



## Notice of meeting of

### Young People's Working Group

**To:** Councillors Blanchard (Chair), Aspden (Vice-Chair),  
Holvey, Runciman, Gunnell and Alexander

**Date:** Thursday, 12 July 2007

**Time:** 5.00 pm

**Venue:** Guildhall, York

### AGENDA

**1. Declarations of Interest**

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

**2. Minutes** (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

**3. Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Working Group's remit can do so. Anyone who wishes to register or requires further information is requested to contact the Democracy Officer on the contact details listed at the foot of this agenda. The deadline for registering is Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 5pm.

**4. Options for the Selection of the Children and Young People's Champion** (Pages 5 - 10)

This report reviews the process used in 2006 to select a Champion for Children and Young People and seeks views from the Young People's Working Group on whether there is a need to introduce any changes into the system for 2007.

**5. Future of the Connexions Service** (Pages 11 - 24)

From April 2008 the City of York Council will receive a government grant previously paid to the Connexions Service and will also acquire the responsibilities attached to the funding. This report was approved by the Executive on the 27 February and is being brought to the Young People's Working group in order to inform discussions in advance of a further report to Urgency Committee in late July seeking approval for a staffing structure for the new service.

The report proposes a strategy for how the Executive should manage these new responsibilities and seeks permission to implement a management of change strategy, funded entirely by external grants.

**6. Children and Young People's Plan 2007-2010** (Pages 25 - 74)

Following approval by the board of the Children's Trust (YorOK), the City of York Council adopted the *Children and Young People's Plan 2007 – 2010* at a meeting of the Executive on the 27 February. It is being brought to the Young People's Working group for information on the broad policy direction for services for young people in the city.

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

**Democracy Officer Details**

Democracy Officer:

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

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

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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MEETING	YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKING GROUP
DATE	25 OCTOBER 2006
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS JAMIESON-BALL (CHAIR), KING, VASSIE AND LOOKER (SUBSTITUTE FOR COUNCILLOR KIND)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS ASPDEN, KIND AND RUNCIMAN
IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLOR SCOTT, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHAMPION

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**8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair invited Members to declare at this point any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. No Members declared any interests.

**9. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Young People's Working Group held on 13 July 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

**11. UPDATE FROM THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHAMPION**

Members considered a report which provided an update on the work undertaken by the Children and Young People's Champion and gave recommendations that they requested further information on certain aspects of the Council's work in this area. The Officer highlighted an error in the report in paragraph 2 that Galtres School should not have been included in the list.

The Voice and Influence Coordinator summed up the report and stated that young people had voiced that they would like more of the following:-

- Things to do and places to go
- Discounts on leisure and travel
- Relationship between Young People and the Police

The Officer said she had a meeting next week and it looked like they were making progress regarding travel costs for young people and had probably found a way forward regarding this. They were also looking into whether

the YoZone Card could be extended to 16 and 17 year olds and could be better advertised and easier to obtain.

The Officer commented that the issues surrounding 'Why young people get a 'bad press' in the community' (point 9 in the report) were very realistic. It was hoped that an upcoming awards ceremony on 29 November 2006 would go some way to showing young people in a positive light and recognising their contribution to communities.

The Children and Young People's Champion spoke to Members regarding his recent visits to various schools in York. He had attended 'Speak Out' and The Young People's Question Time. He reported that many common themes were raised by the young people in the schools that he had visited such as access to drinking water, condition of school toilets, lack of soap and toilet paper, and cleanliness of the toilet blocks in general. Young people had also said that they would like more information about gap year provision.

The Children and Young People's Champion commented on the different approaches individual schools had taken to his visit and commented that some were more welcoming than others. He mentioned that he was now approaching the next stage of visits and was in the process of setting up new appointments; especially with Primary Schools.

At this point Councillor Vassie joined the meeting.

The Children and Young People's Champion indicated that young people thought that communication was a significant problem. There were plans to set up a website but this had now been put back but it was hoped that web links would be in place by April 2007. He also mentioned that during the 'Speak Out' it was hard to differentiate between the voice of the young people and the voice of those that worked with young people.

The Children and Young People's Champion raised the fact that young people were keen to have a dedicated Housing Officer who was very sympathetic and could help them at all stages of housing applications.

Members discussed that the report did not say how many of the issues would be dealt with and there were only a few recommendations. They highlighted the importance of ensuring the issues raised were addressed. The issue of the effectiveness of School Councils was raised and discussed.

It was suggested that Young People could help design the website and a report be prepared looking into the issues surrounding this.

RESOLVED: (i) That the report and comments above be noted.

REASON: To ensure the involvement of young people in the life of the City.

(ii) That a report be requested from the relevant Officers on the work that is being done towards establishing discounted travel for 16 and 17 year olds across the City.

REASON: To respond to the issues raised by young people in discussion with the Champion.

(iii) That a report be requested from the Equalities Team on young people's representation on the Social Inclusion Working Group.

REASON: To ensure the involvement of young people in the life of the City.

(iv) A Forward Plan/Action Plan be produced, to include:

- Housing Advice specifically aimed at young people
- School toilets and provision of drinking water at school
- Police liaison with young people
- Communication with young people
- School Councils and their effectiveness

REASON: To respond to issues raised in the report.

(v) That a report be brought to the Working Group on the current situation in the development of the web-site which will be able to inform young people and families of the services available across the City. This report to be included on the Forward Plan.

REASON: To respond to issues raised by Members and young people.

## **12. HEAR BY RIGHT - NEXT STEPS**

Members considered a report which provided an update on the mapping exercise undertaken by the Involvement Group in relation to the Hear By Right standards adopted by the Council.

Members discussed the summary of Action Points and said that the wording in Paragraph three, bullet point six of the report was supposed to have been changed from 'newly elected' to elected. The Officer acknowledged this.

RESOLVED: That the priorities for action be agreed.

REASON: In order to take forward voice and influence work with children and young people.

## **13. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2007-10 – CONSULTATION**

Members considered a report which outlined the consultation process being undertaken with children and young people to inform the Children and Young People's Plan 2007-2010.

The Children's Fund Programme Manager commented that he had received 600 postcards back from the consultation. He also stated that every consultation that had happened in the past three years had now been documented.

Members commented that the issues surrounding access to drinking water in schools were relevant to the Healthy Living part of this consultation.

**RESOLVED:** That the work undertaken, through the Yor-OK Trust, to ascertain the views of children, young people and families to develop the Children and Young People's Plan be noted.

**REASON:** In order that the experiences of children, young people and families can continue to influence planning of services for children and young people.

Councillor Jamieson-Ball, Chair  
[The meeting started at 5.05 pm and finished at 6.20 pm].



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## Young People's Working Group

July 12th 2007

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services.

### **Options for the selection of the Children and Young People's Champion.**

#### **Summary**

1. This report reviews the process used in 2006 to select a Champion for Children and Young People and seeks views from the Young People's Working Group on whether there is a need to introduce any changes into the system for 2007.

#### **Background**

2. The post of Champion for Children and Young People for the City of York was established through the constitution of the Council as a member appointment. The first Champion was appointed for a one year term of office during the school year 2006 – 07. One thousand six hundred (1,600) children and young people were involved in a process of selection that started in April 2006 and was completed during the summer term. The selection process was undertaken through school councils, making use of the annual primary and secondary school council conferences as an opportunity to debate the issues and vote on the candidates. The opportunity to participate was also extended to all secondary schools in the City through a DVD and small resource pack. Four secondary schools involved their wider school community in this way. The selection process was run on a very short timescale, because of the timing of the school council conferences.
3. Although the appointment has been a success, some criticisms were made of the selection process, most notably that there were no clear election rules, as a consequence of which young people did not all have a similar understanding of the process or an equal opportunity to make their voice heard. There was also a lack of clarity about the conduct of the hustings and the publication of election material.
4. This review was also asked to consider whether the post might be opened up to an independent person, rather than an elected member. Each of these issues is considered below, and a series of options proposed for discussion by the Young People's Working Group. Constitutionally, a decision can only be made by EMAP, and the recommendations of the working group will be reported to the next EMAP on the 19 July.

### **Elected Member or independent person?**

5. The champion holds a position with no power and is expected to be impartial. In many ways it reflects, at the local level, the role of Al Aynsley-Green, the children's commissioner for England, at a national level. An elected member may have time to visit schools during the day and have considerable influence within the council. Elected members also bring with them the authority of having already put themselves up for election and being genuine democratically elected representatives.
6. The case for an independent person as champion is that they are self evidently impartial and, although they may not have the power of an elected member, they would bring a different perspective to the Executive Member for Youth and Social Inclusion with whom they would be expected to work very closely.
7. Should the decision be taken to appoint an independent person, it is felt this role requires someone with a connection with young people e.g. someone at school, university, or someone working with young people in a voluntary or paid role. The individual taking this role needs to have time to talk to young people at schools through the school councils and take this information forward and work with the Executive Member. The champion would be supported by an officer.

### **Selection or election?**

8. The argument in favour of an election is that it would provide children and young people with the opportunity to experience an election process in full by registering, and having a ballot card, polling station and ballot box.
9. Most other Champion positions within the council are inward facing and so are not subject to any form of public selection. The exception to this is the Older Person's Champion who was selected by The Older People's Assembly which wrote to all Councillors asking them to apply for the post and then selected the Champion through an interview process. However as there isn't a similar body of children and young people currently existing in the City this model could not be replicated. It does, however, set a precedent for working with a smaller group to select the Champion.
10. In arriving at a decision about this, it is important to remember that the Children and Young People's Champion is a non-political position. The Champion provides a voice and advocates for children and young people, but has no direct power or budgetary control. An election is closely associated with the political process and there is a risk of creating some confusion in the mind of the children and young people who would be involved. Three members of the senior leadership teams from different secondary schools have voiced their concerns about this as well as drawing attention to the logistical difficulties of running a full election.
11. A full election process would require a much higher commitment from participating schools than at present and the authority would have to provide much more support in terms of time and co-ordination from members of staff in



order to recruit, train and support the young people who will act as election officials. It would also require the staff to give up a number of lunch times in the secondary schools in order to ensure that all young people who wished to had the opportunity to vote. During the last process a limited number of schools took part. If the expectation placed on schools reduced the number willing to participate, the actual electorate may become less rather than more representative.

## **Options**

12. There are a number of options for undertaking the selection process in following years which are outlined below:

### **Option 1: Full election process run in all schools**

13. A full election process, involving all primary and secondary schools within the City, would cost around £4k (£3k for transport of polling booths/ ballot boxes. £210 for production of 22,000 numbered ballot cards, £500 To produce materials to support the election process that would be distributed to schools). Young people themselves would be involved in organising the elections within the schools with support from teachers, this includes counting the ballot papers.

### **Option 2: Hustings at the school council conferences followed by simpler voting process in schools.**

14. Both candidates would attend a hustings event at the primary and secondary school council conferences. Information from this would form the supporting pack that are sent to schools, including a short DVD of the key point from the hustings at the conferences. Voting would then take place in schools. The voting process would be overseen by the schools on photocopiable voting cards, without the provision of ballot boxes and polling booths.

### **Option 3: Election at the primary and secondary school council conferences**

15. This would be similar to the process run last year with voting being open to the children and young people who attend the school council conferences for primary and secondary schools. This would include a hustings which both candidates would attend and the children and young people would vote based on this.

## **Analysis**

16. In analysing these three options, consideration has been given to the capacity of the department to provide the support that it needed, either in officer time or in budgetary provision.
17. There is limited budget for supporting children and young people's participation across the City (currently £8600 per year). A full election process would take around half of this budget and mean that other types of consultation and

involvement work would not be able to happen. To give examples from this financial year, the cost of the election process is the same as the cost of involving young people in the development of the new information, support and counselling service at Castlegate and the production of the Transitions mental health DVD.

18. Similarly there is limited officer time available to support children and young people's participation and involvement. Consideration needs to be given to the balance of time taken to develop the selection process and the time that would be left to support the ongoing work of the Champion through out the year.
17. Option 1 is very expensive and would use most of the remaining Voice and Influence budget. It would also require additional officer time in terms of getting schools on board and co-ordinating the process, which is not currently available. If schools were not willing to participate, the young people from that school would be disenfranchised. Although this option would extend the number of children and young people who are able to participate and promote the work of the Champion, there would be limited opportunities to have face to face contact with the candidates as organising visits to the 67 schools across the City would be problematic.
18. Option 2 would cost around £500 to produce the support packs for schools. It would provide an opportunity for a cross section of children and young people to meet and talk to the prospective candidates face to face, which was something they said they preferred. However, equal participation of all schools cannot be guaranteed so not all children and young people could be guaranteed a chance to participate. The scaled down voting processes is manageable within existing officer time as it requires less commitment from schools.
19. Option 3 would limit the number of children and young people who participate in the selection process. Young people who attend a school without a school council or schools that are unable to attend on the day would not be able to participate. However this option offers an easily manageable process that is transparent and deliverable within existing budget and officer time.

## **Consultation**

20. In initial consultation undertaken as the role of the Children and Young People's Champion was being developed, the strongest feedback was that children and young people placed highest value on having the opportunity to meet candidates face to face, running a full election process across all primary and secondary schools. Young people's preferred method for selecting the Champion was through a vote in their individual schools rather than through the school council conferences, suggesting that they felt it was important that there was wider participation in the selection process.

## Corporate Priorities

21. Involving children and young people in the selection of their Champion meets the Council objectives of:
- Encouraging all Children and Young People to become Active Citizens
  - Consulting with children and young people about the future of the City and about provision by the council.

## Implications

22. This report has the following implications
- **Financial** Any spend is within the existing budget for Voice and Influence.
  - **Human Resources (HR)** No implications except for option 1.
  - **Equalities** No implications.
  - **Legal** No implications.
  - **Crime and Disorder** No implications.
  - **Information Technology (IT)** No implications.
  - **Other** No implications.

## Risk Management

23. There are no risks associated with this report.

## Recommendations

24. The Young Person's Working Group is advised to recommend the Executive Member that:
- Candidates for the Children and Young People's Champion be independent.
  - The council adopt Option 2 as the process for selecting a Champion for Children and Young People.

Reason: This ensures a cross section of children and young people have an opportunity to talk with the candidates face to face as well as extending the option to vote to the maximum amount of children and young people at a reasonable cost.

