to bring the position back to an in year balance within the next four years.

Communities & Equalities

- 21 These services are expected to outturn within budget. There are a number of minor variations being managed and work has continued to try and identify additional savings to help the overall position.

Council Plan

- 22 This report is directly linked to the key priority A Better Start for Children and Young People in the Council Plan.

Implications

- 23 The financial implications are covered within the main body of the report. There are no other direct implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

- 24 As this report is for information only there are no specific recommendations.

Reason: To update the committee on the latest financial position for 2021/22.

Contact Details

Author:

Richard Hartle
Head of Finance
Children, Education & Schools

Phone: 01904 554225
richard.hartle@york.gov.uk

Chief Officers Responsible for the report:

Anne Coyle
Interim Director of Children's Services

Debbie Mitchell
Chief Finance Officer

Report Approved **Date** 01 April 2022

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the authors of the report

Background Papers

2021/22 Finance and Performance Monitor 3 Report, Executive 7 February 2022

Annex 1 - Analysis of CYPIC External Placements 2021/22

Analysis of CYPIC External Placements 2021/22**Residential Provision 0 - 15 year olds**

Average weekly placement cost	£	4,575
Number of placements		12
Total cost for 2021/22	£	2,252,372
General fund cost	£	1,689,279
DSG cost	£	563,093

Residential Provision 16+ year olds

Average weekly placement cost	£	4,218
Number of placements		6
Total cost for 2021/22	£	605,995
General fund cost	£	454,497
DSG cost	£	151,499

Additional Health/Disability Needs in Residential Provision

Average weekly placement cost	£	5,417
Number of placements		4
Total cost for 2021/22	£	878,617
General fund cost	£	658,963
DSG cost	£	219,654

Preparation for Independence Units

Average weekly placement cost	£	1,764
Number of placements		2
Total cost for 2021/22	£	267,184
General fund cost	£	200,388
DSG cost	£	66,796

Total for all placements - Current		
Average weekly placement cost	£	3,994
Number of placements		24
Total cost for 2021/22	£	4,004,169
General fund cost	£	3,003,127
DSG cost	£	1,001,042

Ended placements within the year		
Average weekly placement cost	£	2,359
Number of placements		10
Total cost for 2021/22	£	565,488
General fund cost	£	424,116
DSG cost	£	141,372

This page is intentionally left blank



**Children, Education and Communities Policy
and Scrutiny Committee****13 April 2022**

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

Children and Young People in Care Update**Summary**

1. This paper provides an update relating to children and young people in care, key performance information and areas of priority.

Background

2. Looking after and protecting children and young people is one of the most important jobs that councils do and when a child, for whatever reason, can't safely stay at home, it is up to the local authority to step in and give them the care, support and stability that they need.
3. At the end of February 2022 there were 271 children and young people who were in care. When a child comes into our care we then execute our 'corporate parenting' responsibilities. It is the collective responsibility of the Council to prioritise the needs of children in care and seek for them the same outcomes any good parent would want for their own children.
4. The chart and table below demonstrates how the profile of children and young people has changed over recent years. In 2019/20 we had a steady increase in the number of children that we look after, with the number of children now stabilising throughout the later part of 2021.

Number of children in care, excluding Short Breaks - (Snapshot) (by Month) - Historic



	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2021/2022	281	277	274	270	268	268	269	275	276	274	271	
2020/2021	272	279	281	282	280	279	291	281	278	282	280	278
2019/2020	213	216	224	221	231	235	237	239	240	242	256	262
2018/2019	196	194	207	204	206	206	205	205	206	204	211	208

5. The number of children in care (per 10k) was 73.24 at the end of February 2022. This compares to 78 per 10k regionally, 67 per 10k nationally and 62.5 per 10k for statistical comparators (2020/21 comparison data).
6. At the end of Q3 2021/22 there were 47 children in care living with parents, known as Placement with Parents (PWP). This equates to 16.9% of the population of children and young people in care at that time. Comparative data is not available for this cohort, we are working hard to understand the high numbers of children subject to PWP and how we will safely and appropriately reduce the numbers of children in this position.

What children and young people in care tell us:

7. A ‘U Matter’ Consultation is undertaken every two years and explores the views and experiences of children and young people in care and care leavers. A total of 93 children and young people aged 11-25 took part in the most recent ‘U Matter’ survey completed in October 2021. Key messages from this survey are summarised below.
 - a. The majority of young people in care and leaving care reported that they felt happy and safe where they were living and, young people in care reported that they trust the adults they live with. There has been a dip in the numbers of young people in care who state they would talk to their carers or social workers if they were

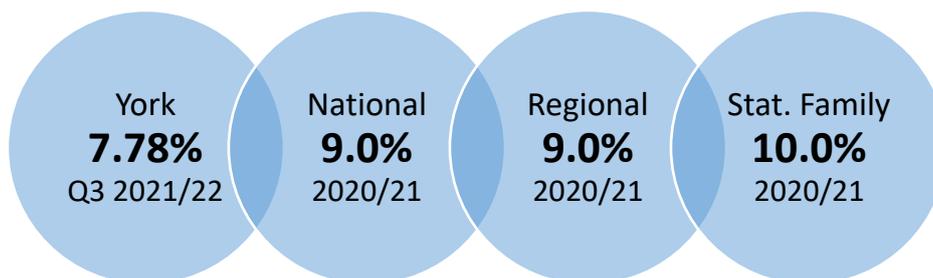
feeling unhappy about where they were living (from 92% in 2017 to 63% (20)).

- b. When invited to reflect on the support they received whilst living in care, care leavers provided suggestions on how they could have been better supported to prepare for leaving care, including more of an emphasis on money management and developing other independence skills.
- c. A significant number of young people felt their social worker listened to them (70% (30)) and did what they said they were going to do (69% (29)) and the majority were happy with the frequency of contact they had with their social worker. Improvements are needed in celebrating young people's achievements, acknowledging special occasions and managing changes in social worker.
- d. Ensuring that young people have an understanding of the story of their life and the reasons for being in care is another area for improvement.
- e. Young people's awareness of who their Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) is and how to contact them has increased (currently at 76% (31)), as well as the number of young people reporting they are involved in planning how the meetings take place (currently at 71% (29)).
- f. Care leavers report good relationships with their pathway workers and results indicate a happiness with the support offered including frequency of contact, knowing how to contact their worker and feeling involved in their pathway planning.
- g. Feedback from young people about the support they received with their education from schools, carers and social workers is positive and most were able to identify an adult in school that they could talk to. However findings show that there are improvements to be made in respect of engaging young people further in the Personal Education Planning (PEP) process.
- h. All young people shared that they had someone who they trusted and most young people knew who to speak to if they were unhappy with arrangements for seeing family and friends (92% (36)). For young people who have experienced supervised family time, most young people felt Hamilton House was welcoming and that workers were consist, friendly and supportive. Areas for

improvement relate to privacy and the provision of age appropriate activities.

