



**Notice of a public meeting of
Learning & Culture Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

- To:** Councillors Taylor (Chair), Fenton (Vice-Chair), Dew, Looker, Jackson, K Myers and Wells.
Dr Dickinson (Co-opted Statutory Member) and Mr Thomas (Co-opted Statutory Member)
- Date:** Tuesday, 20 October 2015
- Time:** 5.30 pm
- Venue:** The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 September 2015.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. The deadline for registering is **5.00pm on Monday 19 October 2015.**

Members of the public can speak on agenda items or matters within the remit of the committee. To register to speak please contact the Democracy Officers for the meeting, on the details at the foot of the agenda.

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The Council's protocol on Webcasting, Filming & Recording of Meetings ensures that these practices are carried out in a manner both respectful to the conduct of the meeting and all those present. It can be viewed at https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/6453/protocol_for_webcasting_filming_and_recording_council_meetingspdf

4. York Safeguarding Board Bi-annual Update & Attendance of Chair

The Chair of York Safeguarding Board will be in attendance to give a verbal update.

5. Explore Libraries and Archives Mutual: Performance Update (Pages 9 - 32)

This report updates Members on the performance of Explore York Libraries and Archives Mutual Ltd (Explore) during the first 6 months of 2015/16.

6. School Improvement Update (Pages 33 - 56)

This report and annexes provides information about school performance in 2015 and information about the position of schools according to Ofsted judgements as of 9 October 2015. It also provides information about the development and implementation of the new arrangements to support school improvement from September 2015.

- 7. City Walls Scrutiny Review Feasibility Report** (Pages 57 - 68)
This report suggests a programme that would enable a detailed scrutiny review of York City Walls in terms of conservation policy, interpretation facilities, ownership / management structure, and staffing. It describes briefly the technical work required; outlines timescales for this work; and sets out the staffing and financial resources that would be required to carry out the review.
- 8. Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2015/16** (Pages 69 - 70)
Members are asked to consider the Committee's workplan for the 2015-16 municipal year.
- 9. Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent.

Democracy Officers

Catherine Clarke and Louise Cook (job share)

Contact details:

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

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

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

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

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

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

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

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

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

 **(01904) 551550**

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Learning & Culture Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Date	15 September 2015
Present	Councillors Taylor (Chair), Fenton (Vice-Chair), Dew, Looker, Jackson, K Myers, Wells and Dr Dickinson (Co-opted Statutory Member)
Apologies	Mr Thomas

18. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or disclosable pecuniary interests which they might have in respect of the business on the agenda.

Cllr Looker declared a personal non prejudicial interest in agenda item 5 that she is a member of York Theatre Royal.

Cllr Myers declared a personal non prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 and 9 that he is a member of Friends of York Walls, Make it York and York Heritage Group.

Cllr Taylor declared a personal non prejudicial interest in agenda item 9 that he is also a member of Friends of York Walls.

19. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 29 July 2015 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

It was noted that in the resolved section of item 17, point (iii), bullet point 2, the York Museum Trust charging item would not be added to the workplan as the Executive were now considering this.

20. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been one registration to speak at the meeting, under the Council's Public Participation Scheme on matters within the remit of the committee and agenda item 6.

Mary Broadhead expressed her concerns regarding wasted income spent on building then demolishing the toilets in Parliament Street and the homeless persons refuge on Stonebow. She highlighted her concerns regarding the removal of the Fountain in Parliament Street and confirmed she had great difficulty in finding any individual costings on projects done during the regeneration of York City Programme. She suggested the Fountain could stay and be used as a seating area which would incur very little expense. She felt the city centre lacked inexpensive public toilets and that the car parking was too expensive. She also questioned why Newgate Market had been renamed York Market.

21. Attendance of Executive Member for Education, Children & Young People's Services - Briefing on Priorities & Challenges for 2015/16

The Executive Member for Education, Children and Young People was in attendance and highlighted the following areas as her challenges and priorities for 2015/16:

- Budgetary savings
- Moving all schools to OFSTED rating good or outstanding.
- Managing the academisation of schools in York including the idea of 'the York School'
- Narrowing the gap in attainment
- The new sector-led school improvement model
- More availability of school places
- Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
- Maintaining appropriate numbers of Looked after Children.
- The development of the Children's Centre model
- Refining the Early Help Strategy

In answer to Members questions the Executive Member confirmed that:

- As York was a low funded authority, she planned to lobby in Westminster for additional funding.
- Since the introduction of free school meals for reception to year 2 children the pupil premium figures had been affected.
- Schools would be campaigning and encouraging parents to register their child, if eligible, to enable schools to receive the maximum funding allocation.
- The current number of Looked After Children was around 190 and it was anticipated that early intervention would allow this figure to drop.
- To respond to the insufficient places available in some York schools, the space available in schools would be measured to help optimise the use of that space.

- The Council would maintain their partnership with all schools regardless of their status.

Members suggested the Executive Member considered the Free School Meals Scrutiny Review reports and resolutions when campaigning.

The Chair thanked the Executive Member for her update and offered support if required, in preparing for Westminster.

Resolved: That the Executive Member update be received and noted.

Reason: To ensure that the Committee is kept updated on the Executive Member's priorities and challenges.

22. York Theatre Royal: 2014/15 Bi-annual Performance Update

Members considered a report that informed them of the progress and performance of York Theatre Royal under the current Service Level Agreement (SLA).

The Chief Executive gave an update and confirmed:

- York Theatre Royal's major refurbishment started in April 2015 and was now due to re-open in spring 2016.
- Performances had taken place in the De Grey Ballroom, at the Signal Box Theatre in the National Railway Museum (NRM), at the Imphal Barracks and at 16 other venues across the city as part of the York International Shakespeare Festival.
- Partnerships with York Schools, York College, York St John College and the University of York continued enabling seven cluster schools to perform extracts from Henry IV and V.
- York Conservation Trust had taken ownership of the Theatre and had made a significant financial contribution to replace the roof.
- A range of activities to engage older people continued to take place.

In answer to Members questions the Chief Executive confirmed:

- they were currently working with seven schools across the City, covering different aspects of the curriculum.
- they used funding from the research council to work with York St John's College.
- that following the reduction in funding from City of York Council the Theatre raised income through ticket sales, reducing staff, investments and contributions.

- they had always made allowances for the Archaeology work but it had proved greater than anticipated and some structural work and asbestos found had also contributed to the delays.
- a quantity of funding for the roof had come from the York Conservative Trust but 4.4million was still needed for the internal projects.
- the Council no longer owned the Theatre but the relationship between the two was still strong.

Members congratulated the Theatre on their new residency at the NRM and some Members confirmed they had enjoyed 'In Fog and Falling Snow', the Shakespeare project and The Railway Children.

Resolved: That the report be noted

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

23. Scrutiny Arrangements Around Make it York

Members considered a report that informed them of their role in scrutinising Make it York (MiY).

It was highlighted that Make it York would participate in citywide partnerships relevant to business growth, visitor economy and culture, and the development of York's Economy & Place Strategy, including elements around tourism and culture. Members noted that MiY was less than 6 months old and would report to the Shareholders Committee, the Executive and two scrutiny committees, Economic Development & Transport Policy & Scrutiny Committee and Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee.

MIY would administer various areas including Economic Development, Inward Investment, Science City York, York Markets, City Centre Management and Visit York so Members agreed it did require views from a number of directions.

It was noted that Make it York required time to compose and consider its agenda and Members suggested a bi annual report be received on issues that affected the Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee. In particular, the Committee requested an update on the removal of Parliament Street Fountain, and feedback on the implementation of the recommendations that arose from the previous Night Time Economy Scrutiny Review.

Members thanked the Chief Executive for his update.

- Resolved: (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
(ii) That a bi annual report be received.
(iii) That a future update be provided on the removal of Parliament Street fountain.

Reason: To inform the Committee of the respective roles of the Executive, the Shareholder Committee and this Committee in relation to Make it York.

24. 2014/15 Finance and Performance Year End Report

Members received a report that analysed the financial outturn and performance data for 2014/15 by reference to the service plan and budgets for all of the relevant services falling under the responsibility of the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods and the Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills.

Officers gave an update and confirmed:

- that the year end position of the draft outturn overspend was around £600k
- the number of children in care and children subject to child protection plans remained stable throughout 2014/15.
- child protection plans (CPP) continued to be robustly monitored and quarter one results showed that children on CPP's was stabilising.
- The percentage of care leavers who continued in education or training had dropped and officers would continue to monitor this.

In answer to Members questions officers stated that:

- they were in the process of developing a new in-care strategy which would enable them to know more about care leavers aged 19, 20 and 21.
- the vacant posts within Educational Psychology had not affected the service provided and it still continued to generate an income.
- the under spends on nursery places had improved and was now at the expected levels.

Members thanked officers.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To update the committee on the latest financial and performance position for 2014-15.

25. 2015/16 First Quarter Finance & Performance Monitoring Report

Members considered a report which analysed the latest performance for 2015/16 and forecasted the financial outturn position by reference to the service plan and budgets for all of the relevant services falling under the responsibility of the Director of Communities & Neighbourhoods and the Director of Children's Services, Education & Skills.

The Finance Manager of Children's Services, Education and Skills, advised the committee that the council, at this stage, were looking at a projected overspend of approximately £1.3m for services in 2015/16. He discussed some of the current pressures including the overspend from 2014/15 in children's social care.

It was confirmed that the number of Children Looked After (CLA) was unlikely to reduce and that York's unit cost per CLA was already the lowest of all 150 Local Authority's nationally. Opportunities to reduce budgets would continue but options elsewhere within the directorate would need to be considered.

The Finance Manager and Director of Children's Services, Education and Skills responded to queries raised by members regarding the information contained in the report.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To update the committee on the latest financial and performance position for 2015/16.

26. Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2015/16 and new Scrutiny Topic

Members considered the Committee's work plan for the 2015/16 municipal year and discussed the scrutiny topic submitted on York Walls.