**Contact Details**

**Author:**

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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

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Voice & Influence Co-ordinator  
Youth Service  
628829

**Report Approved**  **Date** 25.06.07

**Specialist Implication Officer(s)**

None

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

**All**

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



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## Young People's Working Group

12 July 2007

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

### Future of the Connexions Service

#### Summary

1. From April 2008 the City of York Council will receive a government grant previously paid to the Connexions Service and will also acquire the responsibilities attached to the funding. This report was approved by the Executive on the 27 February and is being brought to the Young People's Working group in order to inform discussions in advance of a further report to Urgency Committee in late July seeking approval for a staffing structure for the new service.
2. The report proposes a strategy for how the Executive should manage these new responsibilities and seeks permission to implement a management of change strategy, funded entirely by external grants.

#### Background

3. At a national level, the Connexions Service was established in 2001 in response to the vision set out in the Social Exclusion Unit's report *Bridging the Gap* and the White Paper *Learning to Succeed*. These documents proposed the creation of a more co-ordinated youth support service to address problems and issues faced by young people, and in particular those young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) or at risk of becoming so. In York and North Yorkshire, the service was set up as a limited company and went live in September 2002. The partners then were City of York Council, North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and Guidance Enterprise Group (GEG) – a private careers company. In July 2004, with the approval of the Executive, the business of the Connexions company was transferred to North Yorkshire County Council, together with staff, premises and assets. This was done on the advice of the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in order to resolve a VAT issue which had not been anticipated by central government.
4. The Connexions business is to agree a local delivery strategy and to receive a Central Government grant, which it then awards to a variety of contractors to deliver the strategy, covering a range of information, advice and guidance and youth support services at various environments. In accordance with the origin of the service, much of its

work is targeted at young people not in education, employment or training and therefore at risk of social exclusion. Much of the additional funding brought in by Connexions, over and above the funding for the former careers service contract, has been allocated to the targeted work. In 2008 the current arrangements will change. Connexions grants will be given directly to councils who will then continue to be responsible for awarding contracts to providers for the service.

5. Connexions is a multi-agency focused service. Both the current strategic Board and the local management committee of the service are multi-agency bodies. The multi-agency approach to both the composition of partnerships and their operational delivery has been a key strength of the Connexions service. Strong links have been forged with local partners such as the council, schools and colleges, employers, the Learning and Skills Councils (LSCs), the Youth Service, Youth Offending Teams, the Education Welfare Service, the Police, Health, Children's Services, Jobcentre Plus and a wide range of voluntary and community sector organisations. In this sense, the service pioneered the drive towards greater integration of young people's services which is one of the underpinning principles of the reforms set out in Youth Matters. The development of multi-agency one-stop shop facilities for young people has been an important plank in the success of this approach.
6. The Connexions Board consisted of key strategic partners who could represent strong sub-regional agendas, as well as seeking the best services for York. The Board members included the Learning and Skills Council, the Police and the Primary Care Trust, for instance. These organisations are now full members of the children's trust arrangements in York.
7. The thrust of policy in the area of young people is a strong steer to integrate service delivery further. The government are driving this agenda by introducing a common assessment framework for all agencies, information sharing and lead practitioners – a worker who supports a family or young person when they are in contact with a number of agencies. Since 2005, the DfES has funded 2 pilot schemes in York to progress these issues and to integrate the work of the service with the children's trust and with the Youth Service in particular. The approach to more integrated working has been welcomed by all providers and by all agencies receiving the service.
8. Another important feature of Connexions has been the commitment to involving young people in meaningful ways in the design, planning, delivery, evaluation and governance of the service. This has been recognised as a strength, with young people and stakeholder surveys reporting that young people were involved in a wide range of activities across the service, most commonly relating to influencing the scope, mechanics and evaluation of the service.

### **The future funding arrangements and transfer of responsibility**

9. The Connexions statutory functions that will transfer to the local authority in 2008 are set out below. Each local authority can either deliver the functions in-house or can commission the work from one or more external partners.
10. Under **Section 8 of the Employment and Training Act 1973** (amended by the **Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993**), the Secretary of State has a duty to secure the provision of services for assisting persons undergoing relevant education to decide:
  - what employments, having regard to their capabilities, will be suitable for and available to them when they cease undergoing such education; and
  - what training or education is or will be required by and available to them in order to fit them for those employments;
  - and for assisting persons ceasing to undergo relevant education to obtain such employments, training and education.
11. There is a statutory requirement for schools to deliver a programme of careers education from Year 7. Connexions partnerships are expected to support curriculum and staff development in careers work. The statutory duty refers to the requirement to provide careers services to young people.
12. Under **Section 114 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000**, the Secretary of State has the power to provide or secure the provision of services which he or she thinks will encourage, enable or assist (directly or indirectly) effective participation by young people in education or training. This power effectively extends the Connexions remit beyond Careers Education and Guidance and into delivery of a wider range of services designed to improve levels of participation in education and training.
13. Under **Section 140 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000**, the Secretary of State has a duty to arrange an assessment for young people with learning difficulty and/or disability as defined by the Act to assist their transition to post 16 education and training opportunities. Section 140 assessments are conducted by Personal Advisors and take place in or after the young person's final year of compulsory education.
14. Connexions Partnerships are responsible for government set targets that will become local authority responsibilities – as is already happening through Local Area Agreements. The most relevant one is reducing the proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET).
15. In addition, any organisation acquiring the Connexions grant will be required to maintain a client management system to provide benefits

advice to young people to promote financial advice to young people such as the Education Maintenance Allowances.

### **Implications of the change in funding arrangements**

16. Responsibility for delivering the Connexions service in York will transfer to the local authority, who must have regard to the views of the children's trust when deciding how to run the service. Funding for the service delivery will be paid directly to the local authority. The funding will be allocated by a nationally set formula and is expected to be allocated for a 3 year period. The DfES are still in the process of developing the formula but fundamental changes from the figures set out, below, are not expected.
17. It is expected that approximately £1,241,000 will be allocated to York each year for service delivery. In addition, the York share of the current central costs for premises, central team costs etc is £167,326. In total, therefore, York would expect to receive £1,408,782 from April 2008 if the expected formula is applied.
18. The current allocation of the £1,408,782 in York for 2007 is directed towards the following providers:

Guidance Enterprise Group	£855,139
City of York Council	£291, 179
Voluntary, community and other sectors	£95,138
Central team costs (transferring to York in 08)	£167,326
19. The current Connexions Board has agreed to wind up its functions as soon as the transfer of funding is complete in April 2008. There will no longer be a sub-regional Board or service to deliver. In anticipation of this, the children's trust Board in York has expanded its membership to the sub-regional bodies that can provide valuable advice to the city, such as the LSC, the Police and the North Yorkshire Business and Education Partnership (NYBEP). The central Connexions staff involved in servicing the Connexions Board and Partnership across the sub-region will no longer be required. This issue will be dealt with by NYCC, as the employer of all the central staff, and the Connexions Board, which has set aside funds to meet such eventualities.

### **Establishing a Young People's Service for York**

20. In order to deliver the aspirations set out in the *Youth Matters* Green Paper and the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the local authority will need to establish a new Young People's Service, combining the functions of the Youth Service with those of Connexions. This would involve a merger of the two services, with some resulting efficiency savings in both premises and management costs.
21. It is proposed that the new Young People's service cover all of the functions of the two current services and is based on locality teams



drawn from both services. No current activity will be lost but service delivery should be improved by the development of flexible, multi-agency teams – along the model already successfully piloted in the city through targeted youth support teams.

22. The teams will consist of the current youth work and Connexions teams, both of which have already aligned their staff to clusters of wards and schools to create a locality model. There will be single line management of these teams and improved access to them by young people because of their location in schools and young people's centres.
23. The strategic partnership accountability for the service will be through the Yor Ok Board and the 14-19 Partnership. Bodies such as the local management committee for Connexions will be wound up as responsibility transfers to existing and well-established bodies. Both the Yor Ok Board and the 14-19 Partnership have expanded their membership recently to include broader representation to ensure that they can deal with both universal and targeted services.

### **Consultation**

24. A programme of consultation began in September 2006. This consisted of meetings of all stakeholders through the Yor Ok Board and the local management committee, through to targeted consultations with schools, colleges and the voluntary and community sector. Consultation ended on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2007 and a formal report outlining the outcomes of the consultation was presented to the Yor Ok Board. The Board endorsed a series of principles which they wished the Executive to be aware of when making their decision about the future of Connexions in York. The principles endorsed by the Board were as follows:
  - To deliver a local authority led, integrated young people's service, which would be based in schools, colleges and youth centres.
  - To move strategic management of the service to the Trust Board and the 14-19 strategy, whilst also increasing the management of the provision by Heads and college principals.
  - To reduce the management structures delivering the services, by integrating with the Youth Service management team, and reduce some of the bureaucracy involved in gaining contracts and monitoring delivery by moving to 3 year funding agreements wherever possible.
  - To explore ways to redistribute resources towards more universal and preventative services, over time.
  - Services to become more flexible, with staff teams able to deliver comprehensive services during office hours, extended school provision and at evenings and weekends.
  - To support the development of capacity in the voluntary and community sector.

- To guarantee that organisations working across York and North Yorkshire, such as the colleges, will not be adversely affected by the separation of funding between two local authorities.

### **Options**

25. There are three options the Executive should consider when planning how to deliver the service described in paragraphs 20 – 23 above. These are:
- to take in-house more of the service;
  - to roll forward all existing contracts with external bodies; or
  - to put out to tender some or all of the work.

#### ***Option 1: Increase in-house provision***

26. The council could take over the direct running of the key functions for which it is legally accountable, such as the delivery of information, advice and guidance. These services used to be run by local authorities and are being taken over by local authorities, where they can be run efficiently and effectively and where best value can be demonstrated. In addition, as services become more integrated, the process is enhanced by having the staff teams working to the same employer. If this option is chosen, the main implications would be for the frontline staff and their immediate managers working for the Guidance Enterprise Group. These staff could transfer to the local authority, with full funding. There would be a reduction in management and non-staffing costs, particularly accommodation costs. This would facilitate the greater integration and flexibility needed to deliver a high performing service. This option would ensure that service levels were maintained and would also give the likeliest possibility that more frontline delivery could be made from within the same level.
27. Some services may continue to be provided by the Guidance Enterprise Group, who have, for example, expertise in training staff in specialist areas that the council would not be able to deliver at a lower price. The externally purchased services would be commissioned according to council policy.
28. Any transfer of function would require the council to find accommodation in schools, colleges or youth centres for up to 18 additional staff. Accommodation would be shared by staff teams in existing bases and in schools and colleges. The following sites have been identified as potential bases for locality teams:
- Fulford School, for the team serving the south and east of the city. Suitable accommodation is already available there.
  - The team serving the west of the city would probably be based at Moor Lane youth centre, which would require some capital outlay to convert spaces.

- The team serving the north of the city would be based at Kingswater centre. This would be in the existing office space, with no impact on space for young people. It would require some of the current management and administrative functions to be relocated.
  - Some management and administrative staff would be allocated space in existing council accommodation or in a building currently leased by Connexions at a competitive rent. The forward planning for Hungate already includes plans to locate the senior management function of the service there.
29. Connexions have allocated £57,000 for capital works to City of York Council to pay for the relevant infrastructure costs should the council accept this option. This funding would be carried over into the next financial year, and reported through the capital programme.
30. There are some functions of the service that neither the council nor commercial partners could run as well as other organisations. These include the services delivered to some of the hard to reach groups that are better delivered by the voluntary and community sector.
31. Option 1 meets all of the needs identified by the consultation.

***Option 2: Roll forward existing contracts***

32. The council could, for a fixed period, continue to provide the services in their current form. The main benefit in choosing to do this would be continuity of provision. The current service is generally high performing and it is reasonable to assume that a decision to roll forward the existing contract would maintain current levels of performance.
33. Changing circumstances, however, may make it difficult simply to maintain the status quo. There are financial, legal and managerial issues that need to be addressed even if the decision is taken to remain with the current contract.

*Financial issues*

34. It is difficult, at this stage, to provide a detailed analysis of the financial implications of disaggregating the sub regional Connexions grant. For a number of years, York had been successful in bidding for more than its formula share of resources from the Connexions Board. Under the formula allocation for York in 2006, one frontline post was redeployed from York to North Yorkshire to ensure that future provision in the city could be funded from the grant allocation anticipated under the new arrangements. For the last three years the Connexions grant has failed to keep pace with inflation and this is expected to be the case for 2007/08 already. This suggests that it will be difficult to maintain frontline services unless economies are found from elsewhere. In the current financial year the company holding the largest contract spent just under 20% of their funding on accommodation and not on service delivery.

*Legal issues*

35. The authority has a legal requirement to secure best value in the procurement of services. The contract for Connexions delivery in York (and North Yorkshire) and its predecessor services has not been subject to tendering or market testing for many years. It should have been put out for tender at the point that the new Connexions Service was established, and again when the government changed funding rules. On both occasions the private company holding the contract were given permission to have the contract extended for a further period, without being subjected to competition. A decision to extend the existing contract for a further period without market testing might be held to be in breach of the best value requirement and European procurement rules.

*Managerial issues*

36. Through the consultation and through routine review of the service, managers have identified a number of functions within the existing contract that could be improved by changing contractual arrangements. These include the opportunities that would arise from greater involvement of the voluntary and community sector and the requirement for more flexible working arrangements to meet the expectations of young people that services should be available when they are needed, rather than when staff are available. These are changes that, with the consent of the contractor, might be negotiated within the existing contract, but might more easily be addressed by alternative arrangements.
37. Option 2 would delay action to meet the needs identified in the consultation.

**Option 3: Carry out a thorough review of needs and redesign a specification for future tendering.**

38. Nationally, much of the debate about the future of the Connexions service has focused on the decision about whether the existing procurement arrangements should be maintained or not. Less attention has been paid to the benefits that might be realised from redesigning the specification, or from inviting separate tenders for some but not all of the services provided by existing careers companies.
39. At a meeting on the 8 February with representatives of the Joint Venture Company that owns Guidance Services (VT and Enterprise Consulting), it was suggested that the authority should consider alternative forms of procurement, such as a partnering arrangement for some of the services provided by Guidance Services. It was suggested that this could, for example, include the Management Information System or Training and Development.
40. Should Executive wish to maintain the contract but re-design the service, the opportunity already exists for variations to be agreed.

Connexions is currently reviewing the Management Information contract and the authority has committed itself, in principle, to maintain the arrangements established for 07 - 08. Action is also being taken to rationalise the current arrangements for staffing the new Castlegate information and advice centre for young people.

41. The option to undertake a comprehensive review of the whole contract presents some practical difficulties. It would be difficult to establish new specifications and to complete consultation and tendering processes in time for the new service to be established by April 2008.
42. Option 3 offers the opportunity to meet all of the needs identified through the consultation but runs a risk of delay arising from the need for complex contract negotiations.