- i. Despite a decrease in young people's awareness of Health Assessments (currently at 69% (29)), there was a reported increase in the number of young people who found Health Assessment helpful (from 49% in 2019 to 68% (19)). The majority of young people knew who to talk to if they needed help with their emotional wellbeing and a high proportion would feel confident in asking for help.
 - j. Whilst the awareness of advocacy and the right to make a complaint amongst young people in care and care leavers remains high (71% (30) for children in care and 90% (35) for care leavers), the survey identifies a need to raise the awareness of the Children in Care Council and to make clear the process for complaints, comments and compliments. There is also a need to review the information sent in the New to Care Information Pack and to ensure that young people receive a copy of the Guarantee for Children and Young People in Care.
8. As many local authorities we face challenges with the sufficiency of suitable and sustainable accommodation for children with complex needs. We are in the process of registering our own Children's Homes as identified in our Sufficiency Strategy. Progress has been impacted by the pandemic and we now have a dedicated project manager taking this work forward.
 9. The Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) service promotes direct participation to promote co-produced child focused plans. Meaningful and relationship based visits by children's social workers alongside, consultation and the participation of children and young people in meetings continues to be closely monitored through key performance indicators and monthly service reports. Whilst multi-agency attendance and professional participation at reviews is good, the feedback from some young people and families is that they find virtual meetings are difficult and they are keen to return to a more in person experience.
 10. We are promoting a return to in person meetings as standard practice, supplemented by hybrid meeting technology. The format of the meeting will continue to be driven by what will be right for the child first and foremost.

11. The percentage of children in care for more than one year with an up-to-date dental check deteriorated significantly over the COVID period. Focussed work in this area and the easing of lockdown realised 68.4% of CYPIC had their annual dental check by the end of December 2021.
12. Our performance in relation to Initial Health Assessments for children and young people entering care has been improving in recent years. Health data is telling us 16% (2018/19) to 41% (2020/21). Where children have been in care for longer than 12 months 83.6% have had an annual Review Health Assessment (RHA) in timescale. We know that a number of our 16+ year old young people have chosen not to engage with their RHA, which impacts on performance data. 100% of children in care who are under 5 years old and have been in care for over 12 months have had their RHA within statutory timescales.
13. We have undertaken work to return children to York, and/or step them out of residential children's homes that are out of the York area. Our aim is to care for our children closer to home and where possible to ensure that our children experience care within foster families or are enabled to live well in semi-independent care at a time that is right for them. April 2022 will see the establishment of a children in permanent care review panel that will consider all children in care outside of York and review the suitability of their care arrangements.
14. Placement stability has dipped slightly during 2021/22, but remains better than comparator averages at 7.78% of children in care having 3 or more moves in 12 months.



The Virtual School

15. The Virtual School acts as a local authority champion to promote the progress and educational attainment of children and young people who are or who have been in care so that they achieve good educational attainment and where their achievements are comparable and better to that of their peers.

16. The virtual school cohort contains a small number of children and young people who have significant psychological wellbeing needs which are impacting on their engagement with education. The individual circumstances of each child is being reviewed and individual action plans to support re-integration with education are being put in place to improve virtual school's oversight of these students.
17. Promoting high aspirations is the key area of focus and challenging schools to achieve accelerated progress and better outcomes is embedded in the work of the virtual school.

Attendance

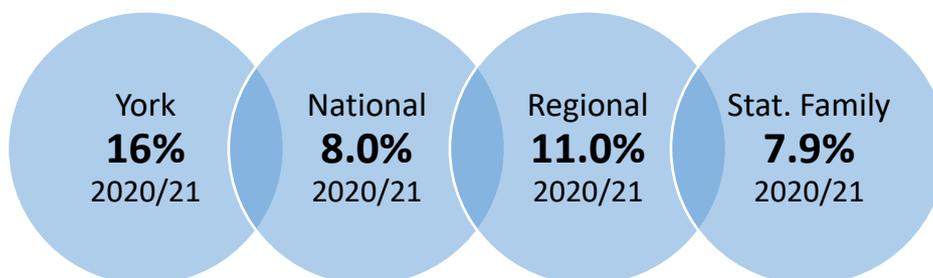
18. Attendance remains a key area of focus and in February 2021 overall attendance was 85% with 62% of children and young people having above 90% attendance and 24% below 70% attendance. In February 2022 overall attendance has risen to 87% with 76% of children and young people having above 90% attendance and 13% below 70% attendance.

Attainment and Progress:

19. There was no national data collected at Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), KS1 or KS2 in 2020 or 2021. Progress data was collected by the virtual school via the ePEP (Personal Education Plans) system. Summer term reported progress by schools shows that 82% of primary aged pupils were making expected progress from their starting point and 73% of secondary aged pupils were making expected progress. The current focus is to ensure schools make use of Pupil Premium Plus funding and recovery premium funds to ensure interventions and support for children and young people's learning is in place to ensure our children achieve and we are relentlessly aspirational for them.
20. Interventions to accelerate the progress of children and young people include 1:1 tuition to close identified gaps in learning, delivery of evidence based intervention programmes as part of school catch up programmes (particularly in English and maths), targeted support from the school wellbeing workers, providing additional resources where schools have identified a specific need to support learning. Regular review of the impact of interventions for identified children is being used to refine support for individual children.

Care leavers and transitions

21. Young people are currently allocated a pathway worker at age 17.5 years. It is planned to bring this support forward so a young person is allocated a personal advisor (PA) on or around their 16th birthday. In January 2022, we had 119 care leavers, 92 were aged 17-21 years old. Young people aged 21+ have access to a pathway worker, the level of support required is subject to assessment and many of our young people over 21 year olds are receiving a full service.
22. Young people are encouraged to remain looked after until their 18th birthday. A panel will be established to review monthly all young people in unregulated settings (currently 2 young people). This is chaired by the Head of Corporate Parenting. Where a young person is living in unregulated provision, robust oversight and monitoring is provided by the IRO Service to ensure that the placement is meeting the young person's needs.
23. At the end of Q1 2021/22, 20 young people (26%) under 21 remain with their foster carers under Staying Put arrangements. In 2020/21 the percentage of care leavers (19 to 21 years old) living with former foster carers was 16% in York compared to 8% nationally, 11% regionally and 7.9% among statistical neighbours.