Resolved: That the following be received:

- (i) A feasibility report on York Walls.
- (ii) An update report from Make it York on Parliament Street Fountain.
- (iii) An update on York 300 including the performance figures regarding Narrowing the Gap and an update on the Scrutiny recommendations.

Reason: To keep the Committees workplan updated.

Cllr Taylor, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.45 pm].

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Annual Report 2014/2015 Executive Summary



**Working with children, families
and professionals to make our
children's lives safer**

Contents

Foreword by the CYSCB Chairperson.....	3	Training and development....	15
Some facts and figures.....	6	The priorities and challenges for next year	16
What children and young people have told us	7	Key messages for readers	18
How we are doing as a Partnership	8	For children and young people	18
Formal Audits and Reviews... 12		For the community	18
The “Section 11” Audit	12	For practitioners:.....	18
Multi-agency Case File Audits	12	For City of York Safeguarding Children Board partners and organisations	18
Other audits and reviews	13		
Our performance as a Board	14		

About this Document

This document is a short summary of the 2014-15 Annual Report for the City of York Safeguarding Children Board. The full report, with additional supporting information as appendices, will be available on the Safeguarding Children Board website at: www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/annual-reports-and-business-plan.htm

Foreword

This is my second annual report as Independent Chair of the City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB) and covers the year ending on 31st March 2015.

The work of the Board is driven by its vision agreed during the year:

“For all the children of York to grow up in safety and to always feel safe”

A critical factor in safeguarding children is the skill, effectiveness and professionalism of people who work day to day with vulnerable children and their families. Their jobs are exceptionally hard; something generally not recognised in the media.



On behalf on the Board I want to thank all those people for their dedication and effort to support children and young people in York.

The Board has seen evidence that partnership working is very strong in York; in operational practice and strategic oversight. Individual agencies that contribute to the work of the Board are properly focussed on safeguarding. Within this report we have set out the achievements made this year but also identified the improvements that we must continue to address over the next few years.

The Board is confident that safeguarding arrangements in York are robust. Nevertheless, we are in no way complacent. There are always improvements to be made, both for our individual partners and as a Board. This year we implemented a new structure that is focused more on our priorities. We aim to build on this and strengthen

our influence on other key partnerships supporting children in York. As a Board we are going to tackle challenges and be tenacious even in the face of continuing resource pressures.

The Board will continue to encourage the public and professionals alike to raise their concerns as early as possible. We need children and young people to know that their wellbeing is at the heart of our safeguarding systems.

The Board needs the help of the community to look out for children and young people and my message to everyone is if you have concerns about the safety of a child or young person, **“Say something if you see something.”**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'S Westwood'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Simon Westwood, Independent Chair, CYSCB



Introduction

The City of York Safeguarding Children Board is a statutory body set up under the Children Act 2004, in accordance with the most recent statutory guidance Working Together (2015)¹. Further information about our work, and our current membership, is available on our website: www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/.

We work closely with York Health and Wellbeing Board and York's Children's Trust, which is known as YorOK.

York is a great place in which to grow up. Our job in the Safeguarding Children Board is to ensure that this applies to every single child and young person, whatever their circumstances. Whilst we can never eliminate entirely the risk of harm to children, the Board is satisfied that in 2014-15 the arrangements for safeguarding children were effective and appropriate.

We have reached this conclusion after a rigorous analysis of all of the evidence. We have looked at statistics, conducted formal reviews and analysis, examined each other's safeguarding arrangements, considered progress against our agreed priorities, and challenged our own performance as a Board. Most importantly of all, we have listened to what children and young people have to say.

This Executive Summary sets out brief details as to how we have reached our conclusions. It also describes our priorities for the year ahead, and the key messages we would like readers to take away. There is a great deal of further detail, and supporting evidence, in our full report, which will be made available on our website².



¹ www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf

² www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/annual-reports-and-business-plan.htm

Some facts and figures

York is a unitary authority with a population of just over 200,000, including around 44,000 children aged 0 to 19. 9.4% of schoolchildren are from a minority ethnic group.

44,000 children aged 0 to 19

The number of looked after children in the city has fallen steadily in 2014-15 from 226 at the start of the year to 195 by the end. 124 children were on a formal child protection plan at the year end.

The city is relatively prosperous, with the level people claiming of out of work benefits statistically lower than regional and national averages. However, 7% of York's population (around 14,000 people - adults and children) live in areas classified as being in the 20% most deprived areas in the country. Recent figures show that 11.4% of children under the age of 19 live in poverty. This is better than the England average and a fall for York of 1.4% since 2014.



What children and young people have told us

As highlighted in our Annual Report for 2013-14, a joint Voice and Involvement Strategy has been agreed by the YorOK Board and the City of York Safeguarding Children Board. This strategy sets out a clear vision for our work in this area:

“Children and young people are at the heart of our strategic arrangements. We are committed to ensuring that children and young people have a voice in decision-making, planning, commissioning, design and delivery of services.”

The Safeguarding Children Involvement Group has now merged with the YorOK Voice and Involvement group to provide a single multi-agency, city-wide group to take forward this agenda. A detailed

report looking at work undertaken against this strategy has been produced and is available on the Children’s Trust website .

Our full report sets out a range of views expressed by children and young people through a variety of means. Our Board particularly noted that in the major “Stand Up for Us” Survey, overall pupils are feeling better in school than they were in 2011. In addition, in the “UMatter” survey for Looked After Children, 87% of young people felt the council provides good quality placements for children and young people in care.

The table below shows **how safe children in care** felt in different locations.

	Not Safe - 1	Not Sure - 2	Safe - 3	Really safe - 4
At home	2%	7%	9%	82%
At school	6%	2%	30%	62%
Area they live	4%	11%	25%	60%

(Where any concerns were identified these were discussed and normal safeguarding procedures followed.) There is good evidence that issues previously raised with us and our partners by children and young people have been acted on.

Although we believe that the range of opportunities for young people to have a voice is very impressive, our Board is working with the Children’s Trust to improve things further.

87% of young people felt the council provides good quality placements for children and young people in care

³ As a reminder, “Yor-OK” is the name of York’s Children’s Trust.

⁴ See www.yor-ok.org.uk/workforce2014/Voice/voice-and-involvement.htm



How we are doing as a Partnership

In last year's Annual Report we identified five thematic priorities for development and a number of actions. Progress has been made on all fronts, although there is still work to do in some areas:

- Our **Early Help Sub-group** concluded that high quality multi-agency early help provision is making a difference; that the number of statutory interventions is reducing or being maintained against a backdrop of effective early help provision; that early help is now at the heart of strategic multi-agency planning and prioritisation; and that our understanding about the impact of early help arrangements continues to improve.
- **Neglect** remains a serious challenge both nationally and locally. At the end of 2014-15, 46.4% of the children subject to a Child Protection Plan in York were under the category of "neglect". This percentage has risen during the year and is higher than last year, although on a par with the years preceding that. We consider that there remains a pressing need for a coordinated response which builds on the findings of the 2012 thematic review in this area. We have therefore established a new Sub-group to ensure this remains a focus for us in the year ahead.

- We have no reason to believe that there is widespread or under-reported prevalence of **Child Sexual Exploitation** in the York community. However, we are not complacent and we recognise that more needs to be done. We have therefore been working with NSPCC on preparing an awareness campaign about of sexual abuse branded 'It's Not Ok'. The campaign will be launched in early 2015-16 and will cover prevention and education, as well as ensuring that children and their families know how to seek help. A website to complement the campaign will also be created.

The 'It's Not Ok' campaign about sexual abuse, will be launched in early 2015-16

- Data provided to our Board showed that by the end of 2014-15, 94% of those children reported as **missing from education** had either been found or had their cases closed. Cases involving the remaining 6% (2 children) continued to be open and active. New systems have resulted in significant improvements; however, we recognise the need to improve further the coordination of information about children who are missing, and how we jointly consider the strategic implications.

- The information provided to the Board about the increasing number and percentage of children recorded by North Yorkshire Police as present at incidents of **domestic abuse** has raised the Board's concern to the point where we have decided to form a new Sub-group specifically to focus on domestic abuse and the impact on children. The Sub-group will interrogate the data and formulate an approach and strategy in relation to children to complement the city's overall domestic abuse strategy.

We also decided in the course of the year that we needed to initiate a York perspective in a sixth area: **female genital mutilation**. We intend to produce local multi-agency guidance in 2015 based on the national guidance.

Persistent absence and total absence has continued to fall in both primary and secondary schools

The Board has also looked at a range of evidence relating to all aspects of a child's potential "journey". Some key points include:

- Persistent **absence** and total absence has continued to fall in both primary and secondary schools;
- 81% of children aged 0-4 who live in the most deprived 10% of local areas are registered with a **Children's Centre**;
- In 2014-15, York had 3,899 **contacts**, and 798 **referrals**, to Children's Social Care⁵. York has a statistically lower rate of referrals than the averages for its statistical neighbours;
- As of 31st March 2015, there were 124 children subject to **Child Protection Plans**, similar to the previous year. This equates to 34 per 10,000 below that of statistical neighbours;
- The number of **looked after children** in the city has fallen steadily in 2014-15 from 220 at the start of the year to 197 by the end. At a rate of 55 per 10,000 population, this is lower than national and regional averages;
- **Health and dental checks of looked after children** remain a challenge: although figures improved at year end, with 66% having up to date health checks and 74.1% up to date dental checks, these are below the England average and below the figures for 2013-14. Health and Social Care colleagues continue to work on ways of improving these figures;
- 62.22% of **adopted children** waited less than 20 months between entering care and moving in with a new family;
- There has been an increase in notifications of **private fostering arrangements** during the year: there were six such arrangements;
- In 2014-15, 306 families meeting the '**Troubled Families**' criteria had their lives successfully turned around by interventions supported by the Family Focus Team;

⁵ A 'contact' or 'enquiry' to Children's Social Care refers to a call/email/letter/referral form to the Referral and Assessment teams. A 'referral' is defined as a contact which is accepted for assessment or investigation



- From April 2014 to March 2015, 219 young people age 16 to 25 attended **counselling** appointments. 32 clients aged 16-19 had issues relating to **self-harm**; 33 clients aged 16 to 19 experienced **suicidal thinking**. Fewer than ten young people made suicide attempts;
- The number of first time entrants to the **youth justice system** has reduced by 50% since 2011-12;
- The rate of **teenage pregnancies** has continued to reduce and is at the lowest level since monitoring began in 1998;
- In January 2015, 10% of the mainstream school population (Primary and Secondary) were identified as having **special educational needs**;
- The latest 2011 census shows that 313 children and young people aged 0-15 and 997 young people aged 16-25 were identified as **young carers**. York Carers Centre provides a variety of different kinds of support and all young carers are now entitled to an assessment of their needs from the Local Authority.