### **Analysis**

43. Option 1 has been the option which has received most support from partners, through consultation and is compatible with the development of provision for young people in the city, with the agenda set by Youth Matters and with the desire to reduce management costs.
44. There is a misconception is that the Council cannot elect to carry out work itself unless it has bid for the work in competition with the private sector. Since the CCT regime was superseded by best value this is not the case. Competition can still be appropriate, of course, but only when the Council decides that it would be in the interests of best value to pit in-house provider against private sector provider. This is often established by employing a public sector comparator - price/quality model of in-house provision versus private sector bid.
45. Local authorities in other parts of the country are taking back in-house the Connexions Service. Other partnerships have already disaggregated the Connexions grant back down to local authority level and local authorities are taking over some of the services. Some continue to be delivered by contracted companies. There is no compelling evidence that an external provider would be able to deliver a better quality of service than the one currently delivered and the one proposed.
46. A decision in principle to approve Option 1 does not preclude the possibility that some parts of the current service might continue to be procured from external providers where a clear benefit can be identified.

### **Corporate Priorities**

47. Connexions work contributes to the following priorities:
  - a. Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects

- b. Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest
- c. Improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in the city
- d. Improve efficiency and reduce waste to free up more resources
- e. Improve our focus on the needs of customers and residents in designing and providing services
- f. Improve the way the council and its partners work together to deliver better services for the people who live in York

## **Implications**

48. The Connexions funding currently supports 37.9 full time equivalent (fte) staff in the city. Of these, 27.4fte are employed by Guidance Enterprise Group, 8 fte by the council and 2.5 in the voluntary or other sectors. There are plans in hand by Connexions, from April 2007, to allocate a further 4.5 staff to the City of York Council and to remove the same number from the contract awarded to Guidance Enterprise Group. The implications arising from this report are largely concerned with this group of staff.

- **Financial**

49. Outline funding and financial implications have been set out in the body of the report. These will be finalised in the transfer documents (see below) with full details presented to the Executive prior to any financial decisions being made. All 3 options require the council to make arrangements in respect of any assets currently owned by NYCC for Connexions purposes and to reach agreement about the management and liability of claims which may arise in respect of Connexions business in respect of incidents which occurred before the transfer of the service from April 2008.
50. All Connexions contracts expire by 31 March 2008 and so there will be no ongoing contractual liabilities or responsibilities transferring to the city from that date.
51. In developing the new structure, it is assumed that there will be some reduction in existing management costs. The savings will be made in two areas. The staff who run the central Connexions Service are employed by NYCC. In the main, their functions will cease at the point that the Connexions Board dissolves itself and the responsibilities transfer to the two local authorities. The only issue which will remain is whether the staff who are mainly engaged in work in York will be eligible to be TUPEd into posts within the new structure proposed for York. It is likely that a small amount of staffing, with budget, would transfer to the city. It is expected that a significant management saving will be made here.

52. The transfer of GEG staff to the council would bring with them the local management capacity but would not bring over the staff with regional responsibilities. This would result in a small saving in staff costs, which would be added to the bigger saving in premises costs already referred to, above.

- **Human Resource**

53. If Option 1 were accepted there are a number of changes which will arise. These are the TUPE rights (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981) of current centrally employed Connexions staff and the staff employed by VT plc. Following a decision by Executive, work will continue to establish appropriate arrangements for the transfer of staff to the local authority.

- **Equalities, Crime and Disorder, IT, Property and Other**

54. There are no implications.

- **Legal**

55. Connexions is currently an integrated unit serving York and North Yorkshire. In 2008, part of the operation will transfer to CYC. The transfer is a consequence of changes in how the Connexions service is to be delivered but the transfer arrangements are not directly covered by regulation - rather they are an incidental of what is acquired. The transfer arrangements therefore need to be agreed by the two Councils. It is essential that NYCC and CYC identify what assets should transfer, when and upon what terms and this should be done in the form of a transfer document. Further Legal Services advice will be required to produce the relevant transfer document and terms.

56. NYCC will hold various assets for Connexions purposes and these may be owned, leased or shared with other NYCC users. The assets will take different forms - property, office equipment, IT, lease cars, intellectual property and work in progress.

### **Other implications**

57. Private, voluntary and community groups will have the opportunity to tender for additional contracts through the new Young People's Service where it is believed that they offer the best value in service delivery and quality. A commissioning strategy will be developed which will consider using either the cheapest tender or the "most economically advantageous tender" criteria. Whichever criterion is selected it is essential that a robust and effective evaluation model is created before tenders are received.

58. The voluntary sector and other providers have indicated that they would prefer to have more secure funding arrangements than was possible under the current Connexions contracts. In particular, they have requested that the council explore three-year funding deals. There is no legal restriction on the length of term of a service contract. The longer the contract runs, the more resilient it needs to be to cover risks which foreseeably could arise during the contract's life. Such risks contain many different forms - level of inflation, changing demands, change in law, reorganisation, changes in provider status and so on. The contract needs to address such risks pre-emptively and stipulate how they are to be dealt with.

### **Risk management**

59. The risks associated with this report are about security of funding and quality of service delivery. Funding has been set aside from both the Government Office and the Connexions Board in order for them to meet all liabilities at the point of transfer. The Director of Resources needs to be satisfied that this is the case and, in particular, that pension issues are adequately dealt with for any staff that transfer to the city.
60. Quality of service is an issue which is particularly affected by staff moral and security. Any proposed changes, particularly for staff in GEG, need to be managed in such a way that frontline delivery is maintained. These staff are already working in partnership and within an agreed strategy across the city and their managers are working hard to ensure that they are prepared for any changes to terms and conditions in the future.
61. Temporary funding has been provided by Government Office to employ a project manager to oversee the development of the new service. This will ensure that there is capacity to manage change without impacting on service delivery. The project management time will come from managers within the affected services, who have sound knowledge of the strategy being followed and of the services to be delivered.

### **Liabilities**

62. Because staff and other assets are being transferred from NYCC to CYC the question of liabilities needs to be considered. These may be employment related claims or contract related claims.

### **Transfer Documents**

63. NYCC and CYC staff will need to work closely together to arrive at a set of agreed terms to apply to the transfer. Working parties have been established by Connexions, involving specialist staff from both councils, to ensure that the disaggregation of staffing and budgets is done securely. It is essential that the terms be incorporated into one document which will be the definitive statement as to the terms which



will apply to transfer of staff and assets. The document will also deal with other related matters including how claims are to be dealt with. Approval should be sought from Members before the completion of a transfer document on terms agreed by the Director of Children's Services in consultation with Director of Resources and the Director of People and Improvement.

**Recommendations**

64. The Young People's Working Group is invited to comment on the transfer of Connexions Service responsibilities to the local authority from April 2008.

*Reason:* in order to provide further advice to the urgency committee which will be meeting to approve a management structure for the new service.

**Contact Details**

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Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

**Report Approved**  **Date**

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)**

Financial Implications.

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HR Implications – under consideration by the Connexions Working Group

Legal Implications.

Name: Suzan Hemingway  
Title: Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services  
Tel No. Ext 1004

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

**All**

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



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## Young People's Working Group

12 July 2007

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

### Children and Young People's Plan 2007 - 2010

#### Summary

1. Following approval by the board of the Children's Trust (YorOK), the City of York Council adopted the *Children and Young People's Plan 2007 – 2010* at a meeting of the Executive on the 27 February. It is being brought to the Young People's Working group for information on the broad policy direction for services for young people in the city.

#### Background

2. The *Children and Young People's Plan (England) Regulations 2005* require that local authorities prepare and publish a Children and Young People's Plan outlining 'the authority's strategy for discharging their functions in relation to children and relevant young persons'.
3. The Guidance requires that plans should include:
  - a statement of the authority's vision for children and relevant young persons;
  - a needs assessment against the outcomes;
  - an outline of the key actions planned to achieve the improvements so far as relating to the outcomes;
  - a statement as to how the authority's budget will be used to contribute to those improvements; and
  - a statement as to how the plan relates to the authority's performance management and review of services for children and relevant young persons.
4. Included within the Guidance is a further requirement that the authority consult widely as part of the process of producing the plan, and there is an expectation that this consultation will be undertaken through the Children's Trust arrangements that Local Authorities are expected to maintain. The DfES advises that 'government expects all areas should have a Children's Trust by 2006'. It explains that 'by 2008 local authorities are required to have in place arrangements that produce integrated working at all levels, from planning through to delivery, with a focus on improving outcomes. Local authorities may choose not to call this a 'children's trust', but the important point is that the way of working is in place and committed to'.

5. As a Pathfinder Children's Trust, York has been at the forefront of these developments, and first produced a Children and Young People's Plan in 2005, a year earlier than most authorities. Although this Plan covers the period 2005 – 2008, the authority decided that it should be up-dated a year earlier than was originally intended. The reasons for this were:
  - to reflect the significant changes that have taken place within the sector since 2005,
  - to align planning in York more closely with the national planning cycle,
  - to ensure consistency with the Children's Block of the Local Area Agreement, and
  - to prepare for the Joint Area Review in 2008.
6. Work on the production of the plan was undertaken through the YorOK board. At a meeting on 15th March 2006 the Board established a Reference Group chaired by the Director of LCCS which was asked to ensure that key stages in the approved timeline for the development of both the Children and Young People's Plan and the Children and Young People's block of the Local Area Agreement were met. The reference group comprising key partners was given the task of ensuring this work progressed in a timely, coordinated and high quality manner. The Reference Group has reported to all subsequent YorOK Board meetings beginning in March 2006 when the membership and work plan of the group was first outlined.
7. Attached at Annex 1 is the draft plan approved by the Board at a meeting on the 17 January. The constitutional position is complex. The Children's Trust operates as a forum where partners can reach agreement on key strategic priorities without foregoing any of the formal responsibilities that they carry through their own individual governance arrangements. In effect, it works because the partners want to make it work, and are prepared to invest considerable informal authority in their representatives around the table. Members of the YorOK board representing the city council include the Executive Member for Children's Services, and the Shadow Executive Member, as well as senior officers from the Directorate of Learning, Culture and Children's Services.

## **Consultation**

8. The Planning Guidance requires the authority to consult with:
  - such children, relevant young persons and families (including persons with parental responsibility for, or who have the care of children) in the area of the authority as the authority consider appropriate;
  - such persons or bodies representing children, relevant young persons or families as the authority consider appropriate;
  - the appropriate diocesan authority for any foundation or voluntary school situated in the authority's area which is a Church of England or Roman Catholic Church school;
  - the school organisation committee for the authority's area;
  - such persons or bodies providing voluntary services relating to children and relevant young persons in the area of the authority;

- such groups of persons representing local communities as the authority consider appropriate;
  - the Local Safeguarding Children Board for the authority's area; and
  - each of the authority's relevant partners.
9. The Reference Group produced a document which was used as the basis for consultation with all of the relevant partners. Formal consultation sessions were conducted with the EMAP for Children's Services, the YorOK board, Headteachers, the Education Joint Consultative Group (JCG), the Lifelong Learning Partnership, the Connexions Local Management Committee, the PCT and the Hospital Trust. In addition, responses were invited from the following groups and services:
- Children and young people – responses were received from over 2,000 children and young people through a postcard exercise, school council conferences and focused work with specific groups of vulnerable children and young people,
  - Parents through a targeted postcard exercise delivered through schools – over 100 responses have been received on line,
  - Service providers through partnership and other meetings,
  - Members of the public through a 2 day city centre presence with children's activities in half term which attracted a positive article in The Press.
10. The original consultation document proposed nine priorities which were reduced to six in the final plan. The outcomes of the consultation are reported in the Children and Young People's Plan itself.

## **Options**

11. A full range of options for the Children and Young People's Plan were offered in the consultation document, which was widely circulated in advance of the preparation of the plan itself.

## **Analysis**

12. The plan is based on an analysis of the consultation responses and the audit of provision included under each of the 5 outcomes for children and young people.
13. Since the production of the draft plan, the DfES has issued further guidance about the annual review of the Children and Young People's Plan. This draws attention to new duties placed on local authorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (England) Amendment Regulations 2007, the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the Childcare Act 2006. In summary, these are that:
- the vision statement must now include more specific statements of intent about the integration of services provided by the authority, arrangements to safeguard and promote welfare and arrangements for early intervention and preventative action.
  - authorities must consult with schools, school forums and school admission forums,
  - schools must 'have regard' to the CYPP,

- authorities must 'promote diversity of school provision and increase parental choice in planning and securing the provision of school places' and should include within the plan an analysis of parental demand,
  - authorities must 'secure young people's access to positive leisure time activities...as far as is reasonably practicable' and 'secure the provision of sufficient childcare to meet the requirements of working and training parents in their area'.
14. For the most part, the Children and Young People's Plan or the service plans derived from it meets these new requirements. Where this is not the case, the gaps will be addressed in a review of the plan proposed for the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) which, this year, will be taking place in September.

### **Next Steps**

15. The Plan was formally launched at a conference on the 18th April 2007, with the theme of learning about what makes prevention effective. The launch included the showing of the DVD of young people's views in the city produced as part of the consultation.
16. Future meetings of the YorOK board will be organised to enable Board members to receive periodic updates on progress against both the priorities in the plan and the specific targets in the LAA (Children and Young Peoples block).

### **Corporate Priorities**

17. The priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan are grouped under the LAA outcomes, which themselves have been organised to reflect the 5 national outcomes for children and young people adopted by the DfES for all planning purposes. The LAA has been approved by the GO:Y&H and has been adopted by the Local Strategic Partnership (Without Walls).
18. In addition, the plans incorporate work being undertaken by the Directorate to meet the 13 priorities in the Corporate Strategy, but particularly:
- To increase people's knowledge and skills to improve future employment prospects',
  - To improve the contribution that Science City York makes to economic prosperity',
  - To improve the health and lifestyles of people in York, in particular among people whose levels of health are the poorest',
  - To improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in York.

### **Implications**

19. There are no implications arising directly from the publication of the plan itself. Implementation of the plan will be subject to the normal requirements of the constitution and financial standing orders.

- **Financial:** None
- **Human Resources (HR):**None
- **Equalities:** None
- **Legal:** Included within the body of the report.
- **Crime and Disorder:** None
- **Information Technology (IT):** None
- **Property:** None
- **Other:** None

### **Risk Management**

20. The Children and Young People's Plan plays an important role in helping the directorate of Learning, Culture and Children's Services identify significant risks in the work of the directorate. The risks associated with the Plan itself are largely reputational, as the plan will be a key document in the forthcoming Joint Area Review (JAR) and is now subject to annual assessment by the DfES through the GO:Y&H in order to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and as part of the Performance Management of Children's Services Departments.