24. We have no young people residing in bed and breakfast or Houses of Multiple Occupancy. At the end of November 2021 82.86% (17-18 years old) and 94.1% (19-21 years old) of our care leavers reside in suitable accommodation.
25. Our local offer for care leavers is published on our web site and annually reviewed. The Local Offer provides a bus pass, gym membership, Council Tax relief for the first year, driving lessons, Theory & Driving Tests and for those going on to higher education a bursary and accommodation cost.

Care Leavers and attainment

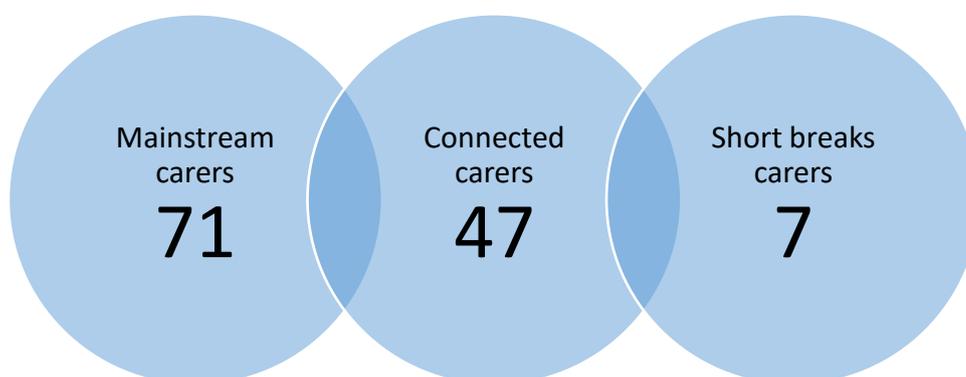
- 26. We have high aspirations for our care leavers. We pay care leavers' accommodation during Higher Education and support them to remain in education or training and move into employment.
- 27. Our success can be measured using the number of care leavers in Education, Employment or Training EET/NEET data. We are proud to say that our Care Leavers do better than their counterparts at national, regional and statistical neighbour levels. Performance has recently dipped due to changes within the team. As for all authorities staff sickness has been a challenge over the pandemic. This will be a priority for the new Pathway Manager alongside the Virtual School Head.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Q3
% of care leavers aged 17-18 in employment, education or training	71.43%	75.86%	60.87%
% of care leavers aged 19-21 in employment, education or training	63.75%	53.66%	67.07%

- 28. The pandemic has impacted on employment opportunities especially in hospitality with York a popular City for tourists, both from the UK and from abroad. Projects such as the Prince's Trust have started up again and we have supported care leavers into college and other Further Education placements so they will have increased opportunities in the future. If young people reside out of area we do look at sourcing provision where they live in order to increase education, training and employment opportunities.

Fostering

- 29. At the 31st May 2021 we had 123 approved foster carer households:



30. Placement sufficiency for teenagers continues to be an ongoing challenge. During the assessment process we are focusing fostering on applicants being prepared to consider a wider age range of children and young people matched to their skills and experience.

Foster Carer Recruitment

31. We are currently in the process of developing a new recruitment strategy which will underpin our refreshed campaigns. The recruitment strategy will focus on recruitment of all types of fostering families to meet the needs of our children in York. The strategy will include redesign of our digital media campaign, as well as increasing face to face information and recruitment events – these will be supported by our current foster carers, our Care Advisors and York Area Foster Carers Association (YAFCA).
32. Our Skills to Foster preparation training course has been re-written and is more flexible to meet the needs of applicants and also ensuring applicants understand what the fostering role entails.
33. From April 2021 to February 2022, 8 mainstream foster carers were approved at fostering panel. We know we need to do more to ensure we attract more carers and more of the right carers to meet the needs of our children.

Foster Carer Training

34. We have a blended approach to Foster Carer training and support with a partial return to face-to-face training alongside e-learning courses where appropriate (i.e. Reflective Fostering with the NSPCC in spring 2021 and Therapeutic Crisis Intervention training delivered via Zoom).
35. A support group for newly approved foster carers has recently been established, to support new carers as they commence their fostering careers. Feedback to date has been very positive and we anticipate it will help with our recruitment and retention.
36. Our Fostering Panel is robust. The Chair is very experienced and the quality of discussion and the overall quality of the panel minutes is good. A quarterly meeting with the agency advisor to panel, the agency decision maker, and panel chair considers any quality assurance issues and also how the panel is running overall. This enables any issues/positives to be shared and responded to promptly. The quality of paperwork submitted to panel and also panel outcomes are reflected in case audits.

The Corporate Parenting Board

37. We are committed to York being an effective, caring, and ambitious corporate parent and we will do everything we can to make sure that children in our care and care leavers receive the best possible care and support.
38. The purpose of the Corporate Parenting Board is:
 - a. To actively listen to the views of our children and young people so that the Council is able to adapt its corporate parenting in line with their wishes, feeling and needs.
 - b. To act as a forum where our young people are able to hold Members and Officers to account as their parents.
 - c. To raise the awareness of the Council's Corporate Parenting responsibilities and knowledge among elected Members and officers.
 - d. To support and make recommendations to relevant Council bodies on matters related to corporate parenting.
39. The remodelling of the Corporate Parenting Board is an area of focus and a new constitution has been agreed in 2022. This new model has been developed with children and young people and will be supported following the recent recruitment of Corporate Parenting Advisors to the Director of Children's Services (DCS). Currently in their infancy the new Corporate Parenting Board arrangements will strengthen the corporate sense of responsibility for children in care and care leavers.

Areas of priority

40. The development of our approach to Corporate Parenting is a key priority. Key priorities are outlined below.
 - a. Strengthen our approach to Corporate Parenting
 - b. Review and revise our Sufficiency Strategy to ensure we have the 'right accommodation in the right place at the right time'
 - c. Deliver a rapid improvement plan for our Fostering Service.
 - d. Revise and refresh our fostering recruitment campaign. We recruited very low numbers in 20/21 and 21/22.