Our Board examines such data on a regular basis. In 2014-15, we created a new "scorecard" to enable us to monitor trends and developments, particularly in relation to our agreed priorities. In addition the Board accesses data from a range of other sources. These will be published alongside our full report.





Formal Audits and Reviews

Our Board also undertakes a series of more formal audits and reviews in order to provide assurance that safeguarding arrangements are in place, and to serve as a prompt for any improvements that can be made. In 2014-15 we conducted two types of formal audit.

The “Section 11” Audit

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on key agencies and bodies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This is the Board’s primary audit to examine local safeguarding arrangements and provides us with assurance that agencies are doing all they can to ensure the safety and welfare of children and young people.

In 2014-15, the City of York Safeguarding Children Board collaborated with the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board on the development of a Section 11 audit tool and a joint Section 11 Peer Learning Event. All agencies reported clear improvement across all areas measured against last year’s audit. There were no significant multi-agency safeguarding concerns across all agencies as a whole, although some issues and challenges have been identified for individual agencies. In addition, some general areas of development were identified, especially in relation to recognising additional vulnerabilities and barriers in relation to equality, consideration of communicating information in different languages, and the management of complaints.

Multi-agency Case File Audits

During 2014-15 our Multi-agency Case File Audit Group met on nine occasions and examined, in depth, elements of 13 case files. As a result, a range of actions have been agreed:

- 2015 was made the ‘Year of Assessment’, with multi-agency training delivered by the Advice Team, remodelled to meet audited need;
- The introduction of a new ‘Single Assessment’ to ensure a holistic approach to assessment and collaboration from all involved with the child and family;
- A strong recommendation from the Board to all partners that therapeutic support should always be sought for victims of sexual abuse;
- Child Sexual Abuse training identified as a priority by our Learning and Development Sub-group and included in the training plan;
- A comprehensive action plan developed by the Head of Safeguarding at York Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to address awareness of, and training in, Female Genital Mutilation for all midwives.

From April 2015 our Multi-agency Case File Audit Group will become the new **Partnership Practice Scrutiny & Review Sub-group** with revised terms of reference, a new chair person, and a fresh programme of thematic audits.

Other audits and reviews

We are pleased to report that no cases have merited **Serious Case Review** during 2014-15. At year end, one case for a possible **Learning Lessons Review** is under consideration by the Serious Cases Panel.

No cases have merited Serious Case Review during 2014-15

Our Board reviews the death of every child (up to the age of 18 years) in the York area via a **Child Death Overview Panel** in order to learn any lessons that may help other children and families in the future. In 2014-14 there were 9 child deaths in York. This brings the average to 11 over the last 5 years and shows a year-on-year decrease of approximately 10%.



There were a total of 45 allegations against professionals received by the **Local Authority Designated Officer** in 2014-15. This represents four fewer than in 2013-14, although the numbers are in line with previous years' figures.

Individual Partner Assessments

The Board also invited the individual agencies who make up our partnership to submit an up-to-date assessment of the state of safeguarding in their organisation. This enables us to share best practice and, where necessary, to challenge each other. These assessments will be published within our full report: they contain a wide range of innovations and improvements to local safeguarding arrangements. Any general learning points that have emerged have been taken into account in determining our priorities for the year ahead.



Our performance as a Board

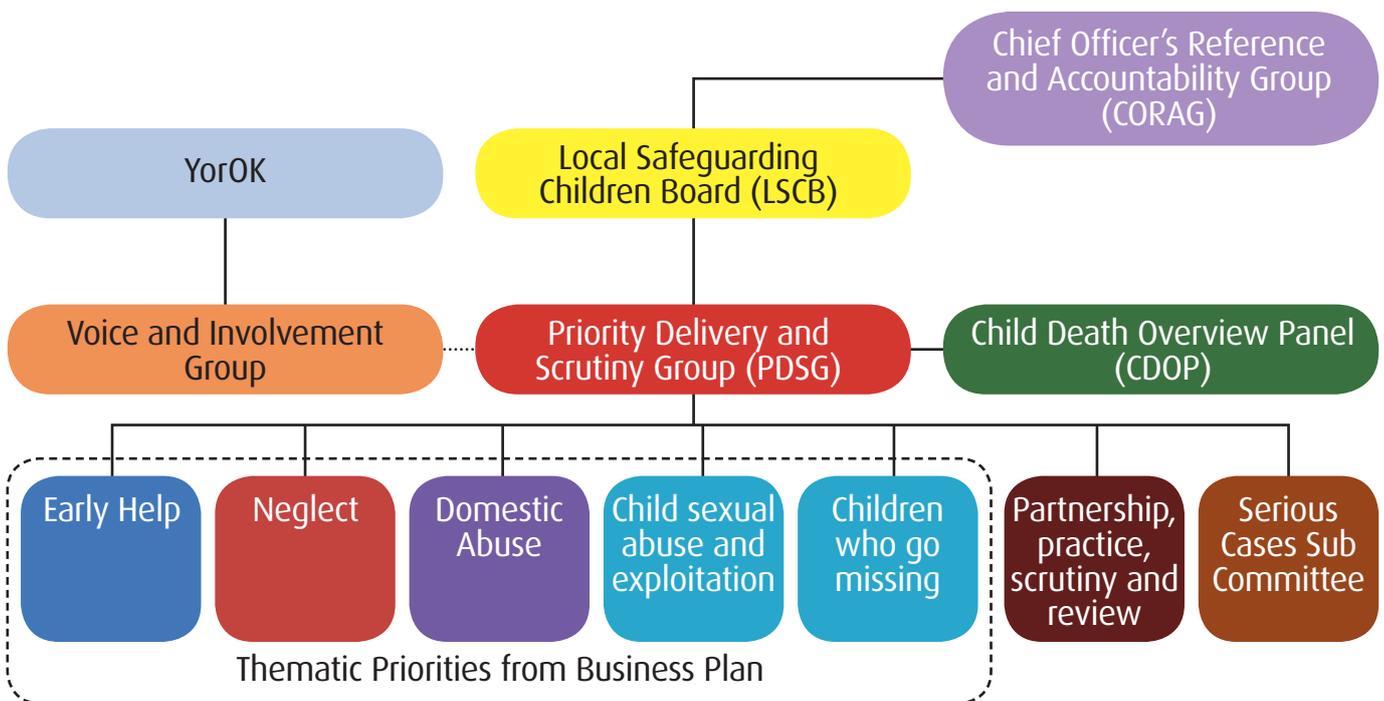
City of York Safeguarding Children Board meetings, which take place quarterly, are always well attended by members, both statutory and non-statutory, and by advisors. Minutes of our meetings are available on our website. We have a key strategic relationship with York’s Children’s Trust (YorOK): the Chair of our Board is a Member of the Trust and reports regularly to it; equally, we review and challenge Trust information on a regular basis.

We consider that we work well as a Board, in a spirit of robust challenge and support. However, we could always improve further, and we have therefore agreed a new structure from April 2015. This will see the addition of task groups focused on domestic abuse and neglect; the co-ordination of information

about, and strategies for, children and young people missing from home and care into the Child Sexual Abuse & Exploitation Sub-group; the Early Help group (formerly Integrated Working Implementation Group) as a Sub-group of our Board and the YorOK Board jointly; and performance and safeguarding training as overall themes for all groups. The Serious Case Review Sub-committee and Panel will in future be known as the Case Review Group.

This restructure will improve our Board’s effectiveness so that we, and our Sub-groups, are even better able to interrogate data and information, as well as to recommend, support and challenge safeguarding activity across all partners.

The new structure is illustrated below. The latest membership is available on our website.



Training and development

The Board has continued to provide a programme of learning and development opportunities throughout 2014-15. Courses are linked to Board priorities, core knowledge requirements and emerging issues and lessons. Quality and content is overseen by our Learning and Development Sub-group. The latest Training Brochure, which conveys the richness and range of our offering, is available on our website⁶.

Attendance at our multi-agency training events is usually good, with numbers at, or close to, the preferred target for each course. Courses are not run unless registration rates are viable. There are often waiting lists for some courses. A total of 628 delegates attended multi-agency training from April 2014 – March 2015.

In addition to multi-agency courses, other events, short courses, team inputs or information sessions for staff, linked to the Board's objectives, have been delivered. Around 400 learners/ participants received an input in this way during this period. Finally, a number of commissioned and/or bespoke events took place, reaching almost 200 learners.

Post-course feedback on content, presentation, venue and whether the course met expectations is sought from all delegates at the end of the event. Feedback is consistently excellent and good, with only one or two exceptions (e.g. because the delegate did not feel that the course was relevant to their role, or they expected something different).

Around 600 learners participated in training courses and events in 2014/15

Equality and diversity principles run through all the training we offer. For example, we challenge agency delegates as to whether they make their services accessible to all, including those with physical disabilities or learning difficulties who may require specific tools, aids or language. Our safeguarding training also addresses issues of cultural norms and whether practitioners understand the difference between a safeguarding matter and a cultural matter.