### **Recommendations**

21. The Young People's Working Group is invited to comment on the Children and Young People's Plan.

Reason: To influence the direction of policy development for young people.

**Contact Details**

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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Patrick Scott  
Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

**Report Approved**

**Date** 25.06.2007

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

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

**All**  tick

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

**Background Papers:**

Children and Young People's Plan: Consultation Document

**Annexes**

Annex 1: Children and Young People's Plan 2007 – 2010.





# The Children and Young People's Plan 2007 - 2010



Working together with Children,  
Young People and Families



# The Children and Young People's Plan 2007 - 2010

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# The Children and Young People's Plan 2007 - 2010

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## Introduction

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This is the second Children and Young People's Plan for the City of York. It has been produced by YorOK, the Children's Trust, which is a partnership of everybody in the city who works closely with children and young people.

The main purpose of the plan is to provide a clear sense of direction for everybody working to improve outcomes for children and young people in the city. However, it has another purpose, which is to help young people understand what it is that they can reasonably expect the city to do for them and how they might make a contribution themselves.

Generally speaking, plans of this kind combine what you know you are going to do with what you would love to do if you had the resources. This plan is no exception. Most of what is included has been carefully thought about and realistically costed, but we have also allowed ourselves to dream, not least because that is what the people of York, young and old, did when we asked them what they wanted.

So the *Children and Young People's Plan 2007 – 2010* is not just a hard headed statement about what we are going to do for children and young people in York over the next three years, it also establishes a direction of travel, a set of aspirations.

This means that some of what is included in the plan may never be achieved because we may never have all the resources that we need. In our view, that should not stop us from setting our sights high, or striving for excellence.

This plan replaces and updates both the Children and Young People's Plan 2005 – 2008 and the Children's Services Plan 2006 – 2009 produced last year, and it will be up-dated every twelve months. We have tried to keep it short and make it readable. That means it does not include the detail of everything that we do. For those who want to know more, references to other plans can be found on page 34 in the 'Planning bookcase'.

The government expects us to concentrate on the five outcomes for children and young people and, in section 4, the plan does just that. It starts, however, with a vision for children and young people in York and an analysis of local needs and priorities.



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## YorOK

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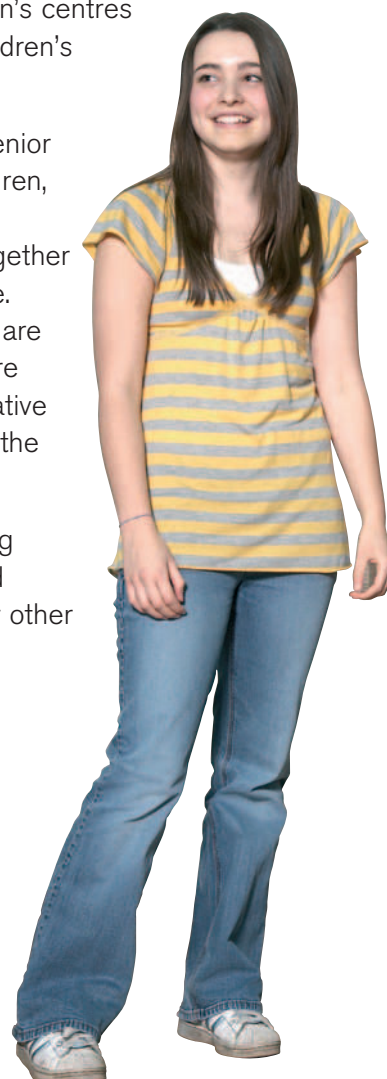
YorOk is the name of our Children's Trust arrangement in York, established to end the fragmentation of responsibilities for children's services and the potential for confusion that this has created. All services for all children and young people aged 0-19+ are included in our trust arrangements. The objective is for services to work in partnership with children and families to identify need, and to jointly plan, deliver and evaluate services to improve the life chances of York's children and young people. YorOK provides the strategic direction for children's services and will improve arrangements for working across services such as health, social care and education, and new partnerships between the statutory and independent sectors.

At its simplest, YorOK aims to integrate services in order to ensure that every child and young person has access to high quality level one universal services that enable them to grow into resilient young adults with better life chances. For children and young people who need additional or specialist support, the aim is for services to be more responsive, better organised and delivered earlier. Extended schools and children's centres will play an important role in re-shaping services around children's needs.

The YorOK Board is the partnership body made up of senior representatives of all the services that work with children, young people and parents/carers and provides an important symbol of our commitment to working together to improve outcomes for children and young people.

The Board meets every two months and meetings are open to the public. Through these meetings, we are able to pool expertise and find creative and innovative ways of developing services that are responsive to the needs of children and young people.

The Board is particularly keen to involve children, young people and their parents in the design, development and implementation of services and to find sound research or other evidence to inform different ways of working.



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**Members of the YorOK Board at December 2006 were:**

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**For the City of York Council:**

Cllr Viv Kind (Chair) – Shadow Lead Member, Children’s Services  
Cllr Carol Runciman – Lead Member, Children’s Services

**For the Primary Care Trust:**

Heather Rice – Director of Health and Social Care

**For the local Children and Families Voluntary and Community Sector**

Colin Stroud – Chief Executive

**For the Early Years and Extended School Partnership**

Peggy Sleight – Partnership Chair

**For the National Children’s Voluntary Sector**

Ron Oliver – Assistant Regional Director

**For the Connexions Partnership**

Barry Hitchen – Chief Executive

**For the NHS Hospital Trust**

Alison Hughes – Director of Planning and Strategy  
Jen Slaughter – Directorate Manager, Children, Young People and Maternity Services

**For the University of York**

Dr Margaret Bell – Senior Academic

**For the City of York Council, Learning, Culture and Children’s Services**

Patrick Scott – Director

**For City of York Council, Learning, Culture and Children’s Services - Access and Inclusion**

Murray Rose – Assistant Director

**For City of York Council, Learning, Culture and Children’s Services - Children and Families and Local Safeguarding Children Board:**

Pete Dwyer – Assistant Director

**For the Children’s Trust Unit**

Mary Cousins – Manager

**For Secondary School Headteachers:**

Anne Lawes – Head of Pastoral Care and Staff Development, Archbishop Holgate’s School

**For Primary School Headteachers:**

Nick Long – Headteacher, Haxby Road Primary School

**For the Learning and Skills Council:**

Anthony Knowles – Partnership Director, York

**For the Further Education Sector:**

Graeme Murdoch – Deputy Principal, York College

**For North Yorkshire Business and Education Partnership:**

Paul Murphy – Executive Director

**For North Yorkshire Police:**

Inspector Stuart Mackleston



# The Vision

Although the *Children and Young People's Plan 2007 – 2010* may be new, the vision that we have about the way in which we support children and young people in the city is not. For some years now it has been clearly articulated, well understood and actively pursued by all partners:

*"The ultimate goal for everybody engaged in providing services for children and young people is that their work should contribute towards high levels of personal achievement for all children and young people, both as individuals and as citizens, contributing towards the greater good."*

The nature of the challenge that this presents is well understood. The vision and the various plans that are derived from it spell out the kind of actions that are most likely to make a difference. These are:

- the development of effective systems to promote *safeguarding* and support *early intervention* where problems occur in the lives of children and young people,
- the redirection of resources towards *prevention* so that there is no longer a need to invest so heavily in crisis management,
- the provision of *services in communities* in order to make them more accessible, and the key contribution that schools are able to make towards this,
- improved *co-ordination between different agencies* working with children and young people, and the establishment of common assessment systems,
- effective *support for parents* through early years provision, family learning and parenting education programmes,
- *school improvement work* focused on narrowing the differences in performance between schools serving similar areas, and developing effective strategies for the lowest achieving children,
- the introduction of *a school curriculum that is responsive to changes in the local economy*, including the growth of Science City York,
- *greater involvement of children and young people themselves* in shaping the services that are provided for them,
- a *workforce strategy* that can equip people to deliver high quality and responsive services.



# What Matters Most?

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Following a systematic process of local and national data analysis, reviews of previous plans and consultations and reflections on inspection feedback, we developed a set of draft priorities which we took out to widespread consultation.

The consultation has been the most widespread ever conducted around children and young people's issues in the city, both in terms of the number of people reached and in the volume of feedback received. The richness of the material has been used both to influence the priorities within this plan and to influence and shape services in the city. The consultation process included:

**Consultation with Parents:** 25,000 postcards were issued to children in schools to give to parents or carers. The postcards provided details on how to contribute to the plan by entering responses via the internet, or by visiting the mobile display unit in the city centre. In addition to this, parents were asked for their views about their children's education through 18,000 questionnaires circulated through schools. This generated 6,300 responses.

**Consultation with Children:** 2,000 postcards were distributed through events and gatherings of children and young people specifically on the required content of the Children and Young People's Plan. We received 560 written responses. In addition, work was undertaken to collate the outcome of all the relevant involvement work undertaken over the previous two years. Around 4,000 children, young people and parents/carers will have been reached in total by these events.

**Consultation with Partners:** All partners were consulted through the YorOK Board and Children's Joint Management Group. Opportunities were also created for the consultation to be raised at briefings, meetings and conferences, and over 50 responses were received.

For further information regarding the consultation process and to access the findings in more detail, please contact [ctu@york.gov.uk](mailto:ctu@york.gov.uk).

At the end of the consultation process the following six priorities emerged as strong themes across the groups of people who responded:

- Success for All
- A Healthy Start in Life
- A Safe Place to Grow Up
- Children and Young People in their Communities
- A Good Deal for Disabled Children and Young People
- Knowledgeable Adults





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## 1. Success for All

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Great progress has been made in York in ‘narrowing the gap’ between the achievements of those in the most challenged communities by comparison with the rest of the city. Nonetheless, a gap remains which will continue to have a significant impact on the future prospects of young people from the city’s more disadvantaged areas. Some communities of disadvantage are geographically based, others reflect membership of a specific group with the achievements of, for example, Looked After Children and children from Travelling communities being behind city averages. We are increasingly aware of the needs of a growing number of families from accession countries and elsewhere now settling in York. It would be a mistake to group together all of the children and young people in the city from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, or to make the mistake of imagining that they will achieve less well than the indigenous population. They do, however, present a positive challenge to some of the prevailing attitudes amongst local people and also require our services, including schools, to be highly proactive in meeting their particular needs.

Many respondents to the consultation recognised the need to target our services to particular areas and individuals. They recognised that services in some areas needed to be better resourced than in the rest of the city and that some parents and young people need encouragement to become involved. A mixture of targeted and universal services was recommended, with early intervention a priority. The importance of having high aspirations for all came through strongly, along with enthusiasm for creating more flexible training opportunities to fit better with the nature of future employment trends. The school curriculum, particularly post 14, needs to be more appropriate and engaging so that young people can acquire a stronger sense of purpose.

### How will YorOK make a difference?

We will continue to invest in high quality early years services and education for all, ensuring that all our young people have the opportunity to develop the skills necessary for employment in traditional and new sectors of the economy. In particular, we will ensure that children, young people and families from our less advantaged communities are able to access learning and support by opening eight new Children’s Centres. In addition, we will invest in three new secondary schools, a new building for York College and a new Skills Centre at Danesgate. Opportunities for vocational learning will be expanded through the development of new diploma programmes.

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## 2. A Healthy Start in Life

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York remains a comparatively healthy place for children and young people to grow up. Many young people live active and healthy lifestyles - cycling to school and enthusiastically participating in sporting opportunities on offer. Nonetheless, the city is not immune from the trends that are affecting the health of children and young people elsewhere in the country. We have resilience building programmes, but the nationally recognised pressure on mental health services continues to grow. Our public consultation heard repeated messages of concern about the damaging effect of alcohol misuse, poor diet and the need for play and easy access to leisure facilities. Consultation responses from professionals emphasised the potential impact of family breakdown on the emotional health of young people, the importance of maintaining high quality sex and relationships education, the need for drop-in facilities in schools and in other

community settings, and the particular needs of young carers and those with attention deficit disorders. A key message from one group of young people was the need for us to 'market' healthy lifestyles.

**How will YorOK make a difference?**

We will ensure that children, young people and parents are able to access information about healthy lifestyles and that those who need advice and help are able to access it in places where they normally go – schools and youth centres, for example. We will pay particular attention to emotional and mental well-being, ensuring that social and emotional aspects of learning form part of the core curriculum, and continue to develop school based mental health services. We will encourage young people to make healthy choices by providing a wide range of information about sexual health, pregnancy, drugs and alcohol, and rights and responsibilities.

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**3. A Safe Place to Grow Up**

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Put simply, the work to ensure that our children and young people are brought up in a safe place must always be a priority. Yes, good results from inspections of our child protection services are available and yes, bullying surveys show year on year improvements, but progress against all our priorities will not be possible if our young people feel unsafe and unable to take advantage of opportunities that are created.

Our consultation heard of concern from young people about street safety, with the threat of attack on darkly lit streets a real concern. Our consultation heard of the dangers to our young people from heavy traffic and of the fear of young people about becoming victims of violence from other young people. The anti-bullying strategies already in place, and in particular the impact of buddying and peer mentoring schemes, were applauded. Some recognised that we need to understand the bully better and intervene earlier with those individuals.

Specific safeguarding programmes were recommended to increase understanding of how to keep children safe, with particular references made to internet risks and 'overlaying'. Respondents also expressed concern about the impact of domestic violence on children, and others identified parental drug misuse as having a growing impact on the quality of children's lives. Many emphasised the importance of information sharing, prompt referral processes and intervention, whilst others raised the importance of safer recruitment practice.

**How will YorOK make a difference?**

We will continue to take action to reduce road accidents by providing safe routes to school, cycle and pedestrian training in schools and enforcing speed limits in school zones. We will ensure that everybody knows how to get help if they need it by developing a YorOK website. This will include a directory of all of the services in the city for children, young people and parents, as well as how to get help and advice. We will ensure that services respond to children and young people's needs quickly by developing our Preventative Strategy. This includes a common approach to assessment and sharing information between services in order to support vulnerable children and young people. We will ensure that those with the most complex needs get the help that they need more quickly.



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## 4. Children and Young People in their Communities

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Children and young people want to be involved in shaping the services that are provided for them and they want more opportunities to get involved in their communities, taking part, for example, in environmental projects and being involved in mixed age schemes. They felt their image in the media and with some services was unfair and very negative, and they wanted people to recognise all the good things that they do. Young people wanted more effective communication with, for example, councillors and the police, and welcomed opportunities for peer support. They would like more opportunities to get involved in shaping services and would like to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.