- e. Reunification of children with their families
- f. We will ensure management oversight and grip to reduce the number of children subject to Placement with Parents Regulations.
- g. Review all children who have had 3 or more moves in 12 months
- h. We will continue to improve our permanence planning for all children who are in our care subject to S20.
- i. Review all children in unregulated placements to ensure stability and permanence and securing of a regulated home.
- j. Improve the timeliness of Initial Health Assessments for children in care and access to Health Passports.
- k. Refresh our package of support to young people to help them prepare for independence prior to leaving care.
- l. Ensure all our children and young people are supported to understand their Life Story.
- m. Strengthen how the Authority celebrates the achievements of children and young people in care.

Options

- 41. This report is for discussion and comment, there are no options put forward for consideration. However, support from the Scrutiny Committee is sought in the ongoing children's services improvement journey.

Implications

- 42. **Financial** - There are significant financial commitments arising from our responsibilities as Corporate Parents. This paper identifies a number of themes (placement sufficiency, fostering recruitment, children in care population, practice) and areas in need of improvement that have financial implications. Delivering these improvements will draw upon growth allocation set out in the 2022/23 budget and will help to address significant budget pressures for this area.
- 43. **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no implications.
- 44. **Equalities** – There are no implications.

- 45. **Legal** - There are no implications.
- 46. **Crime and Disorder** - There are no implications.
- 47. **Information Technology (IT)** - There are no implications.
- 48. **Property** - There are no implications.

Contact Details

Authors:

Niall McVicar
Head of Innovation and
Children's Champion.
niall.mcvicar@york.gov.uk

Julie Mephram
Interim Head of Corporate
Parenting

Wards Affected:

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Anne Coyle
Interim Director of Children's Services

Report
Approved



Date 28 March 2022

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Abbreviations

- CYPIC – Children and Young People in Care
- DCS – Director of Children's Services
- EET/NEET – Education, Employment or Training / Not in Education, Employment or Training
- EYFS – Early Years Foundation Stage
- IHA – Initial Health Assessments
- IRO – Independent Reviewing Officers
- PA – Personal Advisor
- PEP – Personal Education Plan
- PWP – Placement With Parents
- RHA – Review Health Assessments
- S20 – Section 20 (of the Children Act 1989)
- YAFCA – York Area Foster Carers Association



Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee

13 April 2022

Report of the School Holiday Food Task Group: Cllrs Daubeney, Fenton and Fitzpatrick

Cover Report: School Holiday Food Scrutiny Review

Summary

1. This report provides information on the progress to date of the School Holiday Food Task Group which was set up to respond to a request from the Executive made on 30th September 2021 for Children, Education & Communities (CEC) Policy & Scrutiny Committee to consider: **the effectiveness, impact and funding of the free school meal voucher scheme alongside other grassroots community based provision and other schemes to address food poverty impacts**

Background

2. At its meeting in January 2022, the Committee was asked to set up a Task Group to investigate the free school meal voucher scheme and associated community provision. As the funding was due to run out for this scheme, the Committee was requested to make their recommendations to Executive at the earliest opportunity.
3. A public meeting was held in February 2022 for the Committee Task Group Members to receive the draft Scoping Report (Annex 1) from officers. The following timescales for the Scrutiny Review was agreed with at that meeting:
 - Interim update 13 April 2022
 - Final report 03 May 2022
 - Recommendations to Executive 19 May 2022

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to note the interim update and to make recommendations to the Task Group where appropriate.

Reason: To assist the Task Group in their role to inform council plans to support residents struggling to provide food for children during school holidays.

Findings

5. Since the Scoping Report meeting of 28th February, the Task Group has met twice, on 14th March and on 28th March. At the first meeting, Task Group members discussed the breadth of the areas suggested by officers and began with the background academic research known to exist. Cllr Fitzpatrick will contact an academic she has worked with previously to see if there are other sources of research we ought to include.
6. In considering the proposed information to be gathered to inform recommendations, it was agreed each Task Group member would take responsibility for a separate item of information, and who would be approached in the first instance. Task Group members have a wide knowledge of key persons of responsibility in providers of data, managers of foodbanks, hubs and other grassroots community-based provision to assess levels of sufficiency.
7. At the second meeting, the material already received was briefly discussed plus the need to begin analysing the data. Further information required from foodbanks was identified and the value of anecdotal evidence was recognised for its narrative value.
8. It was considered important to meet with the responsible Food Poverty portfolio-holders on Executive to gain useful steers and observations on the challenge facing the council when Government support is withdrawn. Finally, there is a need to continue to gather relevant information and to begin analysing the data which has already come in. Further work is to be undertaken to assess the extent to which schools are hosting informal food banks and what remaining national funding sources exist.
9. There was a discussion around a proposal to undertake a manageable survey of schools within a very short timescale before Easter. It was proposed that we work with two secondary schools on the East and West of the city, Archbishop Holgate's and York High which has higher levels of entitlement to FSM. This is to be augmented with one or two primaries to create a representative sample - working with the Assistant Director for Education and Skills to implement.

Options

10. This Committee can
 - (i) comment on the progress of the Task Group to date; and/or
 - (ii) recommend further areas of investigation.

Implications

11. Any relevant financial, equalities, legal, information technology, crime & disorder, sustainability or other implications will be addressed in the final report submitted to the Executive.

Risk Management

12. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations in this report for the Scrutiny Committee to consider other than noting and ensuring that timescale for completion is tight and will need to be closely managed in order to ensure it is met.

Contact Details

Author:

Dawn Steel
Head of Civic, Democratic
& Scrutiny Services
(01904) 551030

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Janie Berry
Director of Governance & Monitoring Officer

Jane Meller
Democracy Officer
(01904 555209)

Report Approved **Date** 13 April 2022

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected:

For further information please contact the author of the report.

All

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Annex 1 – Scoping Report: School Holiday Food Scrutiny Review

This page is intentionally left blank



Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee Task Group

28th February 2022

Report of the Director, Customer & Communities/Assistant Director Education & Skills

Scoping Report: School Holiday Food Scrutiny Review

Summary

1. The report sets out a draft scope for a related scrutiny review to respond to a request from the Executive made on 30th September 2021 for Children, Education & Communities (CEC) Policy & Scrutiny Committee to consider: **the effectiveness, impact and funding of the free school meal voucher scheme alongside other grassroots community based provision and other schemes to address food poverty impacts.**
2. This report sets the context around the solutions to address school holiday hunger that have been available throughout the pandemic which are due to come to an end and the work planned to address food poverty impacts in the city in the longer term.
3. Recommendations arising from the outcome of this work will be reported to Executive Members and could also inform further formal responses back to the Department for Education.