⁶ www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/learning-and-development.htm

The priorities and challenges for next year

Our view is that the existing five priorities identified in last year's Report remain valid – but that some of their component elements may need to change:

- Early help provision forms the foundation for prevention of the escalation of cases and the need for statutory intervention. The Board continues to see this as a priority area and has identified a number of key priorities for the year ahead:
 - further narrowing the attainment gap for pupils in receipt of free school meals, pupil premium groups, and children with special educational needs and disabilities;
 - delivering an integrated and cohesive local child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) offer for children and young people in York;
 - responding to increased reporting of self-harm amongst younger people;
 - continuing to improve not in employment, education or training (NEET) rates for vulnerable groups;
 - tackling child obesity, alcohol consumption and the effects of child and parental consumption on health and wellbeing outcomes for children;
 - developing a shared focus on, and response to, the needs of adult parents and how these impact on children;
 - improving our strategic commissioning to enhance provision and outcomes in areas that span children's and adults services.
- Neglect remains a priority for the Board. The overall purpose of the new Neglect Sub-group will be to improve early identification and the effectiveness of the professional response (at all tiers of need) to child neglect. During 2015-16 we will:
 - identify the barriers to translating the lessons of the thematic review into practice and identify strategies to overcome these;
 - develop the thematic review's findings into specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely objectives;
 - develop practice guidance and learning opportunities to further improved identification and more effective interventions;
 - identify a range of indicators to identify the prevalence of neglect in York and to measure progress in tackling this;
 - develop and implement systems and practices which improve the early identification and the effectiveness of the professional response to child neglect.
- Child sexual abuse and exploitation also remains a key issue for the Board. Via the Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Sub-group, the Board will continue to:
 - establish an understanding of the known prevalence and nature of child sexual abuse and exploitation in the city;

- take an overview of the range of provision, services and interventions available to children and families across all tiers of need that are contributing, or could contribute, to the prevention of abuse and/or exploitation;
- identify learning and development needs across agencies and identify or commission training to address those needs;
- prevent abuse or exploitation by identifying opportunities for raising awareness among young people, parents, carers and potential perpetrators ;
- update an action plan in line with key agreed priorities.

2015 will see the launch of a succession of workshops and seminars for frontline practitioners and for service leaders, linked to the 'It's Not Ok' campaign.

- Missing children, whether from home, from care or from education, are potentially vulnerable to harm. A new joint protocol (York and North Yorkshire) about 'Children Who Go Missing from Home or from Care' goes live in April 2015. The Board will continue to require information about the scale of the issue in York and, the action being taken to protect those most vulnerable children. Mindful of the links between missing children, vulnerabilities and exploitation, the 'missing children' priority will become incorporated into the focus of our Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Sub-group. The Board will need to give consideration to the national 'Prevent' agenda and guidance designed to address the issue of young people becoming involved in violent extremism of any kind. The

modern Slavery Act 2015, is designed to tackle slavery in the UK and consolidates previous offences relating to trafficking and slavery. This will also require the attention of the Board and an understanding of the implications for York.

- Domestic abuse remains a significant priority for the Board's attention. The impact on children who live with domestic abuse either as part of a household, or living elsewhere but part of the family, can be profound. Children experiencing domestic abuse may go missing from home or be vulnerable to exploitation. There is an increasing awareness of domestic abuse perpetrated within adolescent relationships. The new Sub-group will interrogate the known data and information about children and young people affected by Domestic Abuse and the effectiveness of arrangements to support them.

Above all, the Board will want assurance that safeguarding remains a priority at all stages of the child's journey, from early help through to statutory services, notwithstanding the challenge of reducing public funds and significant organisational change. Multi-agency planning, strategy and delivery will be reinforced by strong links between our Board, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the YorOK Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.



Key messages for readers

For children and young people

- Your wellbeing is at the heart of our child protection systems. Your voices are the most important of all. This Board plans to develop better ways of listening to you.
- Tell us how we can improve services to improve your well-being, to prevent you being harmed, and to protect you.

For the community

- You are in the best place to look out for children and young people and to raise the alarm if something is going wrong for them.
- ‘If you see something, say something’.
- We all share responsibility for protecting children. If you are worried about a child, contact the Children’s Front Door (contact details below).

For practitioners:

- Ensure you are booked onto, and attend, all safeguarding courses and learning events required for your role.
- Be familiar with, and use when necessary, the multi-agency tools designed for you: e.g. our ‘Threshold Guidance’⁷ and the online safeguarding procedures⁸.

For City of York Safeguarding Children Board partners and organisations

- Keep the protection of children at the forefront of your mind. Consider how any plans will affect children and young people.
- You are required to assure this Board that you are discharging your safeguarding duties effectively and ensuring that services are commissioned for the most vulnerable children.
- Ensure that the voices of all children and young people are informing service development.
- Ensure that the voices of vulnerable children are taken notice of, particularly in relation to listening and responding when children disclose abuse.
- Use your representative on our Board to make sure the voices of children and young people and front line practitioners are heard.
- Ensure your workforce is able to contribute to the provision of safeguarding training and to attend training courses and learning events.

⁷ www.yor-ok.org.uk/workforce2014/Concerned%20about%20a%20child/childrens-front-door.htm

⁸ www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/child-protection-procedures.htm

**If you
see
something,
say
something**



City of York
Safeguarding Children Board



www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/

Contact details for the Safeguarding Children Board

CYSCB Chair: Simon Westwood

CYSCB Manager: Joe Cocker

CYSCB, City of York Council,

West Office, Station Rise,

York,

YO1 6GA

Tel 01904 555695

www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/contact-us.htm

How to report concerns about a child or young person

If you have a concern that a child is vulnerable or at risk of significant harm please

contact the Children's Front Door:

Phone for advice: **01904 551900**

or, using a referral form:

Email: childrensfrontdoor@york.gov.uk

Post: The Children's Front Door, West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA

More information and a referral form are available at:

www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/concerned-about-a-child-or-young-person.htm





Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee

20 October 2015

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)

Explore Libraries and Archives Mutual: Performance Update, 2015/16 half year report**Summary**

1. This report updates Members on the performance of Explore York Libraries and Archives Mutual Ltd (Explore) during the first 6 months of 2015/16.

Background

2. Explore was set up on 1 May, 2015 as a Community Benefit Society with exempt charitable status, jointly owned by staff and the community, with the aim of delivering a comprehensive and efficient public library service, increasing access to library services by providing excellent services, encouraging everyone to be a library member from birth, and giving York residents universal membership of all public libraries in England and Wales. Explore's vision is *to enable people to live fuller, more connected and engaged lives*.
3. Explore is tasked with making a major contribution to helping the Council engage with its communities, facilitating adult learning, getting people on line, promoting the health and wellbeing agenda, and supporting vulnerable people, e.g. housebound people and people with mental health issues.
4. £450k savings were made in establishing Explore. This was achieved whilst maintaining paid staff in every library, ensuring no closures, and driving service improvement.
5. The Council has entered into a 5 year contract with Explore for the provision of services. The contract specification sets out the key requirements with respect to service levels including book stock, professional staffing, service points, and the outcomes to be achieved (see Annex 1).

6. The report from the Chief Executive of Explore (see Annex 2) sets out performance issues in the period to 30 September 2015.

Options

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

Corporate Objectives

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

Implications

9. **Finance:** The contract sum for the full year in 2015/16 is £2,070,940.
10. The report has no implications relating to: Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Property.

Risk Management

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

Recommendations

12. That Members comment upon the performance of Explore.
Reason: To help monitor the service received under the contract.

Contact Details

Authors:

Charlie Croft
Assistant Director
(Communities, Culture and
Public Realm)

Fiona Williams
Chief Executive
Explore

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Charlie Croft
Assistant Director (Communities, Culture
and Public Realm)

**Report
Approved**

Date 4.6.15.

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes

Annex 1 – Schedule 2 of the Contract for the Provision of Services

Annex 2 – Report of the Chief Executive of Explore

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Schedule 2

1. Description of the Services

The service shall fulfil the Council's statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 which states that: *It shall be the duty of every library authority to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons desiring to make use thereof.*

The service shall further Explore's vision, *to enable people to live fuller, more connected and engaged lives.*

Explore will deliver a comprehensive and efficient public library service increasing access to library services by providing excellent services, encouraging everyone to be a library member from birth, and giving York residents universal membership of all public libraries in England and Wales through membership of the Society of Chief Librarians.

Explore shall provide the following core offers:

i. The Health and Social Care Offer:

- A network of local hubs offering non-clinical community space where people can access free, impartial information and advice
- Community outreach supporting vulnerable people such as a home library service, and books on prescription
- Expert staff with up to date knowledge of health care services and providers in their local community and who will be able to signpost customers effectively to providers where clinical or specialist support is needed. They will do this with respect and confidentiality.
- Assisted on-line access to a range of websites by staff who are expert in mediated searches and able to locate information and online resources appropriate for the customer need and to facilitate and enable digital literacy
- Self-help, independent library resources including impartial health information to support people in making independent life decisions
- Health and care information services through partnership with agencies such as Age UK, Macmillan to signpost customers

- All sites to be dementia friendly
- Public health promotion activity working with the public health team
- Social and recreational reading opportunities like reading groups
- Volunteering and community engagement activities

ii. The Universal Reading Offer:

- Promoting the joy of reading through a range of activities and events
- Free access to book stock to browse and borrow in a variety of formats for all ages in which readers claim a legitimate interest
- A stock policy that reflects the community's requirements, promotes the stock, and provides the widest range of material within the resources available
- Average number of items added to stock per year over the life of the contract to be no lower than the number of items added to stock by the Council during the financial year 2013/14
- Access to the national book collection through inter library loan
- Support for reading groups
- Interactive catalogue and events that support and develop a community of readers. Connecting readers to other readers
- Promoting reading for children and young people, working with schools and early years settings
- Supporting literacy development at all ages
- Taking part in national reading promotions
- Services for targeted audiences within the universal offer

iii. The Universal Information Offer:

- Information from all sources, which has been researched by information professionals, giving a level of quality assurance to the user
- Expert staff, trained in reference work
- Provision of community information at each site and management of Yortime.org.uk