Parents told us that schools should prepare young people for becoming active citizens and inform them of their rights and responsibilities. Parents wanted to celebrate children and young people's unique contribution to the city and felt there should be better links between the business and enterprise community and children and young people. They also felt that children and young people would not get into trouble if there were creative and enjoyable things for them to do, and safe and accessible places to go.

Service providers agreed that we needed to involve children from an early age in decisions about their lives and in shaping services, and that we need to show we listen and respond. Schools and colleges are central to the engagement of children and young people in the community. Services also wanted to find ways for young people who have misbehaved to feel that they can be forgiven and that they belong in their local community. Communities should be encouraged and supported in taking collective responsibility for their children and young people.

### How will YorOK make a difference?

We will ensure that children, young people and parents are involved in decisions about their lives and in shaping the development, design and delivery of services. We will support children and young people to make a difference to their communities and celebrate their achievements. We will find ways for all services and communities to work together better in order to prevent children and young people becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.

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## 5. A Good Deal for Disabled Children and Young People

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An active and well-supported Inclusion Strategy has meant that more disabled children are attending mainstream education than ever before. Investment has been made in specialist support centres and in co-locating our primary special school with services for 0-3 year olds and a mainstream primary school in Hob Moor Children's Centre. Investment has also been made in an Early Support Scheme, short breaks and mentoring schemes. All services that work with disabled children and young people have made significant progress in working together effectively.

Despite this, our "Not in Education, Employment or Training" (NEET) figures tell us that an unacceptably high number of disabled young people aged 16-19 have no appropriate placement. Disabled children and young people told us that they need more out-of-school activities and that there are specific transport and access issues for them, particularly at leisure venues. The York Independent Living and Travel Skills (YILTS) initiative is valued by young people and their parents. They also wanted to be involved in shaping services and in plans about their own lives, including educational reviews.

Disabled children and young people found staff attitudes variable and they identified a need for further investment in customer care and disability equality training. They wanted written information, in particular notices and signage within public buildings, made clearer for people with a learning disability, as young disabled people need good, accessible and local information to give them opportunities to lead the lives they choose.

Parents told us that there needs to be more disability training and awareness for the whole workforce, with more and better integrated and accessible services. Parents felt inclusion is working well and should include all activities and schools. Overall they said that, although services for disabled children and young people in York are generally very good, it is not always easy to access them.

Service providers told us that the academic performance of children and young people with a learning difficulty or disability was really improving. Workers felt we needed to find more effective ways to support children and young people with emotional and mental health problems.

### How will YorOK make a difference?

We will appoint a Manager of Integrated Services to make sure that disabled children, young people and their families receive seamless services. We will ensure that our workforce is knowledgeable about the specific needs of disabled children and young people, and that the whole workforce has disability equality training. We will continue to ensure that disabled children and young people can attend mainstream school by investing in specialist units and support staff.

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## 6. Knowledgeable Adults

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Children and young people need adults whom they can respect and who will respect them. We know that we have services that we can be rightly proud of – the open access Youth Enquiry Service, counselling services based in some schools and young people's sexual health drop-in sessions. We also know, however, that sometimes children and young people have to wait a long time to receive a service that meets their needs, and that sometimes services turn away children and young people who do not meet 'their criteria'.

We know that the strongest influence in children and young people's lives is their parents, so it is important that parents are enabled to gain the skills and knowledge they need to support their children effectively. Some of those responding argued that there is a strong case for intervening, where it may be necessary, to improve poor parenting. We also need to ensure that the children and young people's workforce is well trained and prepared to respond to the needs of all children and young people.

Children and young people told us that they want to be able to talk to well informed adults who can provide the right advice and support at the right time. Parents told us that we needed help lines and websites where they could find out about how to support their children with, for example, sex and relationships, and safer drinking. They said there was a need to create more opportunities for parents to support each other. They felt that parents need guidance too, and fathers, in particular, often miss out on support.

Service providers told us that we needed to find new ways of reaching children and young people, for example, texts, email and websites. We need to find ways of ensuring that young people access health services and we should prioritise building self-esteem. Not feeling good about yourself makes it difficult to expect and ask for good advice and support.

**How will YorOK make a difference?**

We will provide training and support for our workforce on effective partnerships and early intervention approaches. We will continue to develop a range of learning and support opportunities for parents. We will ensure that our website includes examples of best practice.

These are our priorities for children, young people and parents in the city of York. The challenge is to make sure that these priorities are reflected in both the actions we will take and the better outcomes for children and young people to which we will aspire.



# The Five Outcomes

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Government is encouraging everybody to plan services for children and young people around the five outcomes that were identified as the most important for achieving real improvement.




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## Being Healthy

### Where are we now?

All the available evidence suggests that York is a comparatively healthy place for children and young people to live in. Nonetheless, the city is not immune from the trends that are affecting the health of children and young people elsewhere in the country, and the Annual Public Health Report identifies concerns about teenage pregnancy, alcohol abuse, obesity, low levels of physical activity and smoking (including smoking in pregnancy).

- The number of children and young people who might be classified as obese is lower than elsewhere, but appears to be rising.
- Although the under 16 conception rate is falling, the under 18 rate has started to rise in parallel with the general increase in the birth rate in the city.
- There has been a rise in diagnosed cases of chlamydia amongst the under 19s that matches the national trend, though this may be a consequence of improvements to screening.
- Pressure on mental health services continues to grow.
- The number of children and young people presenting at Accident & Emergency with alcohol related problems is increasing.

The services available to children and young people to address their health needs and promote healthy lifestyles are being used more often, and are improving:

- The national targets for children and young people accessing GPs and health workers have been exceeded.
- The speed of response to children and young people needing hospital attention is very good.



- All the schools in the city have joined the national Healthy School Programme, over 50% have achieved the standard and the city is on course to achieve the target for all schools to achieve the standard by 2010.
- All infant and primary schools have joined the National School Fruit Scheme.
- All schools are supported in developing better emotional health through the SEAL (Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning) programme. This is a multi-agency approach where education, health and social services work together to secure improvement.
- The school-based Sexual Health Service is available in nine schools and has been used by 1,387 young people in 2005/06, by comparison with one school and 218 young people in 2002/03.
- 71% of 5 – 16 year olds participate in an average of two hours high quality PE and school sport per week, within and beyond the curriculum, during one complete school year, by comparison with 62% in 2004/05, and 31% are involved in schemes that have been established between schools and sports clubs in the city.
- York scores significantly ahead of others in delivering a range of comprehensive child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). In the first year of the Schools' Counselling Service 239 young people have received support.
- A consultant paediatrician now undertakes all initial medicals for Children in Care and ensures that there is appropriate follow up.
- The Youth Service is leading smoking cessation programmes in community settings, and all schools will have this in PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education) programmes by the end of the year.

### How are we going to make sure we continue to improve?

A Local Area Agreement (LAA) has been signed with the government. The Local Area Agreement, which has a children and young people's block, includes a range of targets for improving the lives of children and young people in the city. These targets are for the whole partnership of children and young people's services to deliver and are consistent with the contents of this plan. We have agreed four priorities in the LAA for 'Being Healthy':

We will encourage more children and young people to be more physically active by:

- providing better facilities for indoor and outdoor sport,
- encouraging schools to offer every child an average of two hours high quality PE and school sport per week, within and beyond the curriculum, during one complete school year,
- engaging hard to reach youngsters through a Street Sports Partnership,
- encouraging more children and young people to walk and cycle to school,
- appointing a community sports coach,
- improving provision for the 6% of children and young people in the city who are considered to have a particular sporting talent,
- developing the Step into Sport scheme for sports leaders.

We will improve the eating habits and diet of children and young people by:

- continuing to improve school meals by using better ingredients,
- educating children about healthy eating and marketing healthy lifestyles,
- implementing school based schemes for healthy eating funded through the School Meals Grant and developing health-led £1 fruit and vegetable bag schemes,
- setting up weight watcher type schemes for children identified as obese by their GP or school nurse.



We will reduce the level of teenage pregnancy by:

- reducing the number of children and young people on the Education Otherwise register and, therefore, not in mainstream education,
- training all front line staff in sex and relationships education and sexual health work and, as a result, extending young people's sexual health services to evenings and weekends.

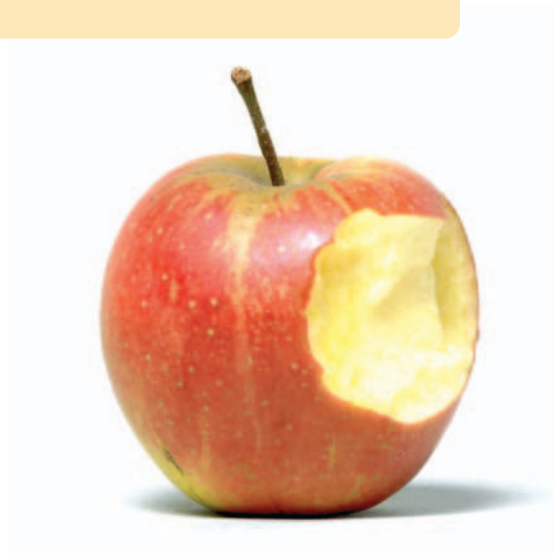
We will promote healthy lifestyles by:

- making sure that health services are available in the new Children's Centres,
- establishing a city centre one-stop-shop to provide impartial and confidential advice for young people,
- helping schools provide counselling services for their pupils,
- appointing an Advanced Skills Teacher to promote the Healthy Schools Scheme and help more schools meet the standard,
- implementing a new plan for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and, as a result, raise awareness of mental health issues with young people, their parents and professionals,
- making sure that social and emotional learning is part of the curriculum in all schools,
- building closer links between schools and primary mental health workers,
- ensuring continued joint working across services through SEAL materials, supporting healthy schools and improved learning,
- improving the primary health care provided for Looked After Children,
- ensuring swift and easy referral to First Base, the young people's substance misuse service,
- increasing access to our targeted parenting programmes,
- developing and providing tailored Stop Smoking support for young people.

### How will we know we are making a difference?

The local authority and its partners collect a wide range of information about the health of children and young people. In order to achieve improvements, we will:

- increase the percentage of 5-16 year olds participating in an average of two hours high quality PE and school sport per week, within and beyond the curriculum, during one complete school year,
- reduce the number of conceptions recorded for females aged 15-18 years old per thousand residents in the area from 1998 recorded figures,
- ensure that all schools achieve the Healthy School Standard,
- reduce obesity among primary school aged children.





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## Staying Safe

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### Where are we now?

Inspection reports indicate that the quality of care provided by services for children and young people in York is largely good. Evidence to corroborate this can be found in the annual bullying survey which, in 2006, showed a significant drop in the number of pupils who report being regularly bullied. Until recently, the number of children in care was also falling. However, in the last few months of 2006, there was a significant (10%) increase in the number of children and young people taken into care. No single reason can be identified for this change, which has not been confined to any particular age group or any particular category of need. Some specific concerns do exist, however, about the impact of alcohol and substance misuse by parents on young children.

Child protection arrangements are well established and are described as 'very good' in the 2006 Annual Performance Assessment conducted by Ofsted:

- Child protection conferences are convened more quickly than the national average.
- A social worker has been allocated to 100% of all child protection cases.
- Young people who arrive in York are actively tracked.

The most vulnerable children and young people in the city are well cared for through a Placement Strategy, which gives preference to care in a family setting:

- The authority has maintained above national average performance in the adoption of children from care.
- The number of local foster carers has increased from 52 in 1997 to 81 in 2006.
- A specialist professional fostering scheme is in place for 16 carers and proposals have been approved to increase this figure to 24 in 2007.
- Some progress has been made against the indicator for placement stability.
- The percentage of Looked After Children in residential accommodation has reduced from 12.8% in 2004/05 to 9% in 2005/06.





The services provided by the local authority to achieve this level of care are generally well regarded:

- A Local Safeguarding Children Board has been established with the active support of all partners.
- Multi-agency arrangements are in place to engage children who may be particularly at risk.
- The inspection report for the authority's residential children's home was very positive, even though it was only very recently established with a new statement of purpose.
- Respite care for disabled children and young people is provided in two settings, family based and residential, both of which received positive inspection reports.
- All Looked After Children have been allocated a social worker and independent review rates have been maintained at 100%.
- All schools, including independent schools, governors, drivers and escorts of taxi companies are provided with child protection training.
- Action is taken across many local authority services to ensure that young people are able to assess and deal with risks (e.g. Stranger Danger, Momentum on 2 Wheels, URBIE, YILTS).
- There are over 300 trained, authorised users of the child index system.
- The local authority enjoys good relationships with many of the SEN interest groups, and an exceptionally low number of cases are referred to the mediation service or to a tribunal.

Despite this, there are continuing concerns about the rate of completion of initial and core assessments, and the Annual Performance Assessment letter identifies, as a key area for improvement, 'the timeliness of assessments for children in need.'



## How are we going to make sure we continue to improve?

We have agreed three priorities in the LAA for 'Staying Safe':

We will reduce accidents on the roads involving young people by:

- undertaking a child safety audit,
- continuing with the current programme of cycle and pedestrian training,
- developing education work in schools such as the Junior Road Safety Officers' Scheme and the Theatre in Education project.

We will protect children more effectively by:

- publishing a directory listing all the services that are available for children and young people,
- developing and publicising the YorOK index to enable anyone to access advice at an early stage about what to do if they are worried about a child or young person,
- streamlining, clarifying and communicating the system for assessing the needs of children who are referred with more complex needs,
- improving further the completion rate for assessments by social workers of children who have been abused,
- implementing the priorities in the new business plan for the Local Safeguarding Children Board which includes enhanced training, reviews of sexual abuse and the impact of drug and alcohol misuse on safeguarding, and audits of safe recruitment practices,
- ensuring, through the Safeguarding Board, that partners fulfil their responsibilities under section 11 of the Children Act which includes, for example, safe recruitment practices,
- creating, through the Safeguarding Board, far greater public awareness around safeguarding and providing a range of high quality public advice and information,
- taking action in response to local research undertaken in 2005 to minimise the effect on children and young people of domestic violence,
- launching 'Beat the Bullies' and extending our Anti-bullying Strategy to primary schools, whilst at the same time targeting children and young people seen to be most vulnerable, for example, those with speech and language difficulties,
- supporting specific campaigns about the risks of "overlaying" and shaking babies.