Recommendations

4. The Committee Task Group Members are asked to:
 - a) Consider and comment on the draft scope and objectives of the Review;
 - b) Agree next steps.

Reason: To inform developing council plans to support residents struggling to provide food for children during school holidays.

Background

5. The financial impacts of the pandemic on residents have been recognised locally and nationally, along with the provision of a number of financial support schemes available with grants and support distributed over the past two years.
6. The total value of financial support to families last year (government and council funding) was £1.9m and in the current financial year is estimated to be £2m. Summary reports on associated financial inclusion activities and welfare support activities for 2020/21 and 2021/22 (mid year) respectively can be found at:

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=875&MId=12651&Ver=4>

and

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=875&MId=12656&Ver=4>

7. Further support to financially vulnerable residents has been provided by established and voluntary community based food banks, and networks supported by the virtual community hubs in operation run by the council.
8. The impact of debt and poverty not only has a financial impact on children and families but also has an impact on nutrition. As recently reported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) in their UK Poverty 2022 Report 'Food security is not only about being able to afford enough food, but also being able to afford food that is nutritious'. This report is available here:

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2022>

9. The National Food Strategy Report (a Government commissioned independent report) that came out last year and available here:
<https://www.nationalfoodstrategy.org/the-report/>

identified that: 'This pre-existing divide in diet-related health is one reason why people in the most deprived areas have been twice as likely to die from COVID-19, compared to those in the least deprived areas..... Studies in this country have shown that, as poorer families' income goes up, they spend more on fruit, vegetables, fibre, oily fish and other foods rich in vitamins and minerals. And families actually cut their spending on alcohol and tobacco as their income rises.'

Ending of Covid Welfare Support schemes

10. By the end of March 2022 there will be a significant reduction in existing nationally provided covid welfare support for the financially vulnerable that creates a financial 'cliff edge' with the ending of:

- Household Support Grant which has:
 - supported families with extra funding for food and fuel costs;
 - funded school holiday free school meal vouchers.
- Test & Trace payments - £500 for those with low or unstable income levels to cover Covid isolation periods.

This followed the ending of the following in September 2021:

- Furlough support for those unable to work.
 - £20 per week Universal Credit supplement.
11. The financial and linked social issues arising from the covid pandemic are broad and complex in some cases exacerbating existing issues around debt, food and fuel poverty whilst also creating associated problems such as mental health pressures and social inclusion (isolation and loneliness). The numbers of residents on Universal Credit (in work and out of work) remain around twice as high as prior to the pandemic with January 2022 figures standing at 11349. The National Food Strategy Report states:

'Data collected in 2019 by the Department of Work and Pensions found that, even before the pandemic, 4% of families experienced disrupted eating patterns or were forced to reduce their food consumption due to a lack of resources.(This is known as "very low food security".) Among those on Universal Credit, this proportion rose to 26%.'

Free School Meal (FSM) School holiday Voucher Provision

12. Pre-pandemic there was no additional funding to support families during school holidays for children eligible for benefits related free school meals. Schools do receive funding to provide free school meals during term time.

13. During the pandemic there has been an increase in the number of children eligible for benefits related free school meals. School census data shows that in between January 2020 and January 2021 there was an increase in the numbers of eligible children across all phases (except in the Pupil Referral Unit), and again to October 2021- further figures will become available up to January 2022 during this scrutiny review. This is shown in the table below with the biggest rise in secondary school children claiming free school meals at 30% :

Phase/type of school	January 2020	January 2021	October 2021	Increase
Primary	1586	1917	1998	21%
Secondary	980	1268	1407	30%
Pupil Referral Unit	81	77	70	-16%
Special School	74	85	89	17%
Total eligible for FSM	2721	3347	3564	

*January 2022 Figures available from week commencing 7th March 2022

School Holiday Food Vouchers

14. During the period of national lockdown between March 2020, and August 2020, the government introduced the national voucher scheme to fund food vouchers for children eligible for benefits related FSM. This was to provide food for those children who were unable to attend school and was extended to cover the summer holidays in 2020. Schools received funding directly from the Department for Education to provide food during the period of the first national lockdown and to provide food assistance during the lockdown between January 2021, and March 2021.
15. This direct funding to schools did not cover the school holidays and as previously described the government provided funding through the various grant schemes for food and fuel (currently Household Support

Grant). Along with other local authorities the council chose to extend support for FSM vouchers during the school holidays from October 2020 onwards.

16. £50.5k was provided from the council emergency budget for free school meal vouchers of £15 per week per child for October 2020 half-term holidays and from that date the government's Winter Support Grant funding and Local Covid Support Grant (which superseded the Winter Support Grant) was top sliced for school holidays up to and including two weeks in summer 2021. Further council funded decisions have ensured food vouchers have been secured up to February 2022 half term.

Holiday	Weeks	Amount	Source
October Half Term 2020	1	£47k	Council Covid Emergency YFAS Fund
Christmas 2020	2	£100k	Government (Winter Grant)
February Half Term 2021	1	£50k	Government (Winter Grant)
Easter 2021	2	£50k £50k	Government (Winter Grant) Council CYC Supplement to the Winter Grant from the Emergency YFAS Fund
June Half Term 2021	1	£50k	Government (Local Covid Support Grant)
Summer 2021	2*	£100k	Government (Extended Local Covid Support Grant)
October Half Term 2021	1	£50k	Council Covid Emergency YFAS Fund
Christmas 2021	1**	£50k	Council Covid Emergency YFAS Fund

Further approved Funding:			
February Half Term 2022	1	£50k	Council Covid Emergency YFAS Fund
Total Government		£350k	
Total Council (including approved)		247k (of which £50k is approved/not yet spent)	
Grand Total		£597k	

17. Guidance for schools was updated last year and from September 2021 there was and is no requirement for schools to provide free school meals during school holidays. Where pupils eligible for benefits related free school meals are self-isolating at home during term time, schools should work with their school catering team or food provider to provide good quality lunch parcels. As rules are due to change again shortly, these arrangements are likely to revert back to pre-pandemic arrangements.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme

18. In November 2020, the government announced the extension of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF). The programme offers eligible children free healthy meals and enriching activities over the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays 2021. The council received £383k funding to coordinate the delivery of the programme. The funding has been based on the projected participation rates of eligible children in the local area and cannot be used to provide food for children who do not attend the activities. The information from the Easter and summer programme then was used to develop the offer for the Christmas holiday period. The full report on the HAF to the CEC Policy & Scrutiny Committee on 4th January 2022 can be found at Annex A.
19. At that meeting the officers updated members of the Committee with regard to the Christmas activities as recorded by the minutes:

Minutes:

Members considered a report that updated them on the delivery of the new Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme in 2021 and the future delivery plans in 2022.