- Impartial reference and information allowing people to make informed decisions
- Access to local and family history resources
- Business and enterprise information supporting SMEs and people looking to start up in business
- Information on jobs and careers as well as job search workshops in partnership with York Learning
- Work with the Council's benefits team to deliver information on the range of and changes to benefits
- Expert help accessing rights, democracy and citizenship information
- Expert help accessing Gov.uk, york.gov.uk and other national and local government websites

iv. The Universal Digital Offer:

- Free access to the Internet for every resident
- Free WiFi in every library
- Clear and accessible online information about library services
- A range of online reference sources
- Ebooks
- Free help to get online and support once you are online
- Targeted work to get people online
- Surgeries to try out new technology such as tablets, ereaders etc.
- Mediated help online
- Staff trained to help customers access digital information
- Ability for customers to join online
- Ability to be contacted online/via email for answers to customer enquiries
- 24/7 access to services through a virtual library presence
- Ability to reserve & renew items remotely via an online catalogue

Explore shall deliver the following additional services:

i. An archive and local history service:

- Promoting access to the collections

- Ensuring, conservation, acquisitions and disposal of the collection
- Achieving archive accreditation within 4 years
- Supporting local democracy and accountability by identifying and preserving the key original records of York's local government through best practice professional records management
- Maintain free hands-on public access to the archive and local history collections both in York Explore and throughout our network of libraries
- Maintaining York as a National Archives Approved repository for legally-protected Public Records and Manorial Documents
- Developing partnerships with local community groups to increase the use of the archive and local history collections, and volunteer opportunities to get involved in preserving the collections
- Increasing the proportion of the archive and local history collections which are available online
- Working with local partners to increase educational use of the archive & Local history collections, and to develop the archives collections to support economic and tourism development
- Pursuing external funding to support these objectives
- Working in partnership with the Council to deliver all the Heritage Lottery Fund approved purposes of the York Gateway to History project grant, and specifically
- Delivering Approved Purpose Three ("to give hands on access to the archives") through the HLF approved Activity Plan attached as Appendix1 of this contract.

ii. Management of the Learning Network:

- Developing it in partnership with York Learning to support the curriculum

iii. Administration of YorkCard for the Council:

- Issuing YorkCards in accordance with the Council's eligibility criteria
- Negotiating new discounts from other providers
- Marketing the benefits of YorkCard

- Maintaining a marketing database for the use of the Council and administering the Yortime ebulletin

iv. Administration of the Yortime Service:

- Administering the Yortime mailing, maintaining the database of individuals' details in compliance with data protection requirements and seeking user permissions in order to make the data available to the Council free of charge for appropriate Council communications
- Operating the Yortime booking system, ensuring that the system is supported and maintained and leading on future system development in consultation with the Council's Learning Services. Where further development of the system is required by the Council and this incurs a development cost then the Council will be liable to pay for any further support costs. Where these development costs lead to further annual support costs these will be met by Explore. Where further development of the system is required by Explore and this incurs a development cost then Explore will be liable to pay for these further costs. (NB the data will remain in the ownership of the Council).
- Working in partnership with Learning Services to manage content generation and user access maintaining a joint post (this arrangement to be reviewed annually)

v. Provision of learning space for York Learning:

- Making no less than 50% of available room capacity for hire, free of charge, to York Learning

vi. Toy Library:

- Administering the toy library on the Library Mobile service in partnership with Children's Centres

Explore shall ensure that appropriate staff are deployed to carry out the service by:

- Retaining a professionally qualified chief librarian
- Retaining a qualified and designated Civic Archivist
- Retaining a core of qualified professionals

- Staff and volunteers appropriately trained to deliver the comprehensive and efficient service
- Paying all staff no less than the living wage

2. Specification Outcomes

The service shall deliver the following outcomes:

- a. Increased opportunities for residents to shape local services through volunteering roles and opportunities, evidenced by:
 - A widening range of volunteer roles within the service to support paid staff
 - Active membership of the York Volunteering Partnership
 - Partnerships with organisations to deliver services such as with the Royal Voluntary Service to deliver the Home Library Service
- b. “Co-production”: the active involvement of residents in decisions and service redesign of Explore’s services to meet local needs, evidenced by:
 - Opportunities for residents to elect two board members and to stand for the board
 - Friends groups and advisory groups which will be open to everyone of all ages
 - Workshops designed to include everyone and actively encouraging people from disadvantaged communities to take part which will build capacity through topics such as “how to be a board member”
- c. Residents increasingly supported to engage in planning, priority setting and problem solving generally in their communities, evidenced by:
 - Partnership working with the Council’s Communities and Equalities team to deliver a programme of engagement activities at each library designed to build community capacity
 - An identified space at every library where the Council can engage with and consult communities both online and face to face

- d. Increased investment in and championing of innovation, evidenced by:
- Seeking out national and international models of excellence and innovation, working with innovation platforms, such as Genius, promoting innovation through case studies, and implementing ideas in York where appropriate.
 - Innovative approaches to the preservation of and public access to the archives and local history collections through the “Gateway to History” and the “City Making History” projects including
 - Attracting external funding to invest in innovation
 - Partnerships with the Council’s ICT service to deliver innovative approaches to the use of new technology
- e. A wide range of communication channels enabling new ways for the Council and other agencies to interact with residents, evidenced by:
- Partnership working with the Council’s Customer Services to develop a new model of customer services in communities ranging from telephone access, to web access to face to face contact, with staff trained to support Council enquiries and to help people to get online
- f. Opportunities for children and young people to be actively involved in shaping Explore, evidenced by:
- Development of a special Advisory group for those age groups
 - Regular consultation with children and young people undertaken across the City
- g. Residents increasingly enabled to find answers to local problems, evidenced by:
- Improved access to life-critical information
 - Partnerships developed with other local providers to identify local need and develop appropriate solutions
 - Work with residents to develop skills that increase self-sufficiency, reducing demand on public services

h. Communities placed at the heart of everything Explore does through the development of community hubs – a flexible and welcoming space where everyone can come together for a wide range of activities and events – evidenced by:

- Realigned service provision within a network of community assets meeting identified community need providing a single point of co-ordination for community management
- Modern, outward looking, welcoming, customer first, flexible spaces where local residents can come together for a wide range of community activities
- The transition of other Council and third sector community based services into the hub
- Initiatives that reduce the Council's service delivery
- New "paid for" services for example linked to economic growth, new jobs
- Opportunities and resources to support residents to get involved in their community and the decisions that affect its development

The Council and Explore will cooperate to further the co-location of services within the hubs. Explore will not charge the Council or its key partners for their location and/or operation within hubs (other than to achieve cost recovery).

i. Enhanced transformation and efficiency across the business of the Council and other delivery agencies, evidenced by:

- Support to the Council's transformation projects notably in the area of Adult Social Care
- Provision of facilities and resources to engage the community in new ways of working

j. Inspiring learning available for all, evidenced by:

- Partnership with York Learning to support their delivery of a range of programmes in skills development and to prepare people for work
- State of the art learning spaces accessible to all
- Explore's active membership of the York Community Learning Trust

- Management of the Learning Network, planning developments with York Learning
 - Delivery of a range of learning programmes such as family and local history, reading, IT
 - Delivery of a digital inclusion learning programme that will get people online for free. All of our sites are UK Online Centres
 - Support for literacy at all ages
 - Access to the national book collection through inter library loan
 - Information literacy programmes delivered
 - Resources to support the National Curriculum
 - Developing self-organised learning
 - Quiet study spaces for individuals and groups
- k. Good relations between different communities living in York, evidenced by:
- Opportunities to celebrate diversity such as the Human Library, book displays and lectures
 - The building of York's multiple collective identities and memories by working with local people to identify and preserve the key records of all cultures and communities in the city
- l. The creation of high quality employment opportunities, evidenced by:
- New employment opportunities for residents including apprenticeships, employment support and employee assistance programmes
 - We will work with York Learning to provide a range of opportunities for NEETs, adults with learning disabilities and people recovering from mental health
- m. A Fairer York and narrowing the gaps, evidenced by:
- Furthering the principles of the Fairness Commission
 - Support for the financial inclusion strategy through the Small Changes partnership with CAB and Aviva

- n. Increased customer satisfaction with the service
 - Explore's Customer First standard, an in house programme to ensure excellent customer care
 - Achievement of the Customer Service Excellence award by year two of the contract

3. Performance Information

Explore shall provide information in respect of each quarter of the financial year, to be received by the Council no later than 6 weeks after the end of the quarter, detailing Explore's progress against the targets set out in Appendix 2 to this contract.

Explore York Libraries and Archives Mutual Ltd

Against a national picture of library closures, Explore continues to provide staffed services across the city. The summer has been a busy one with the annual Summer Reading Challenge. We are now looking towards autumn with an exciting programme of events at York Explore. This month we hold our first AGM for Explore Members.

Over the next few months we will be welcoming some new members of staff who will help us take Explore forward into our third year outside the council.

We decided to create a post of York Explore Manager. The development of our flagship needed a figurehead to realise our ambitions for it. Barbara Swinn from Northamptonshire will be starting this month, she comes with a wealth of experience of working in libraries, providing services for Children's Centres and setting up enterprise zones in libraries. Her key task is to make York Explore a real part of the city centre, creating new partnerships and developing existing ones. Her appointment comes at a time when a York Business Improvement District (BID) is being voted on. Explore attended the launch of this and is in support of it.

We are currently recruiting for a Reader Development Librarian. This exciting job will lead on promoting the joy of reading to everyone in York. On a sadder note, we said goodbye to Anthony Sinnott, who has been working with the Chief Executive and Board since before the transfer. Anthony's contribution to Explore has been significant. He helped to set up the organisation and to establish its finances and governance. His post will soon be advertised.

Our Chief Executive has been voted onto the National Executive of the Society of Chief Librarians (SCL). There is a great deal happening at national level for public libraries as the Taskforce set up by DCMS gets into its stride.