We will ensure that more children are looked after in secure stable placements by:

- providing better support for all involved in the adoption process,
- establishing a more integrated service for disabled children,
- extending the work of the Bridge Centre to include a small cohort of primary age pupils,
- reducing the number of children and young people who become looked after in the city,
- further increasing the number of local foster carers,
- enhancing support arrangements, particularly for specialist foster carers.

## How will we know we are making a difference?

The local authority and its partners collect a wide range of information about the safeguarding of children and young people. In order to achieve improvements, we will:

- reduce the number of child road accident casualties 0 – 15 year olds,
- increase the percentage of Looked After Children aged under 16 who have been in care for at least two and a half years and who have been in the same placement for at least two years or who have been placed for adoption,
- reduce the percentage of secondary school pupils who report having experienced regular bullying.



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## Enjoying & Achieving

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### Where are we now?

The academic performance in national curriculum tests and external examinations of children and young people in York becomes increasingly impressive as they grow older. The 2006 results illustrate this trend and show continuing improvement on previous years:

- Nationally, there was a dip in performance in 2005/06 at the end of the Foundation Stage, but because the decline in York was less steep than elsewhere, schools in the authority are actually performing better by comparison with national averages.
- The results in York for Key Stage 1 in 2005/06 were better than they have ever been since new assessment began in 2004/05. Performance is slightly better than the national average.
- By the end of Key Stage 2, performance in all subjects is above the national average and, in English and maths, better than statistical neighbours. 2005/06 saw continued improvement in English and a consolidation of performance in maths and science. Historically, the Key Stage 1 to 2 value added score for the city has been below the national average, although this is improving.
- At Key Stage 3, attainment in English, maths and science is well above the national average, and higher than statistical neighbours. In 2005/06, there were further improvements in mathematics and science, putting York in the top 20% of authorities nationally. Value added scores from Key Stage 2 to 3 are above average (100.3).
- At Key Stage 4, 62% of students achieved 5 A\*-C at GCSE and 91% achieved 1 A\*-G or equivalent. In both cases, this was the best performance ever for schools in the city. Value added scores from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 are modest, but for the full secondary age range (KS2 – KS4), the local authority ranks 32nd in the country.

Despite a decline in attendance figures for primary and secondary schools, the authority performs well by comparison with other authorities, because the national attendance figures have worsened significantly. Primary school attendance continues to be well above average (York is ranked 26th in the country). Two years ago, attendance in secondary schools was giving some cause for concern but there was a marked improvement in 2005. In 2006, this improvement was sustained and, with 7.28% absence by comparison with a national figure of 7.92%, York is now ranked 27th in the country.

The services provided by the local authority to support these high levels of performance are generally good, though in some areas there is room for improvement:

- The local authority maintains an excellent Education Development Service and the authority has been awarded Beacon status for school improvement in 2007/08.
- Only one school in the authority has a 'notice to improve' issued by Ofsted. In the early stages of the current inspection programme, fewer schools in York were being judged 'good' or 'outstanding' than elsewhere in the country. This is no longer the case, with one secondary school and four primary schools having recently been judged 'outstanding'.
- The quality of early years provision is varied, particularly in the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector. Whilst almost all provision is at least 'satisfactory' (Ofsted), too few providers are better than that. As with schools, however, the picture is changing and one PVI sector nursery provider has been named in the HMCI Annual Report as 'outstanding'.



- Although all headteachers in schools inspected by Ofsted over the last year have been judged to be either 'satisfactory', 'good' or 'outstanding', leadership and management continues to be an area for development.

All schools are now working towards the DfES core offer for extended schools, and a recent audit has identified many strengths alongside areas for further development. Schools are expressing a number of concerns about governance, finance and employment issues, and are seeking a clearer lead from the local authority. The School's Out programme shows an increase in the number of attendances from 15,701 to 48,276 over the last three years.

Inclusive practice is promoted through the Inclusion Strategy Group and is a priority for all services. The development of an Inclusion Award, which recognises the development of better inclusive practice, has encouraged a more systematic approach by schools, nine of which have already been accredited. The York Self Review Framework and accreditation have been recognised as meeting the regional standards for inclusion. In the Local Area Agreement, the city has made a commitment to 'narrow the gap' in educational performance between different parts of the city. Recent performance on this measure has been encouraging. Analysis of results over the last four years shows that children living in the more disadvantaged areas of the city (measured by using census data) have continued to improve at Key Stage 2, by contrast with those living in the more advantaged areas whose level of performance has remained largely unchanged.

The Children's Trust has already developed mechanisms for identifying vulnerable children and young people through the Local Child Index. The challenge for partners is to make better use of the information through more targeted intervention, better commissioning of services in localities and increasing attention to personalisation.



**How are we going to make sure we continue to improve?**

We have agreed five priorities in the LAA for 'Enjoying and Achieving':

We will continue to raise standards of achievement by:

- developing excellence in leadership and management for headteachers and school leadership teams,
- improving school based assessment so that teachers become better at working out what children need to learn,
- appointing School Improvement Partners to work alongside the Education Development Service (EDS) in raising standards,
- making better provision for able, gifted and talented pupils, particularly through the Independent and State School Partnership (ISSP),
- introducing the Intensifying Support Programme (ISP) in a further four primary schools,
- appointing two Advanced Skills Teachers and establishing a partnership with York University to tackle weaknesses in science education,
- improving the support provided for particular groups of children and young people whose academic performance is below the city average, for example, Traveller children,
- providing targeted support to children and young people who are new to the English education system and might be disadvantaged by their lack of familiarity with the culture or the language,
- Increasing the specialist teaching support available to children who are in the care of the local authority,
- reviewing provision at the pupil referral unit (PRU).



We will provide a high quality early years experience by:

- disseminating good practice through networks, visits and coaching,
- establishing clear procedures for ensuring the quality of provision in all of the city's new children's centres,
- providing targeted support for schools where assessment and moderation procedures are not secure.

We will support parents in helping their children to enjoy and achieve by:

- extending the Parenting Education and Support Strategy, including the introduction of Strengthening Families and Strengthening Communities – targeted at parents of 8 – 13 year olds,
- enabling parents to access up to date information about services for children and families through the Children's Information Service and the YorOK website,
- undertaking a second city-wide survey of parental views.

We will improve enrichment opportunities for children and young people by:

- developing a wider range of services for the community through extended schools,
- maintaining the School's Out programme,
- ensuring that the Youth Offer in York includes a comprehensive range of facilities and opportunities for young people,
- implementing the city's Play Strategy.

We will ensure that young people with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) receive appropriate support and advice by:

- developing more effective partnership working between agencies, including the development and use of a common language and a greater understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities,
- continuing to develop a cross service Inclusion Strategy for all pupils with LDD,
- developing personalised learning to suit individual children,
- improving access to services through the work of the new Head of Integrated Services,
- ensuring that current arrangements for providing support bases in schools meet the needs of the young people who might require them,
- improving the support available to young people over the age of 19 with LDD,
- enabling schools to commission support services for disabled children and young people,
- publishing information about the services that are available and ensuring that the workforce is well informed about services and benefits.

### How will we know we are making a difference?

The local authority and its partners collect a wide range of information about the performance of children and young people. In order to achieve improvements, we will:

- improve the contextual value added (CVA) for pupils with LDD,
- increase the percentage of pupils achieving 5 A\* - C at GCSE,
- increase the percentage of pupils living in the most disadvantaged areas of the city gaining L4+ in English at Key Stage 2 (by comparison with the figure for the city as a whole),
- increase the number of primary schools designated as meeting the core offer for extended schools,
- increase the number of attendances of young people taking part in the School's Out programme,
- increase the number of families attending targeted Parenting Programmes.



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## Making a Positive Contribution

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### Where are we now?

Children and young people are gradually becoming more engaged with the community in which they live and making a more significant contribution to the life of the city:

- In the most recent Residents' Opinion Survey there was a reduction in the number of panellists (41%) expressing concern about young people 'hanging about on streets', compared to 53% in 2004/05 and 57% in 2003/04.
- Retention rates on the Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) scheme are the highest in the country.
- Evidence about participation in charity events, volunteering and youth groups, such as the guides and scouts, is that interest locally is higher than reported figures from elsewhere.
- 'Ofsted inspections show that in nearly all schools children and young people get actively involved in activities which relate to their local communities.' (APA letter).

Alongside this has been a change in policy by the local authority about dealing with the small but significant group of young people for whom mainstream education is a challenge. In 2003/04, the number of permanent exclusions in the authority was at an all time low (12). At the same time, the number of young people on the Education Otherwise register, at 216, was twice the national average. Since then, the authority has refused to accept managed moves onto the Education Otherwise register and secondary headteachers have established a reintegration panel for all permanently excluded pupils. As a consequence, the number of permanent exclusions has risen to 52 in 2005/06, but the number of young people outside mainstream education has fallen sharply, and looks set to achieve the target figure of 130 in 2006/07.

The services provided through the Children's Trust that are particularly focused on social inclusion are becoming increasingly effective:

- The Youth Service has been restructured on an area basis so that it can provide targeted support to vulnerable young people.
- Some youth service provision, formerly provided by the council, is now being run by the voluntary and community sector through local management committees.
- All services that work with young people are piloting integrated youth support teams in the west of the city.
- There has been a significant investment in targeted services to support children and young people at key transition points in their lives, including anger management sessions, nurture groups, therapeutic clubs, peer mentoring, transition to secondary school support and relationship building in playgrounds.
- The Youth Offending Service has developed a successful approach to early intervention with children at risk of becoming involved in offending through the Youth Inclusion Support Panels.

There is a comprehensive strategy for children, young people and parents to be involved in the design, development and delivery of services adopted by key partners through the YorOK Board:

- School councils across the city have elected a Children & Young People's Champion from amongst the existing city councillors.
- Through the Involvement Strategy, the council has established 'highly effective' channels for children and young people to have a direct input into planning.





- Action plans produced by school councils now inform service plans in Learning, Culture & Children's Services.
- In 2005, 3,850 children and young people were involved in Children's Fund programmes, which focused on supporting participants to be actively involved in decision making, to raise self-esteem and, in many cases, to get involved in community activities.

#### How are we going to make sure we continue to improve?

We have agreed three priorities in the LAA for 'Making a Positive Contribution':

We will improve life chances for young people by:

- reducing the number of young people educated other than at school,
- providing full time education for all young people not in school,
- introducing alternative provision for older primary pupils at risk of exclusion or failing to make the transition to secondary education,
- making sure that all children and young people have an identified source of adult support ('A champion for every child'),
- providing effective support for all children and young people at key transition points in their education and training from 0 – 19,
- reviewing the authority's Behaviour Strategy and establishing a primary phase behaviour group,
- developing a YorOK website to provide on line advice, support and guidance to children, young people, parents and carers.

We will increase the active involvement of young people by:

- developing an integrated Youth Support Service, by bringing together the work of Connexions and the Youth Service in York,
- embedding the work of the Tasking Group (the Police, the Youth Service, Connexions, Education and Social Care), which makes appropriate, alternative provision for targeted young people,
- making it possible for young people to develop new facilities and activities through YorKash, which combines the Youth Opportunities Fund with an existing local authority scheme,
- establishing a more systematic approach to volunteering by young people,
- working with the Community and Voluntary Sector to map the current range of opportunities and developing new approaches through locality working,
- developing the Involvement Strategy and promoting the use of Hear by Right across the council and the Respect and You're Welcome Charter Marks, young people led accreditations of services,
- publishing 'You Said – We Did' every six months to show that action is being taken in response to feedback,
- making and distributing our pledge to children and young people about how all services will involve them,
- finding ways in which all our services and the community can work together to support children and young people,
- letting everybody know how they can get their views heard, for example, through school councils and the children and young people's champion,
- finding ways to celebrate the achievements of our children and young people,
- finding ways to enable children and young people to make a difference to their communities, using the expertise of young people themselves and rewarding their contribution.



We will reduce offending by young people by:

- establishing a Safer Schools Partnership (subject to the availability of funding), locating community police officers in schools,
- improving the quality of education available for young offenders,
- extending the age range covered by the high performing diversionary Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP) which, alongside Network 2, works with young people at risk of offending,
- developing new approaches to reparation and work with victims of crime, many of whom are young people themselves.

### How will we know we are making a difference?

The local authority and its partners collect a wide range of information about the extent to which children and young people make a contribution. In order to achieve improvements, we will:

- reduce the number of pupils in out of school provision,
- increase the number of days education per week provided for pupils in out of school provision,
- develop performance indicators (PIs) and targets about volunteering,
- reduce the number of young offenders who receive a final warning, or are sentenced to a (YOT supervised) disposal, or are released from custody (into YOT or ISSP supervision) between 1 October – 31 December in the year specified.

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## Achieving Economic Well-being

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### Where are we now?

Action is being taken to improve the economic well-being of children and young people in the city and there is some evidence to suggest that their circumstances are slowly improving. This includes a reduction, between 2004 and 2005, in the number of families eligible for free school meals, and an easing of pressure on the benefits budgets. Specific initiatives have also been introduced to put people in a better position to gain employment. However, the recent loss of manufacturing jobs in the city may reverse this progress.

- Universal nursery education provision has been maintained.
- The total number of childcare places has risen by almost 200, and the number of places per hundred children (17.4) is higher than it has ever been.
- At 3.8%, the “not in education, employment or training” (NEET) figure for 2004/05 was the best in the sub-region, and the second best performance nationally. Provisional figures for 2005/06 suggest that this performance will be maintained for the second year running.
- Post 16 performance in the city is generally well above that of our statistical neighbours and the national picture.
- There has been a significant year on year increase in the number of young people studying for vocational qualifications, from 13% in 2003 to 33% in 2005. Figures for 2006 suggest that further progress is likely to depend upon the introduction of specialised diplomas in 2007/08.



Despite this progress, concerns exist about some aspects of provision:

- The Strategic Area Review (StAR) from 2005 identified significant variations between different wards in the numbers of young people who are NEET.
- There is a rising trend in homelessness amongst 16-17 year olds.