The Head of Education Support Services and the Community and Partnerships Officer were in attendance to present the report and answer questions from Members. They noted the following:

- Where possible, the holiday activity should include a hot meal. Providing a hot meal had proved difficult, especially for smaller activity providers. Food provision had been mainly in the form of packed lunches and hampers for families.
- Covid had made delivery of the programme difficult, particularly at Christmas with the Omicron variant. Families had tended to be more insular over the Christmas period.
- During the summer approximately 20% of eligible families benefitted from the scheme, with 25% benefitting at Christmas. This contrasts with approximately 10% in other local areas.

Officers responded to a variety of questions from Members covering a range of topics that included the differences in take up between the summer and Christmas provision, the level of take up compared to the funding available and the feedback received from families. They noted the following:

- The budget for HAF hot meals was £2.63 per head, this had been set on the basis that school canteens was to have been providing the meals. Community kitchens and smaller providers had not been able to match that budget requirement and could not be expected to do so. The food provision must align with school food standards.
- It had been difficult to find outreach projects for older children.
- Food vouchers had not been provided during HAF weeks.

20. As outlined at that meeting the government have confirmed the provision of three further years of HAF funding allowing for staffing costs which will fund a HAF officer role within the Council's Communities Team.

Grass roots/foodbank support

21. At a local level each community will have its own informal and formal organisations who provide or distribute food to residents in need, these can flex in line with the nature of an event such a flood or the pandemic and may provide one off support or something more regular. This could range from formal foodbank provision, to pay as you feel cafes to concerned neighbours or volunteers assisting with very local food distribution activities. More formal organised activities are advertised on the livewellyork.co.uk website and a number of advice agencies may

refer residents to the York Foodbank. The foodbank do provide usage figures and an example of a quarterly report for October to December 2021 is shown in Annex B.

Community Hubs

22. The course of the pandemic has required the continuation of the emergency response, this response has adapted to emerging needs with a person centred approach as a core value, offering direct support where needed and seeking to connect people into local sustainable solutions. The support offered has included emergency food provision, shopping and prescription collection, support to access financial support and advice, wellbeing and combating social isolation and support to connect and access practical measures such lateral flow tests and booking vaccination appointments. Support has been offered over the phone and in person as appropriate, taking a holistic approach to issues to maximise individual and community resilience beyond an emergency response. Also supporting community initiatives to reshape or restart activities impacted by the pandemic based on local intelligence and demand.

Council Motion on Residents Right to Food - Update

23. On 21st October 2021 and within the context of a pandemic in which access to food had been identified as a critical challenge for many York residents, families and communities, full Council approved a motion supporting York Residents' Right to Food. This included actions around setting up a food network, understanding the level of informal food bank use in the city, and using the Community Hub strategy to establish further opportunities to provide further sources of nutritional food provision and activity where need is identified.
24. Linked to this on 14th February 2022 approval with given by the Executive Member for Financial & Performance to fund a further Community Involvement Officer (Food) within the Communities Team who will work alongside the HAF officer as outlined earlier in this report to assist in delivering the key actions set out in the motion.
25. The worked planned as part of the Food Council Motion work will also help in mapping all known resources across the city and align this to need

The Objective of the Scrutiny Review

26. In September 2021 Executive Members asked CEC Policy & Scrutiny Committee to consider **the effectiveness, impact and funding of the free school meal voucher scheme alongside other grassroots community based provision and other schemes to address food poverty impacts and bring back any recommendations.**

Suggested way forward: Scope for discussion

27. Scrutiny members to consider the following as part of the review in addition to the background information contained in this report and resources needed to support agreed work:
 - a. Existing need across the city including wider determinants of health and related deprivation data;
 - b. Mapping of FSMs including mapping of take up of other food related grants including Covid Winter Grant, Household Support Grant, York Financial Assistance Scheme;
 - c. Ongoing foodbank usage figures (during school holidays if known) and any other known sources of information around schools and grass roots community based provision to assess levels of sufficiency;
 - d. Advice & Information provision in relation to accessing food support including available information on the livewellyork.co.uk website;
 - e. A review of the effectiveness and impact of the holiday free school vouchers scheme by conducting a survey of beneficiary families undertaken via schools (or a subset);
 - f. Analysis of the impact of education initiatives e.g. Poverty Proofing Schools;
 - g. Analysis of available national and local funding of initiatives;
 - h. Best practice elsewhere;
 - i. Draw together final recommendations.

Scrutiny Review Delivery Timescales for discussion:

28. It is acknowledged that the timescales are tight for this review given the following:
 - a. Current funding of free school meals holiday vouchers ends after February 2022 half-term.

- b. There is £100k in the draft council budget for Holiday Hunger which could cover school voucher funding for the Easter Holidays.

29. As such and with the hope that recommendations could be made back to Executive before remaining 2021/22 school holidays and going into the 2022/23 school year the following reporting timeline is proposed for the task group to consider:

- Meeting of the task group on 28th February to agree scope
- Another meeting in March to consider early information scope goes to next CEC scrutiny on 13/04/22 when the Committee could also receive an interim update
- A draft final report would then need to be presented to CEC to endorse it before it goes to the Executive. This means that another CEC meeting would need to be scheduled, before the Executive meeting on 19 May 2022.

Options

30. There are no options for the Scrutiny Committee to consider as this is a scoping paper for discussion.

Analysis

31. There are no options for the Scrutiny Committee to consider, therefore this section is not applicable to complete.

Council Plan

32. This report relates to the following Corporate Priority within the Council Plan: 'A better Start for Children and Young People' and the outcomes may contribute to the key Council Plan priority focussed on delivering 'Well-paid jobs and inclusive economy' where they relate to financial inclusion.