Highlights

- Summer Reading Challenge Record Breakers was very successful with 4,120 children taking part
- Over 30% increase in ebook lending
- 1,072 children attended activities through the summer
- Yornight (EU researchers night) on 25th September was a huge success with over 500 visitors. People were able to try out face morphing technology, Flying Scotsman cocktails, create their own family tree and interactive gaming on our new multi touch digital table! Bettany Hughes also took part talking about Making History Happen

Finance

Our financial aims are to reduce our expenditure, increase our potential to raise income and increase the amount of money we receive from a variety of funding bids. Our finances are currently being audited. Having complete control over our finances is enabling us to better manage them and the flexibility we have enables us to receive best value from all our transactions.

We are starting to investigate new strands of financing. We will be bidding into the Big Potential Lottery Fund. This is to enable organisations such as ourselves to become “social investment ready”.

We are now close to getting charitable status, which will allow us to develop a philanthropy strategy.

Home Library Service

Explore has a statutory duty to deliver library services to the whole population of York. This duty includes the provision of services to residents who have difficulties accessing mainstream library provision. We are working with the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) as a key partner agency. We are funding a part time post to deliver in the following areas:

- RVS volunteers deliver books and other literary material to housebound people. We want to increase the number of people accessing this service

- Recruitment and training of volunteers to provide support to help housebound people to get online. We will provide tablets and laptops for this purpose.
- As far as is possible, we want to facilitate people coming into libraries for coffee mornings and other events
- We currently deliver boxes of books to Elderly People's Homes. We want to expand this service through volunteers to facilitate reading groups and help people get online. We also want to enable individuals to choose their own books rather than just have a box to pick from
- RVS will be providing training to our staff in dementia awareness

Inclusive Arts and Media

Explore has a strong commitment to inclusive arts and has been working on a variety of projects. There is a full listing of these in Annex 1. Highlights are a bid to the Arts Council for a three year programme to establish York Explore as an inclusive, accessible, creative, cultural space in the city centre. The bid will be submitted before Christmas. In the meantime we are delivering the successful bid from CYC Delivery of Innovation Fund. Lab46 will pilot the use of emerging touch screen technology, to connect people with media, the arts, reading and learning in accessible and playful new ways and encourage co creation in shared spaces for social innovation and fun.

Children and Young People

We have signed up to the national Children and Young People's Promise. This sets out the public library services offer to children and young people and has been devised by ASCEL (Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians).

- Every child and young person visiting a public library is inspired by an exciting accessible environment which makes reading for pleasure irresistible.
- They have the opportunity to engage with imaginative digital opportunities through public libraries, building their skills, knowledge and creativity.
- They will find a range of inclusive and diverse fiction and non-fiction books and other information resources to support growing confidence in literacy and formal and informal learning.

- They are able to take part in a wide range of literacy and cultural experiences including reading and book-based activities.
- They are actively involved in decisions about service developments and are offered opportunities to volunteer.
- They are supported through library services and activities to improve their health and wellbeing.

The Promise covers children and young people from birth to eighteen and sets out the “library journey” that children should experience as they grow. It also highlights how the Promise links to the national public library universal offers. Our contract is based on the universal offers (compiled by the Society of Chief Librarians)

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children aged 4-11 to read six books through the summer. Prizes are given after each book, with a medal and certificate of completion at the end. The Challenge has been proven to help children keep up with their reading through the long break from school, enabling them to avoid a dip in their literacy level. We work with all the primary schools in York and award a cup to the school with the highest percentage of completers.

As well as encouraging children to enjoy reading, we work with young volunteers to put on a programme of events and activities in all of our libraries. Mad Hatter’s Tea Parties, Lego animation workshops, Pit Yourself Against a Record and Arts Award Mud Pie Arts drop ins were happening across York and thousands of children took part.

This year we also worked with partners, York Theatre Royal, York Museums Trust and the Minster to deliver activities around the Arts Award. This was part of a national pilot of partnership working supported by Cape UK. 40 children were successful (increase from 25 last year) and were awarded their Arts Award.

Our celebration event this year will be our biggest yet with 1,000 people attending! It is at the University this month and a fun afternoon with poetry and prizes is in store for children who completed the Challenge.

Chatterbooks:

We run Chatterbooks reading groups for 7 – 12 year olds in four libraries, Acomb, Haxby, Tang Hall, Clifton and York. Chatterbooks is a national initiative from The Reading Agency and our groups have been chosen as Star Reviewers and will be reviewing books for the national

website. Being part of a reading group builds children's confidence and encourages them to read more widely and develop a lifelong reading habit.

Toy Library:

The Toy Library was launched in May and has been a resounding success. York, Clifton and Acomb have the most borrowed toys, but most libraries are now issuing them. Since the launch we have issued 267 toys. We make a small charge of 50p per toy so have collected £133.50 which goes back into the collection and we are looking for additional ways to fund adding new toys to the collection.

Community Learning

Explore continues to support community learning in many ways, not least by making spaces available to groups. For example, every month the Yorkshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers set up their spinning wheels in the café at Acomb Explore and talk to people about how to spin wool.

As a member of the York Community Learning Partnership, we hosted the Adult Learner Awards in June at York Explore. It was a wonderful evening celebrating adult learning and the amazing learners. It is always very humbling to read the nominations about how people overcome so many difficulties to keep learning. We were especially proud as the Craft Club from Acomb Explore won the Informal Learning Group Award. The Club have been meeting at Acomb for some years and now have over 30 members. They are a really good example of how we support community groups. They learn from each other, whether it is how to knit socks or how to crochet and they support Acomb Explore. We have craft clubs at several of our libraries and the skill and expertise is simply staggering. Last year Copmanthorpe's group knitted them a sleigh with reindeers!

Our Mint Yard Lectures series has returned after a summer break with an exciting programme through the autumn. This series focuses on the history of York and the name is taken from the piece of land in which York Explore sits.

Archives

The Gateway to History HLF project is now nearing its end. So much has been achieved and we are working now to ensure the legacy is assured. The archive is safely housed in a purpose built store and work continues on cataloguing to make more easily accessible to people.

What is next for the archive? We are submitting a bid to the Wellcome Trust, entitled Past Caring? : York City Health and Poor Law Records, 1837-2003. The project will catalogue and conserve over 100 metres of archive collections relating to health and poverty in the city of York between 1837 and 2003. The archives of the Poor Law Union and Workhouse, Medical Officer of Health, Department of Health and Department of Environmental Health and Housing will be sorted, described and made accessible to researchers for the first time. A structured online catalogue, indexed using standard and specialised thesauri, will allow records to be rapidly discovered. Essential preservation and conservation work will ensure that the 1479 bound volumes are in a fit state to use.

Digital Inclusion

Explore is the Smart City lead for digital skills and engagement. We already work with many agencies across the city to help people get online. Libraries are uniquely placed to be the leading provider of basic digital support in the city. We have reach across all communities and provide free access to fixed PCs and WiFi, as well as ongoing support for all. In December we will be holding a workshop to promote and facilitate further collaboration.

We provide ongoing basics support internally with a core digital learning offer as well as frequent special events and involvement in delivery of national initiatives such as Get Online Week, Be Online Fortnight, Spring Online, 50+ Festival and Parliament Week. We are starting to work with Be Independent to lend Hudls to their clients who want to try out being online before committing to buying equipment.

Home Outreach

As well as providing support in external public locations, we are beginning to enter people's homes to enable comprehensive access to basic digital support for people who are housebound. This will be delivered by a core team of digital champions, volunteers and Home

Library Service staff who will take mobile devices and mobile wifi routers into people's homes during routine visits to help them improve their health and wellbeing via digital resources. This supports independent living and opens a world of possibilities to people who are housebound, they can shop online, choose their own library books, skype their family

Public libraries are beginning to work nationally through The Society of Chief Librarians (SCL) to be a key provider for the Government Digital Service (GDS) to provide digital training and digital support services to reduce the number of digitally excluded people in the UK, by removing the barriers presented by lack of access, digital skills, vulnerability or motivation. In York, we already provide daily support for people in many ways. With more and more government services becoming available online there is an increasing need for digital assisted services. This involves more individual support and advanced training needs for our staff.

Survey of fixed PCs

In August and September we conducted a survey of people using our fixed PCs. We wanted to know why people are using our PCs to see if the demand for them is falling as smartphones and tablets proliferate. What we discovered was that people use our PCs:

- Because we have a faster connection than they do at home
- They don't have a pc or internet connection at home
- For Word
- To apply for jobs
- For email
- To print as they no longer have printers at home
- For the bigger screen and keyboard to do things that are harder on tablets and smartphones
- To access services that we offer for free e.g. Ancestry and Which?

People are planning to continue to use the PCs for the foreseeable future and they are using them more than once a week.

This information is helping us to understand the importance of the fixed PCs and that they will continue to be needed over the next few years.

We have submitted a bid in partnership with the council's IT for £28k to upgrade the WiFi network. This is a national fund to ensure that all

libraries in the country have WiFi. We expect to hear if we have been successful later this month.

Performance

As York was closed for seven months last year we need to compare our performance with 2013/14. In both visits and issues libraries are performing differently. Overall both are showing a decline – but that masks a more complex picture. Some of our smaller libraries are doing well. When we look at visits we can see that Acomb is up 14% and Huntington up 20%. Others are not performing as well, for instance Fulford down 28% and Strensall down 22%. Look at book issues and Fulford are 17% up and Haxby is 14% up. Down are Acomb 19% and Poppleton at 27%. There will be local factors to take into account and so our performance team are looking in depth at everything and we will be making a number of interventions.

Further investigation of book issues shows that ebook loans are up 123% whilst those of all other formats are down. Obviously there is a growing demand for ebooks and for audio downloads, but the actual numbers are small in comparison to the size of our printed stock, so it comes with a caveat. A recent national survey by the Bookseller of young people showed that they might prefer print books to ebooks. 64% preferred print compared to 16% who preferred ebooks.