The services which are responsible for this work are beginning to make a significant impact in the city:

- The Connexions Local Management Committee has been very effective, with organisations such as Network 2 making a real difference.
- Additional Personal Advisers are being provided for some groups of young people with a particularly poor record on NEET, such as teenage mothers, young people with learning difficulties and disabilities and Travellers.
- The Danesgate Skills Centre will contribute to more flexible provision for young people with inadequate qualifications, and the Rathbone Centre serves the needs of 20 young people, some of whom would once have been placed out of the city.
- An innovative city centre one-stop-shop (Castlegate), jointly funded by the Strategic Health Authority, Connexions and the City of York Council, opened in January 2007 and provides a comprehensive, confidential information, advice and guidance (IAG) service to young people.
- Discounts for young people are provided across a number of leisure services provided by the local authority.
- A revised 14-19 Strategy has been produced that is underpinned by a fully costed plan. Milestones have been agreed with headteachers, training provider managers and principals in order to ensure that learners have access to the first five specialised diplomas in 2008. York is on track to ensure full compliance by 2011, starting with a pilot of the first vocational diploma in Health and Social Care.
- Following significant capital investment, York College will move into new premises from September 2007.

### How are we going to make sure we continue to improve?

We have agreed three priorities in the LAA for 'Achieving Economic Well-being':

We will increase the number of young people actively engaged in education and training by:

- implementing the NEET action plan,
- establishing a 14-16 skills centre at Danesgate,
- developing local initiatives as recommended in the Strategic Area Review (StAR) to increase the post 16 participation rate in parts of the city where it is particularly low.

We will enhance the skills of young people at 16 and at 18 by:

- appointing a 14-19 co-ordinator to support the introduction of specialised diplomas and ensuring that the 14-19 Strategy is implemented as planned,
- introducing a web-based prospectus covering all curriculum provision for 14-19 year olds in York,
- ensuring that the curriculum is responsive to the needs of the labour market and, in particular, the growth of Science City York and the development of a knowledge based economy,
- developing a Young York Award that will formally credit young people with their contribution to society,
- improving the quality of work related learning,
- preparing for the introduction of functional skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT.



We will reduce poverty levels and the impact of poverty on the lives of children and young people by:



- opening eight Children's Centres in areas of greatest need by April 2008,
- ensuring that all 6,400 families living in the reach areas of the Children's Centres receive individual contacts from the centre by 2008,
- undertaking targeted benefit take up and awareness campaigns to support children, young people and families in, for example, Children's Centres and GP surgeries,
- ensuring that the Homelessness Strategy for the local authority prioritises the housing needs of all young people and care leavers specifically,
- reviewing the nature and style of respite care available for families with disabled children,
- improving the location, choice and quality of childcare provision, and developing enhanced provision for 3 and 4 year olds,
- making free childcare places available for 2 year olds from disadvantaged or vulnerable families.

### How will we know we are making a difference?

The local authority and its partners collect a wide range of information about the extent to which children and young people achieve economic well-being. In order to achieve improvements, we will:

- reduce the percentage of young people age 16-18 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET),
- increase the percentage of young people achieving vocational qualifications at age 16,
- increase the percentage of 3 year olds receiving a good quality, free, early years education place in the voluntary, private or maintained sectors.



Key Performance Indicators		Past Performance			Actual	Target	Targets		
		03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	
<b>Being Healthy</b>									
CYP1.1	% of school children (aged 5-16) participating in at least two hours of sport a week	-	-	62%	71%	75%	80%	88%	89%
CYP2.1	% of schools with the healthy school standard	7.4%	14.7%	23.5%	Available May 07	50%	50%	100%	100%
CYP3.1	% reduction in the number of conceptions to females under 18	16.3%	3.2%	3.5%	24.2%	-20%	-23.3%	-32.2%	-41.1%
CYP4.2	Level of obesity in school children (Reception to Year 6 pupils)	Baseline and targets to be included once data available from PCT							
<b>Staying Safe</b>									
CYP5.2	Number of serious child road accidents (0-15 year olds)	Average for 1994-98 = 14			7	New PI, not set	10	9	7
CYP6.1	% of secondary school pupils (Years 7 & 8) who have experienced regular bullying	6.8%	6.8%	6.5%	5.2%	6.5%	6.4%	6.3%	6.2%
CYP7.6	% of Looked After Children in long term placement stability	-	-	73.9%	Available May 07	76%	77%	78%	80%
<b>Enjoying &amp; Achieving</b>									
BVPI 38	% of pupils (15 year olds) achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE or equivalent	58.9%	56.6%	59.8%	61.7%	65%	67.5%	68%	69%
CYP8.1	% of end of KS2 pupils achieving L4+ in English	75.3%	80%	81%	82%	86%	85%	85%	86%
CYP10.1	Number of families attending targeted parenting programmes	-	-	-	42	New PI, not set	60	75	90
CYP11.1 and 2	Total number of extended schools	-	-	12	18	12	64	64	64
CYP11.5	Number of attendances at School's Out programme	24558	41084	40255	Available May 07	38000	53560	55167	56822
<b>Making a Positive Contribution</b>									
CYP13.1	Number of pupils in 'Out of School' provision	203	216	177	Available May 07	130	100	100	100
CYP13.2	Number of days provided in 'Out of School' provision	2	2	2.4	Available May 07	3.5	5	5	5
CYP14.1	% of pupils involved in sports volunteering and leadership	-	-	-	5%	New PI, not set	8%	12%	15%
CYP15.1	% of young offenders who re-offend within 12 months	-	-	37.6%	Available Autumn 07		34.6%	33.6%	32.6%
<b>Achieving Economic Well-being</b>									
CYP16.1	% of young people (aged 16-18) who are NEET	-	4.5%	3.8%	3.73%	4.4%	3.9%	3.7%	3.7%
CYP17.2	Number of vocational entries at the end of KS4	-	-	-	787	New PI, not set	1000	1150	1250
CYP18.1	% of 3 year olds receiving a free child place	100.6%	104.8%	101.1%	Available May 07	100%	100%	100%	105%
<b>Key</b>	 This colour is shown when the result has performed below its target and outside the tolerance levels for that PI								
	 This colour is shown when the result has performed above its target and above the tolerance levels for that PI								

# Workforce Development

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In committing to improve services for children and young people at a national level, the government recognises the critical role played by the workforce, in particular the need for skilled, confident and competent workers who can deliver high quality services and who are able to respond positively and flexibly to the challenges of the Every Child Matters agenda. The Children's Workforce Strategy document sets out the government's vision for a world class workforce and describes some of the steps it views as being critical in delivering this aspect of the reform agenda, including strong and inclusive partnership work across all the sectors that make up the children and young people's workforce, and the need to plan and manage change flexibly and effectively.

In response to the workforce challenges of the Every Child Matters agenda, the YorOK Board established two new workforce and training sub committees, whose purpose is to promote the children and young people's workforce in York as a positive and valued career option, to enhance the confidence and competence of the local workforce and to promote the introduction and development of new and different ways of working to support the achievement of improved outcomes for children and young people. York's workforce and training strategies are being developed on a partnership basis, incorporating paid workers, volunteers and carers. Examples of work already being undertaken include profiling the local workforce, actively





celebrating and promoting the real positives of working with children, young people and families, and making sure that good quality information is available on the Web for anyone interested in joining the workforce or moving around within the workforce. The involvement of the voluntary, independent and private sectors is being actively promoted through a project aimed at raising awareness of the Every Child Matters agenda and improved access to child protection training. Plans are underway to ensure that children and young people are involved in this developing area of work.

A city-wide training plan is also being developed by the training sub-committee to engage more effectively in multi-agency training which will ensure that the workforce is fully informed and equipped to deliver the promises and aspirations made in this plan. The remit of this group includes increasing understanding of the training needs of staff working across children and young people's services in the city, advising on which needs should be met on a single agency or partnership basis and actively seeking out opportunities to commission training to respond to those shared needs. The expected outcomes are to increase understanding of training methods and strive for enhanced quality in integrated training.

The development of the Children's Services Training & Development Unit will ensure the delivery of a high quality, continuous, systematic and focused strategy for professional development at all levels. This strategy seeks to commission a wide range of accredited and non-accredited programmes in a structured and fully supported learning environment, from recruitment and induction through to senior leadership and beyond, based on national standards and codes of practice. Partnership working and collaboration at all stages are paramount.

There is a commitment to high quality provision, active involvement and rigorous evaluation. Instrumental to the delivery of the strategy is access to expertise available from local authority officers, school staff and from external providers. This includes education and social work leaders, advisers, consultants, and leading practitioners from within the service who have proven and effective practice. Best value principles are deployed to ensure appropriate provision.

The strategy supports all staff across the service and in schools in the development of professional learning communities, able to build the capacity to understand how well they are doing, to develop dynamically in relation to need and to know what they must do to improve. There is a commitment to the development of self-critical, self-evaluating teams underpinned by the government's Common Core Framework (Every Child Matters - Change for Children).



# Performance Management

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The published *Children and Young People's Plan 2007 – 2010* is a high level strategic document, the main purpose of which is to provide direction and purpose to all the detailed planning documents that shape the provision of services for children and young people in York. The detail can be found in the specific strategies and service plans that are maintained by all of the partners that make up the Children's Trust.

A diagram showing all the partners and describing the links between them is included at Figure 1 on page 33. Amongst other things, this shows the relationship between the YorOK Board, which has lead responsibility for the Children and Young People's Plan, and the Lifelong Learning Partnership, which carries responsibility for some key initiatives such as the 14-19 Strategy.

Figure 2 on page 34 shows how the plans themselves interlock with each other, and exemplifies the 'golden thread' from the high level strategic plans developed in partnership, to the operational plans produced by particular services.

The *Children and Young People's Plan 2007 – 2010* is also supplemented by a comprehensive set of Information Schedules which ensures that services are intelligence led. The list of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) included in the published plan is a selection from the full list of indicators that are tracked by the authority and its partners, which can be found in the Local Area Agreement.

The performance management arrangements for this network of plans are complex. A key principle is that data should only be collected once, even if it is reported several times, so reporting on the Performance Indicators (PIs) and the plans is based on the annual cycle established by the city council and adopted by the Local Strategic Partnership. Financial information, performance data and progress against service plans is collected three times a year and reported to the Learning, Culture & Children's Services Directorate Management Team (DMT):

- Period One (April – July) reported in September
- Period Two (August – October) reported in January
- Period Three (November – March) reported in May (end of year)

Because this reporting cycle covers all of the PIs and service plans within Learning, Culture and Children's Services, it also includes the information required for monitoring the Local Area Agreement and the Children and Young People's Plan. This is what is reported to the Executive Member and Advisory Panel (EMAP). The YorOK Board will receive a mid-year report (January) in advance of the annual refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan, and a full year report in July which will inform the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) process conducted by Ofsted in September. It is anticipated that the Government Office (GO) will also undertake monitoring visits in February for Period 1 monitoring and June for Period 2 (end of year) monitoring.



Finally, at the top level, progress against the Children and Young People's Plan and the Local Area Agreement will be reported to the Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board twice yearly. This report will be confined to the 20 Key Performance Indicators, which cover all of the Local Area Agreement outcomes, and are included in the Children & Young People's Plan on page 28.

	Reporting to	When		
		A	B	C
<p>20 Key PIs in the CYPP</p>	Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board	Sept	Dec	
<p>50+ PIs in the Children &amp; Young People's Block of the Local Area Agreement</p>	YorOK Board Executive Member Advisory Panel Government Office Ofsted (APA)	Sept Sept Sept Sept	Jan Dec Feb	May Jun
<p>Learning, Culture and Children's Services: Service Plans including 250 PIs</p>	Directorate Management Team	Sept	Nov	May