Implications

33. There are none of the following implications outlined below until the scrutiny review makes its further recommendations to Executive:
- Financial – There are no financial implications.
 - Human Resources (HR) – There are no HR implications
 - Equalities – There are no Equalities Implications
 - Legal – There are no Legal Implications
 - Crime and Disorder – There are no Crime and Disorder Implications
 - Information Technology (IT) – There are no IT implications
 - Property – There are no Property Implications

Risk Management

34. There are no risks for the Scrutiny Committee to consider except regarding the tight timescale for this review.

Contact Details

Author:

Pauline Stuchfield
Director of Customer &
Communities

Maxine Squire
AD Education & Skills

**Chief Officer Responsible for the
report:**

Pauline Stuchfield Director of
Customer & Communities
Tel No.01904 551706

Report Approved Date

17th February 2022

Specialist Implications Officer(s) Chief Finance Officer and
Director of Governance & Monitoring Officer

Wards Affected:

✓ All

Annexes:

Annex A: Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme Report to CEC
Policy & Scrutiny Committee 4th January 2022

Annex B: Foodbank Statistics October to December 2021

Background Papers:

Links are provided in the report or attached as an Annex
14th February 2022 Executive Member for Financial & Performance
Decision Session:

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=875&MId=12659&Ver=4>

List of Abbreviations

DfE	Department for Education
FSM	Free School Meals
HAF	Holiday Activities & Food Programme
JRF	Joseph Rowntree Foundation
k	Thousand
m	Million
UC	Universal Credit



Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee**04 January 2022**

Joint Report of the Director of People and
Director of Customer and Communities

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme**Summary**

1. The purpose of this report is to update the members of the Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee about the delivery of the new HAF programme in 2021 and plans for future delivery in 2022.
2. On 30 September 2021 Executive received a report on Welfare Winter Planning and Support in which it considered school holiday food provision (see extract at Annex A). Executive approved the continuity of provision of vouchers for children receiving free school meals up to February half term at a cost of £50k per week and also the following:
 - (iv) That the subject of school holiday food provision be referred to the Children, Education & Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee for them to consider the effectiveness, impact and funding of the voucher scheme alongside other grassroots community-based provision and other schemes to address the impact of food poverty; this work could also inform further formal responses back to the Department for Education.
3. Members are asked to consider the information in this report as whole and the request from Executive, and how it may wish to take this work forward perhaps through a task group approach and within the context of the wider work being undertaken in relation to the recent council motion on York Residents' Right to Food but also given that food vouchers are only funded to February 2022 half term.

Background

4. In November 2020 the government announced that the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme would be expanded across the whole of

England in 2021. This was a national scale up of the previous programme which had been targeted at specific geographical areas. These 'Healthy Holidays' activities target families who are struggling financially over the school holidays, particularly those eligible for benefit based free school meals. The school holidays can bring additional pressures on families already struggling financially regarding food and activities. This can have a detrimental impact on children's and families physical and mental wellbeing.

5. The HAF programme aims to make free "holiday club" places available to children eligible for free school meals for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week, six weeks a year (4 weeks in the summer and a week's worth of provision in each of the Easter and Christmas holidays).
6. The government intends that as a result of this programme, children who attend these activities should;
 - eat more healthily over the school holidays
 - be more active during the school holidays
 - take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and wellbeing along with their wider educational attainment
 - be safe and not to be socially isolated
 - have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition
 - be more engaged with school and other local services
7. The Government would like children and families who participate in HAF to develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting as well as being effectively signposted towards other information and support for example health, employment, and education.
8. In line with government delivery guidance a local steering group is in place to support the coordination of the local programme and work with a wide range of partners to achieve implementation. The University of York are the regional evaluators for the HAF programme and they also sit on the local steering group.
9. Childcare Works are the DfE's strategic support partner for delivery of the HAF and they are working closely with LAs to achieve successful implementation of the programme.

10. The DfE have confirmed that funding will continue in all LAs in England for the next three years with funding of over £200m each year. This covers the period of the current spending review 2022-23 and 2024-25 meaning that planning and preparation for 2022 onwards can now take place.
11. York's allocation for 21/22 is up to £383k to project manage and deliver the programme. This is based on 3,349 children being eligible for Free School Meals in all of York's schools (January 2021 Census).
12. City of York has contributed to research (not yet published) which should include positive impact statements by children and young people about summer delivery.

Summer and Christmas Delivery 2021

Summer 2021

13. In York, the LA invited expressions of interest to target four weeks of the Summer Holidays. Fifteen activity providers were commissioned to deliver the programme. All activities were face to face and included;
 - The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) based at St. Nicks Nature Reserve along with St. Nicks themselves teamed up with the Choose2 café in Hull Road Park to deliver environmental activities for children and families incorporating food provision from the café.
 - Speedkix multi-sports delivered sessions in various schools across the city, using their existing relationships with schools to target eligible children who could access the provision alongside fee paying attendees.
 - Young Carers used the HAF funding to further support their existing summer provision and include meals for attendees and extra activities around cooking and arts and crafts. This was a much needed provision for young people with shared experience of caring roles. After much time in lockdown this activity showed the value of face to face provision for these children and young people who were able to meet up with old friends as well and make many new ones.
 - Parents were also able to access places within registered holiday clubs.

14. A total of 677 (20%) eligible children and young people attended activities. Evidence of impact for these children has been gathered and includes:

- Improved awareness of healthy eating and alternative options
- Building confidence and resilience through increased contact with peers and appropriate role models.
- A positive experience of being engaged in activity on school sites in the holiday period.
- Greater knowledge of environmental issues through local schemes (TCV/St. Nicks)
- Engaging with peers with shared experience during some targeted provision.
- Inclusion of SEND children and young people in universal activities.

15. Overall the summer delivery was successful although there were some key learning points;

- Managing the behaviour of some children was more challenging for providers than expected even though they are very experienced in these areas and it does mirror the experiences of schools since the start of covid.
- Limited activities for age 14+ who are on FSM. We have few youth providers in the city who are well engaged with older young people and this limited the amount of provision we were able to offer.
- Improving the booking system arrangements to make this a smoother process for parents.
- Preparing the programme well ahead of the holiday period and developing the publicity of the programme.
- Developing the offer of hot meals and engaging with community hubs and providers to deliver this.

16. It should be noted that all eligible families in York were able to benefit from the provision of food vouchers during Summer (and again during Xmas 2021) and for those children attending activities they also received a good quality lunches.

Christmas 2021

17. The LA has commissioned 13 organisations to deliver activities during the first week of the Christmas holidays.

18. The current programme has used £74,431 of the funding to provide 675 children and young people with x 4 full days of activity (x 4 hours per day) along with food provision in various forms for each day.