An observational survey was done at York Explore in September by Sovibrant. We wanted to know where people went in the building and how easy they found it to find what they wanted. There was also a survey conducted outside in Library Square and at various other points in the city centre asking people if they knew where the library is and what they think the building is. The results show that there is a real lack of knowledge of both what the building contains and where the library and archive for the city is. People thought the building was the court, not open to the public or were just unsure. This shows the need for improved signage both on the front of the building and in Library Square to give it an open, approachable external look. We are writing a planning application for this signage. Internal signage is also needed to make it easier to find what you want, but also to discover other things in the true spirit of Explore. The adult fiction will be re-shelved to make it more appealing and the area given a light, airy feel.

Observation also showed that many people are put off by large groups of people who spend long periods of time in the Square. When they weren't there, more people stopped and looked or came in. This is a continuation of the anti social behaviour we have suffered from this year. The hoarding cutting off half of the Square is creating a bottleneck and it is often difficult to make your way through. We are working with Police and other agencies, but we need a better, more permanent solution. Perhaps removal of the benches until the building work next door is completed would help. It can be frustrating for the staff who face this daily and spend time dealing with negative incidents.

Looking ahead

There are many events at York Explore this autumn, something for everyone. The Bloodaxe Reading Challenge begins for children. This works with York Archaeological Trust and continues through to February and the Viking Festival. We are starting to plan next summer's reading activities – the return of the Big City Read and another Reading Challenge.

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Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee**20 October 2015**

Report of the Director of Children Services, Education and Skills

School Improvement Update**Summary**

1. This report provides information about school performance in 2015 – see Annex A, and information about the position of schools according to Ofsted judgements as of 9th October 2015. It also provides information about the development and implementation of the new arrangements to support school improvement from September 2015.

Primary and secondary school performance 2015

2. **Early Years Foundation Stage.** Outcomes for the Early Years Foundation Stage show 70% of pupils achieving a good level of development in 2015. This is 4 percentage points above the national average and an improvement of 6 percentage points between 2014 and 2015. The pupil premium gap is 17 percentage points, which has maintained the improvement made in 2014. Between 2013 and 2015 the gap has closed by 12 percentage points.
3. **Key Stage 1.** The percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard in phonics in Year 1 improved by 1 percentage point in 2015. 78% of pupils achieved the expected standard this is 1 percentage point above the national average in 2015. The pupil premium gap for this indicator is 14% in 2015, which means that the gap has narrowed by 1 percentage point between 2014 and 2015. Between 2013 and 2015 the pupil premium gap in phonics has narrowed by 7 percentage points.
4. In 2015 84% of pupils achieved level 2B+ in reading at the end of KS1. This was an improvement of 3 percentage points from 2014 and is 2 percentage points above the national average. 71% of pupils achieved Level 2B+ in writing, which is an improvement of 2 percentage points from 2014 and 1 percentage point below the national average. 82% of pupil achieved level 2B+ in mathematics, an improvement of 4 percentage points from 2014 and in line with the national average.

Continuing to improve outcomes in KS1 remains a priority however the 2015 results have shown the impact of actions to bring about improvement at both city and individual school level. The pupil premium gap has narrowed across all three core subjects in 2015, with a significant narrowing being seen in outcomes in writing¹

5. **Key Stage 2.** 81% of pupils achieved L4+ in reading, writing and mathematics combined in 2015. This was an improvement of 2 percentage points from 2014 and is 1 percentage point above the national average. There have been significant improvements in outcomes in writing in 2015 which was an area targeted for improvement in previous years. This improvement in writing has also been reflected by an improvement of 3 percentage points in the percentage of pupils making expected progress between KS1 and KS2 and is 1 percentage point above the national average.
6. The pupil premium gaps in for attainment in reading and writing at Level 4B+ remained the same as in 2014, but widened in mathematics.
7. Priorities for improvement in 2015-16 are to improve attainment and progress in mathematics and to continue to close the pupil premium gap consistently across all key stages.
8. **Key Stage 4.** Provisional outcomes for KS4 indicate that 64% of pupils achieved 5A*-C including English and mathematics on first entry. This is an improvement of 2 percentage points. This improvement is in the context of further significant changes to the KS4 curriculum and examination system. This currently places York in first position in the Yorkshire and Humber region with North Yorkshire. National benchmarking data, including pupil premium data will become available in late October/early November.
9. **Key Stage 5.** Outcomes in KS5 saw strong improvement in 2015 with both the school sixth forms and York College reporting significant improvements in the percentage of students achieving Level 3 qualifications. The percentage of students in school sixth forms achieving the highest grades of A*-B in three or more subjects at A level improved by 3 percentage points to 42% in 2015. There was a similar improvement in the percentage of students achieving three or more A levels at grades A*-E, resulting on 94% of students achieving three or more A levels in 2015.

¹ See Annex 1: Key Stage Results

Ofsted Judgements - Update

10. Our ambition in York is that every child and young person attends a school that is judged as good or better. As of 9th October 2015 89% of our secondary schools are good or outstanding, and 88% of our primaries are good or outstanding, with 100% of our special schools are good or outstanding. This means that overall, of the 64 schools in the city, 89% are good or outstanding.
11. This currently places York above the national average for the percentage of good and better schools, with nationally 81.4% of all schools being judged good or better, 84% of primary schools judged good or better and 77.7% of secondary schools judged good or better.
12. The outcomes of Ofsted inspections since September 2014 are:
 - Dringhouses Primary secured good.
 - Elvington Primary secured good.
 - New Earswick Primary remained as requiring improvement.
 - Osbaldwick moved from good to requiring improvement.
 - Skelton Primary secured good.
 - Woodthorpe Primary remained as requiring improvement.
13. Overall this is a positive and improving picture for the city, with the priority being to ensure that schools requiring improvement move rapidly to good and that the percentage of good and outstanding schools across all phases of education continues to remain significantly above national averages.

Update on the new arrangements to support school improvement

14. Since 2010 the local authority's role in school improvement has been changing. An increasingly diverse school system has placed responsibility for school improvement directly on to schools and has seen local authorities moving away from being providers of school improvement towards commissioning and quality assuring sector led school improvement.
15. Nationally the development of teaching schools and system leader roles such as National Leaders of Education, Local Leaders of Education and Specialist Leaders of Education have been the key elements in creating the capacity to support the self improving school system. In York we

currently have three Teaching Schools, two teaching school alliances (Ebor and Pathfinder), 4 National Leaders of Education, 9 Local Leaders of Education and 32 Specialist Leaders of Education. Since 2013 we have also been developing school to school support through the geographical cluster model. This provides the infrastructure to support the transformation of the delivery of school improvement in York seeing the move away from the local authority as the provider of school improvement through a large retained team of advisers and consultants to a quality assurance role, providing challenge and holding schools to account for their own improvement.

16. In October 2014, the Council's Cabinet approved the business case for school improvement which proposed the radical restructuring of the local authority's retained school improvement team from a provider team to a smaller quality assurance team which would work with headteachers, system leaders and the two teaching school alliances and the clusters to develop sustainable and high quality school-led school improvement arrangements.
17. September 2015 has seen the implementation of these new arrangements. The local authority school improvement team has been restructured and now consists of four senior school improvement professionals whose roles are focused on the commissioning and quality assurance of school improvement activity in the city. The focus of their work will be on ensuring that the impact of this activity is clearly evidenced and schools are being held effectively to account for their own improvement. In April 2015 Schools Forum agreed to the use of funding from the Direct Schools Grant (DSG) to be used as a commissioning fund to develop the new model of sector-led school improvement. This is being achieved through the commissioning of school to school support from the Ebor Teaching Schools Alliance and continuing professional development from the Pathfinder Teaching Schools Alliance.² The new arrangements are part of an annual commissioning cycle which is focused on ensuring that commissioned work addresses the priorities for improvement identified by the local authority's school improvement team through its annual cycle of self evaluation and risk assessment.
18. Embedding these new arrangements and evaluating their effectiveness will be the main priority during 2015-16 and regular reports on progress will be submitted to both the Schools Forum and the executive board of the York Learning Partnership.

² See Annex 2 The Interim Commissioning Plan

Recommendations

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

Reason: To update the committee on school performance in 2014/15. and the new arrangements to support school improvement.

Author:	Chief Officer Responsible for this report:
Maxine Squire Assistant Director, Education & Skills Adults, Children & Education 01904 553007	Jon Stonehouse, Director, Children Services, Education & Skills

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Annex 1: Key Stage Results 2015

Annex 2: The Interim Commissioning Plan

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2015 Key Stage Results (Provisional)