**Figure 1: Partnership Working to Improve Provision for Children and Young People**

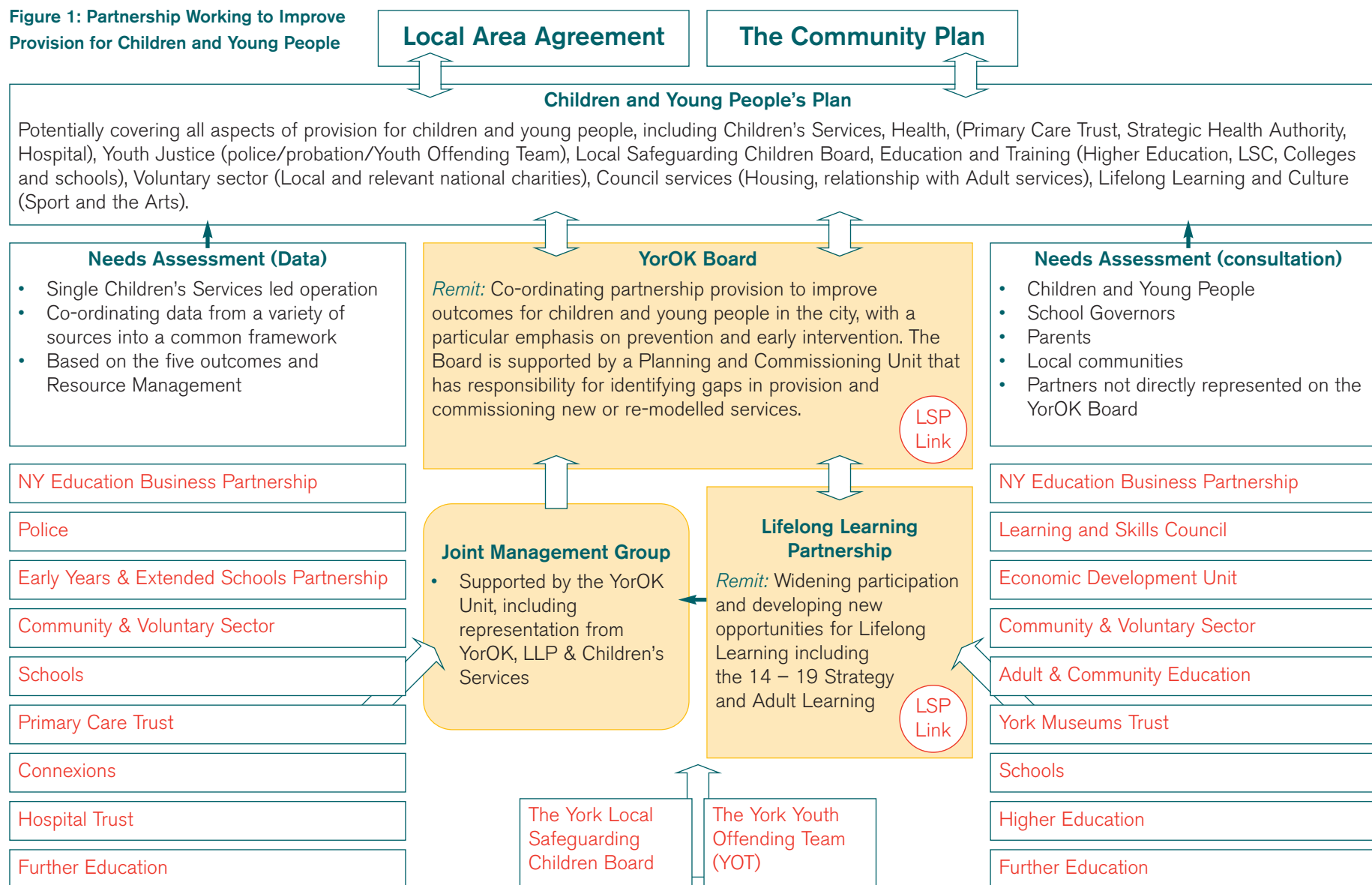
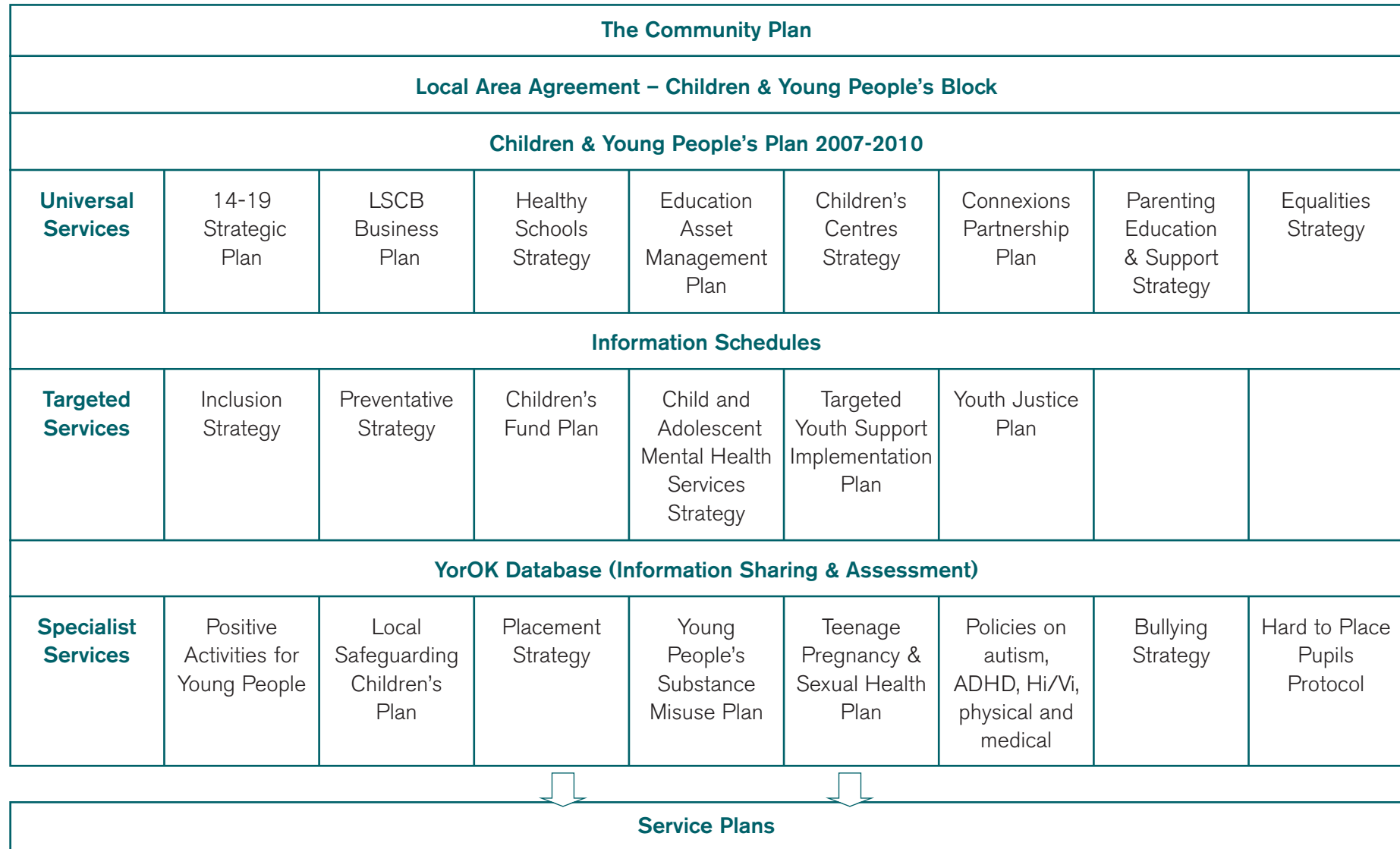


Figure 2: The Planning Bookcase



# Funding

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## Partnership Funding

Because the Children's Trust is a partnership body with no budget of its own or direct financial responsibilities, it is not easy to provide a comprehensive account of the resources that are devoted to children and young people in the city. The sums of money involved, however, are considerable.

The key partners comment on expenditure as follows:

- City of York Council – the budget for Children's Services is £25.5m, a more detailed analysis of which is provided at Figure 3.
- Police – the police provide a Youth Action Officer and an officer working in the Youth Offending Team who are both engaged full time on young people. Additionally, officers in the Neighbourhood Policing Teams, both PCs and PCSOs, are engaged with young people. When that team is up to strength then it will have approximately 75 people. Roughly 20% of their time, or the equivalent of 15 staff, is spent dealing with or being engaged with young people.
- Connexions – the share of the sub-regional Connexions funding directed to York is 22% or £1.3m.
- Primary Care Trust – estimated expenditure by the PCT includes £1,100k on health visitors, £250k on school nurses and £350k on speech and language therapy services.
- The expenditure by the Hospital Trust on child health staffing and non-staff expenditure such as drugs, pathology and travel is £5,948k. This does not account for the running of any facilities or other on costs, nor does it include any costs for the children receiving treatment elsewhere in the hospital such as Accident & Emergency, dermatology, ENT and surgery, or the work that the sexual health team does with the under 16s.

The priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan and the Local Area Agreement are supported by a significant number of pooled and aligned budgets. These are listed on page 38 with a general indication of the level of funding provided by all partners.

## The Budget for Children's Services

The most significant proportion of the funding devoted to children and young people is either provided by the local authority or channelled through it. The formula grant for the council's non-schools budget (which supports social services and LA activity) is the 8th lowest per head of any unitary authority. For schools, the new Dedicated Schools Grant is the 20th lowest per pupil of all education authorities. These grant levels, combined with the 2nd lowest council tax of any unitary authority, mean that the overall level of resources available to the authority (based on 2006/07 budget levels) are the lowest per head of all multi-purpose councils in the country.

Despite this, the local authority has set a balanced budget for 2007/08, which addresses the historic overspend on children's social care (£600k). The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has seen an increase of 5.4%, which has enabled additional resources of over £1.3m to be allocated to schools for personalised learning, Key Stage 4 vocational training and job evaluation. The overall increase in the General Fund budget for children's services is 2%, by comparison with an annual rate of inflation of over 3%. Although this represents a real terms cut in spending on children's services, the authority has maintained front-line services and

protected important initiatives that would be at risk because of the disappearance of ear-marked grant. This has been achieved by efficiency savings, by reducing management costs and, with agreement of the Schools' Forum, by using SEN funding within the DSG for some preventative work. Between 2006/07 and 2007/08, the authority has identified £639k savings and funded £388k growth.

The annual budget round for children's services has been driven by the need to support the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan and to redirect resources towards prevention and early intervention. Over the last two years the following adjustments have been made to the budget for children's services.

<b>Children &amp; Young People's Plan Priorities</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>
Additional funding to support Skills Centre provision for children and young people at the Pupil Referral Unit or at risk of permanent exclusion	£70k	£50k
Appointment of additional member of staff to Ethnic Minority Achievement Service	£30k	
Investment in Management Information Service in order to support information led planning and improved targeting of resources	£32k	
Investment in York Independent Living and Travel Skills (YILTs) for some disabled children and young people	£46k	£2k
Closure of residential children's home and reinvestment in preventative services	£225k	£75k
Mainstream funding provided to retain the Children's Trust Planning and Commissioning Unit		£80k
Management restructure to allow the reinvestment of savings in a post to support locality working		£50k
Second annual parents survey to be administered (scheme jointly funded with schools)		£10k

In addition, funding has been re-directed from within existing budgets to support strategic priorities identified in the Children and Young People's Plan. Amongst other initiatives, the local authority has:

- relaunched the YOzone proof of age card which facilitates various discounts for young people, including discounts on most bus services in the city, with fares starting as low as 50p with some operators,
- funded a new Anti-bullying Strategy,
- agreed plans to increase the specialist fostering scheme,
- appointed an Early Years Adviser,
- provided mainstream funding in order to sustain the early support programme,
- developed home sitting services to provide respite care for parents of disabled children and young people,
- appointed a dedicated Personal Adviser to the Traveller Education Service,
- established a network of primary mental health workers,
- restructured the Arts and Culture service to free up resources to establish an Arts Action Team,
- appointed a schools' PE consultant in the Sport and Active Leisure team,
- supported the appointment of a Children's Voluntary Sector Development Worker to help build capacity in the voluntary sector,
- worked with the Schools' Forum to redirect DSG funding from out of school provision into preventative services supporting early intervention,
- worked in partnership to enhance capital provision for Children's Centres, the Youth Opportunities Fund and the Castlegate Centre.



Figure 3: Children &amp; Young People's Plan 2007 – 2010: Pooled and Aligned Budgets

CYPP priorities	Budgets	Funding £000
<i>Being Healthy 1:</i> Encourage more children and young people to be more physically active	Sports Partnerships	58
	LPSA	87
	Leisure budget	72
<i>Being Healthy 2:</i> Improve the eating habits and diet of young people	SF Targeted School Meals	152
	SF Devolved School Meals	91
<i>Being Healthy 3:</i> Reduce the level of teenage pregnancy	Teenage Pregnancy Strategy	95
<i>Being Healthy 4:</i> Promote healthy lifestyles	Sexual Health advice and guidance (AHT)	100
	Child and Adolescent Mental Health	200
	Substance misuse	161
<i>Staying Safe 2:</i> Protect children more effectively	LSCB (CYC contribution)	65
	LSCB (PCT)	29
	LSCB (Police)	15
	LSCB (Probation)	5
<i>Enjoying &amp; Achieving 1:</i> Raise standards of achievement	Standards Fund (Local Area Agreement pooled budget)	693
<i>Enjoying &amp; Achieving 2:</i> Provide high quality early years experience	SureStart Local Programme	511
	2 year olds Pathfinder	608
	3 and 4 year olds Pathfinder	543
	Children's Centres Revenue budget	1,161
<i>Enjoying &amp; Achieving 3:</i> Support parents in helping their children to enjoy and achieve	Parenting Strategy: CYC	29
	Parenting Strategy: Connexions	10
	Parenting Early Intervention Pathfinder	202
	Parenting Support Grant (06/08)	40
	Family Learning (LSC)	137
<i>Enjoying &amp; Achieving 4:</i> Improve enrichment opportunities for children and young people	Positive Activities for Young People	80
	Standards Fund: Extended Schools	446
	Arts and Cultural provision for CYP	480
<i>Enjoying &amp; Achieving 5:</i> Ensure that young people with LDD receive appropriate support and advice	Portage: CYC	252
	Early support programme	15
<i>Making a Positive Contribution 3:</i> Reduce offending by young people	YOT: CYC base budget	92
	YOT: PCT	35
	YOT: Police	55
	YOT: Probation	28
	YOT; Safer York Partnership	26
	YOT: Connexions	30
	YISP	60
<i>Achieving Economic Well-being 1:</i> Increase the number of young people actively engaged in education and training	Vocational Learning in schools	338
<i>Achieving Economic Well-being 2:</i> Enhance skills of young people at 16 and at 18	CYC: 14 – 19 Co-ordinator	36
	LSC: 14 – 19 Co-ordinator	36
	LLP: Strategy Support (est)	10
<i>Resource Management</i>	CYC: Children's Trust Unit	80



Figure 4: Learning, Culture and Children's Services Budget for 2007/08

2007/08 Budgets	Access and Inclusion £000	Children and Families £000	Lifelong Learning and Culture £000	Resource Management £000	School Delegated and Devolved £000	School Improvement and Staff Development £000	LCCS Total £000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>13,508</b>	<b>10,962</b>	<b>6,296</b>	<b>18,428</b>	<b>87,957</b>	<b>11,018</b>	<b>148,169</b>
<b>Funded From:</b>							
Fees & Charges etc.	53	77	413	1,468		32	<b>2,043</b>
Recharge Income (including SF internal transfers)	182		34	2,787	4,262	4,745	<b>12,010</b>
Income from Schools	97			3,492		261	<b>3,850</b>
Grants:							
Dedicated Schools Grant	5,398		2,481		75,956		<b>83,835</b>
Other Grants	2,093	800	2,905	1,498	7,739	5,919	<b>20,954</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>7,823</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>5,833</b>	<b>9,245</b>	<b>87,957</b>	<b>10,957</b>	<b>122,692</b>
<b>Net Cost Funded by General Council Budget</b>	<b>5,685</b>	<b>10,085</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>9,183</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>25,477</b>

<b>Significant budget changes for 2007/08 have included:</b>	<b>Access and Inclusion £000</b>	<b>Children and Families £000</b>	<b>Lifelong Learning and Culture £000</b>	<b>Resource Management £000</b>	<b>School Delegated and Devolved £000</b>	<b>School Improvement and Staff Development £000</b>	<b>LCCS Total £000</b>
<b>Growth</b>							
Personalised Learning						879	<b>879</b>
Secondary Vocational Training						215	<b>215</b>
Job Evaluation Costs Within Schools						250	<b>250</b>
Children's Social Services - Demand Led Pressures		285					<b>285</b>
Fostering Payments Rates Increases		23					<b>23</b>
End of Children's Trust Grant		80					<b>80</b>
PRUs and Skills Centre - Increased Pupil Numbers	50						<b>50</b>
<b>Savings</b>							
Home to School Transport	(70)						<b>(70)</b>
Residential Children's Home Closure		(137)					<b>(137)</b>
Music Service Income Increase			(35)				<b>(35)</b>
Increased Finance SLA Income From Schools				(30)			<b>(30)</b>
Finance Staff Restructure Saving				(25)			<b>(25)</b>
Broadband Contract Savings				(72)			<b>(72)</b>
PFI Contract Budget Savings				(83)			<b>(83)</b>
Home Tuition Reduced Provision	(14)						<b>(14)</b>
Learning Support Assistants Budget Reduction	(46)						<b>(46)</b>
School Based Additional Teachers Budget Reduction	(50)						<b>(50)</b>
Early Years Savings			(36)				<b>(36)</b>





Working together with Children,  
Young People and Families