19. This programme will be supported with places on Out of School Club provision where possible and the delivery of 6-7 community drop in parties for eligible families through our network of community hubs and food share schemes. These will aim to pick up eligible families who may not be attending any of the organised programme as described above. Families will be able to take part in some activities on the day and take away activity packs and food hampers for the holiday period.
20. A verbal update about Christmas delivery will be made to the Scrutiny Committee on 4th January 2022.

Building the Offer

21. Learning from other early implementers of the programme and from our own experience in 2021 shows that it does take time to build a strong offer for eligible children and young people. However the continuation of national funding will support City of York to increase capacity to develop an even richer programme to engage all year groups, especially older children and young people. Other steps include building community capacity around food including food allergen training, engaging more schools to consider delivering activities especially SEND schools. Developing training for behaviour management where this is more challenging for providers.

Communications

22. CYC comms team worked on the Summer and Christmas promotion to encourage families to contact their local school direct to confirm eligibility so as to avoid any stigmatisation. Referral processes are now more robust via the schools to ensure children are identified and encouraged to participate.

Consultation

23. The Local Authority has engaged with the regional HAF network facilitated by Childcare Works to understand good practice. A number of virtual meetings were held to explain the HAF programme and the commissioning process to potential providers. York is also acting as a peer support for Brighton and Hove Local Authority and is working in partnership with North Yorkshire.

Council Plan

24. The HAF programme supports the Council's corporate priorities in relation to Good Health and Well Being, A Better Start for Children and Young People and Safe Communities and Culture for All.

Implications

Financial

25. All activity described in this report will be funded from the £383k Department for Education, Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2021 grant allocated to York.

Human Resources (HR)

There are no HR implications.

Equalities

There are no equalities implications.

Legal

There are no legal implications.

Crime and Disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications.

Information Technology (IT)

There are no IT implications.

Property

There are no property implications.

Risk Management

26. There are still risks associated with covid and the new variant which could impact on face to face activities for the Christmas delivery. In mitigation all providers have been asked to set out their plans for alternative arrangements such as on line activities or some indoor activities if the latter is in line with government guidance and robust risk assessments being in place.

Recommendations

27. Members are asked to note this report and decide on how to take forward the review as agreed by Executive and outlined in paragraph 2 and 3 above.

Contact Details

Author:

Barbara Mands
Head of Education
Support Services
Tel: 01904 554371

Chief Officer responsible for the report:

Jamaila Hussain
Director of Prevention and Commissioning

Report Approved



Tim Waudby
Community Officer
Tel:07769914823

Date: 14th December 2021

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Name Richard Hartle
Head of Finance Adults, Children and Education
Tel: 01904 554225

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Vouchers Report

October 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

Vouchers by Ward

Ward	No. Vouchers	Adults	Children	Total
Acomb	19	26 (55.32%)	21 (44.68%)	47
Bishopthorpe	1	2 (66.67%)	1 (33.33%)	3
Clifton	55	86 (58.9%)	60 (41.1%)	146
Derwent	1	1 (100%)	0	1
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe	23	38 (42.22%)	52 (57.78%)	90
Easingwold	3	3 (100%)	0	3
Escrick	1	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	4
Fishergate	19	21 (72.41%)	8 (27.59%)	29
Fulford & Heslington	3	5 (38.46%)	8 (61.54%)	13
Guildhall	63	85 (76.58%)	26 (23.42%)	111
Haxby & Wigginton	3	4 (80%)	1 (20%)	5
Heworth	89	152 (45.37%)	183 (54.63%)	335
Heworth Without	17	19 (100%)	0	19
Holgate	41	58 (65.91%)	30 (34.09%)	88
Hull Road	34	66 (65.35%)	35 (34.65%)	101
Huntington & New Earswick	38	64 (73.56%)	23 (26.44%)	87
Kirkbymoorside	1	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	4
Marston Moor	2	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	4
Micklegate	21	28 (70%)	12 (30%)	40
NFA	17	21 (91.3%)	2 (8.7%)	23
Osbalwick & Derwent	6	17 (65.38%)	9 (34.62%)	26
Ouseburn	1	1 (100%)	0	1
Pocklington Provincial	3	4 (100%)	0	4

Ward	No. Vouchers	Adults	Children	Total
Rawcliffe & Clifton Without	19	35 (53.85%)	30 (46.15%)	65
Rural West York	2	4 (66.67%)	2 (33.33%)	6
Strensall	4	6 (66.67%)	3 (33.33%)	9
Unknown	1	1 (100%)	0	1
Westfield	127	205 (51%)	197 (49%)	402
Wheldrake	8	15 (71.43%)	6 (28.57%)	21
Totals	622	973	715	1688

Crisis Types

Crisis	No. Vouchers	Adults	Children	Total
Benefit Changes	48	68 (66.67%)	34 (33.33%)	102
Benefit Delays	39	50 (61.73%)	31 (38.27%)	81
Child Holiday Meals	8	15 (34.09%)	29 (65.91%)	44
Debt	49	73 (53.28%)	64 (46.72%)	137
Delayed Wages	5	11 (47.83%)	12 (52.17%)	23
Domestic Violence	4	4 (25%)	12 (75%)	16
Homeless	15	20 (90.91%)	2 (9.09%)	22
Low Income	336	541 (57.01%)	408 (42.99%)	949
No recourse to public funds	1	1 (100%)	0	1
Other	34	59 (60.2%)	39 (39.8%)	98
Refused STBA	8	12 (80%)	3 (20%)	15
Sickness	75	119 (59.5%)	81 (40.5%)	200
Totals	622	973	715	1688

Age Groups

Age Group	Number of people
Adults (17 - 24 yrs)	191
Adults (25 - 64 yrs)	740
Adults (Over 65 yrs)	29
Adults (unknown age)	13
Children (0 - 4 yrs)	183
Children (12 - 16 yrs)	234
Children (5 - 11 yrs)	287
Children (unknown age)	11
Totals	1688

Family Types

Size of Family	No. Vouchers
Couple	65 (10.45%)
Family	121 (19.45%)
Other	75 (12.06%)
Single	237 (38.1%)
Single Parent	124 (19.94%)
Totals	622

Children, Education and Communities Work Plan

Scrutiny Area	Meeting Dates	Type	Items
CEC	03/05/2022	Committee	1) School Holiday Food Task Group 2) Children and Young People's Mental Health Task Group 3) Community Hubs Task Group
CEC	17/05/2022	Joint Commissioned Slot with HASC	Autism Strategy

This page is intentionally left blank