Hannah.McNamee@york.gov.uk

Strategic Support Manager

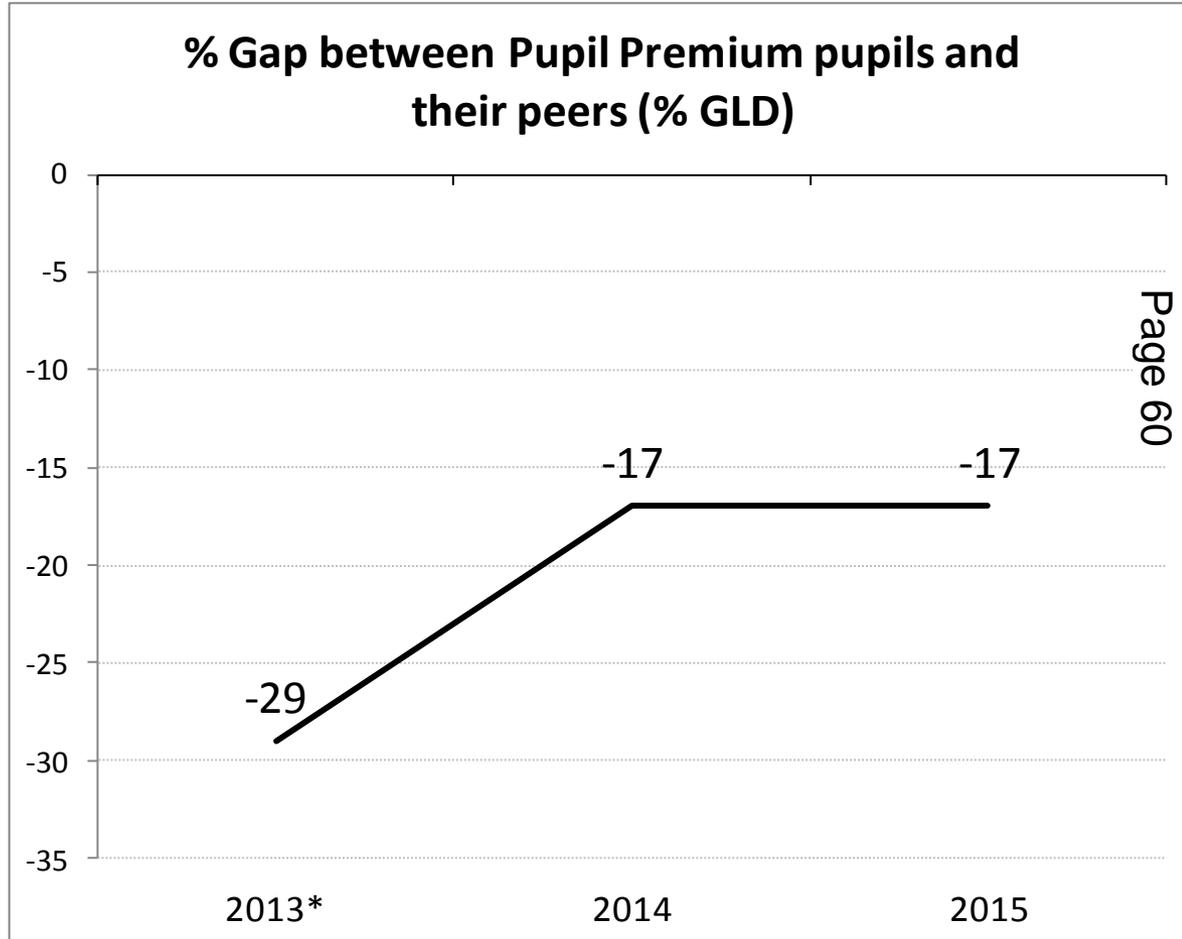
(Services for Children, Young People & Education)

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

70%

achieving a 'Good Level of Development'

- ↑ 6pts from 2014
- 4pts above national



Phonics Screening Check ^{ANNEX 1}

78%

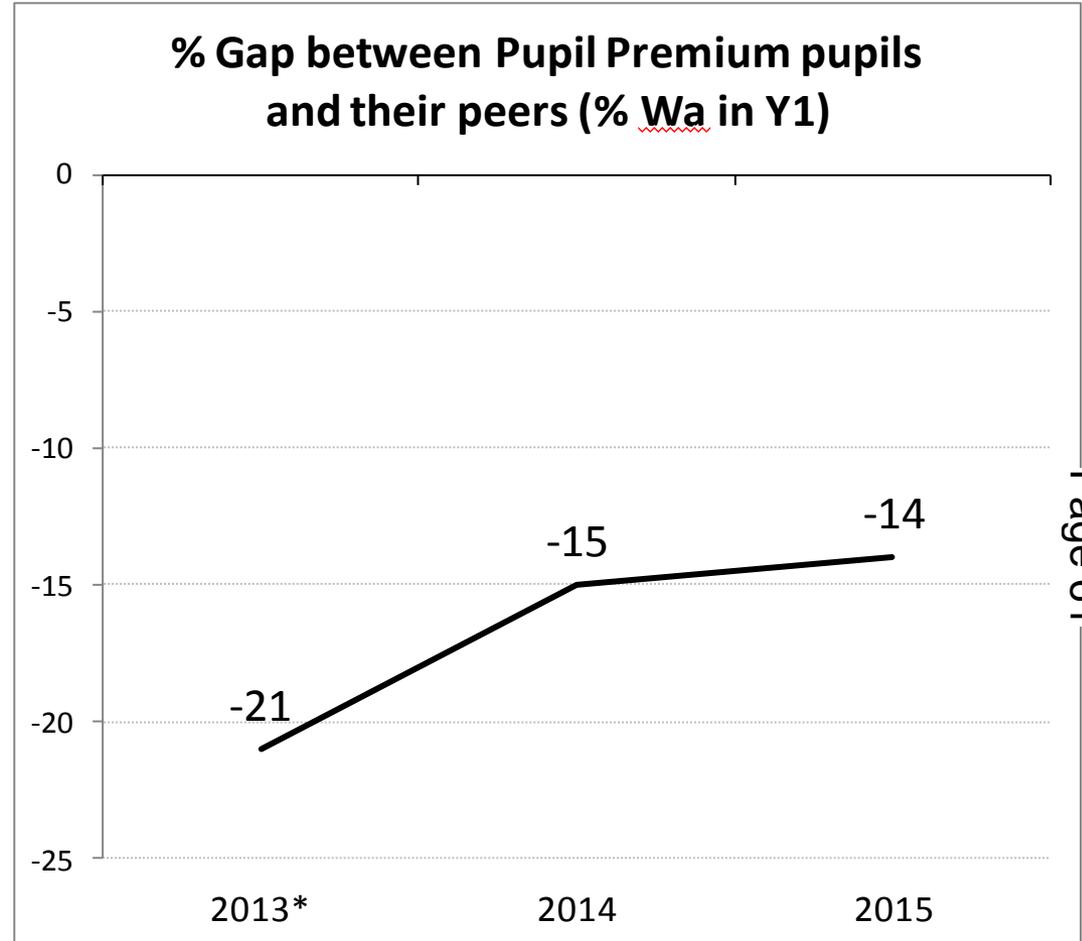
working at the required standard in Year 1

- ↑ 1pt from 2014
- 1pt above national

91%

working at the required standard by end Year 2

- 2014 National 88%



Key Stage 1 – L2B+

84%

achieving Level 2B+
in Reading

• ↑ 3pts from 2014, 2 above national

71%

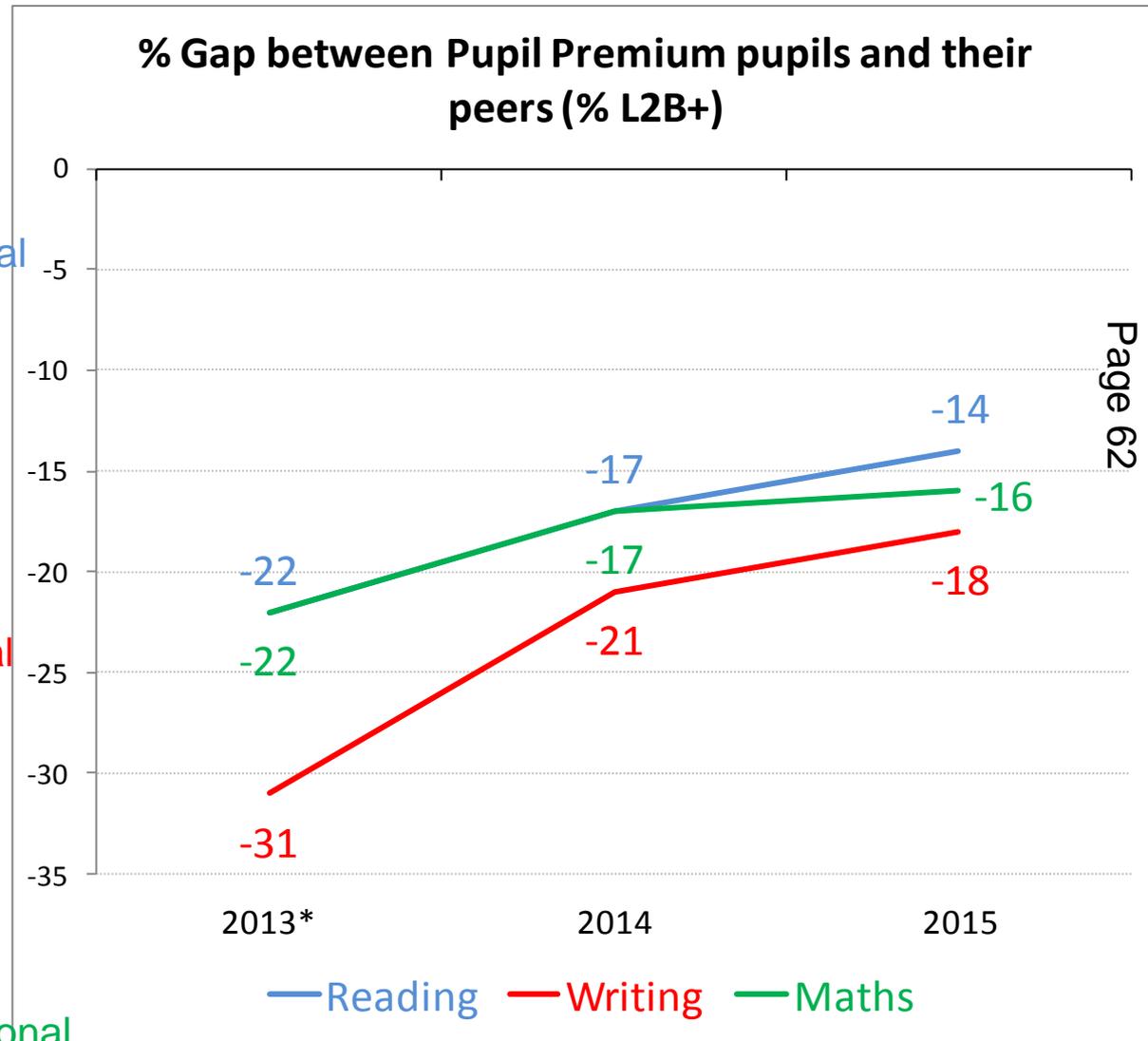
achieving Level 2B+
in Writing

• ↑ 2pts from 2014, 1 below national

82%

achieving Level 2B+
in Maths

• ↑ 4pts from 2014, in line with national

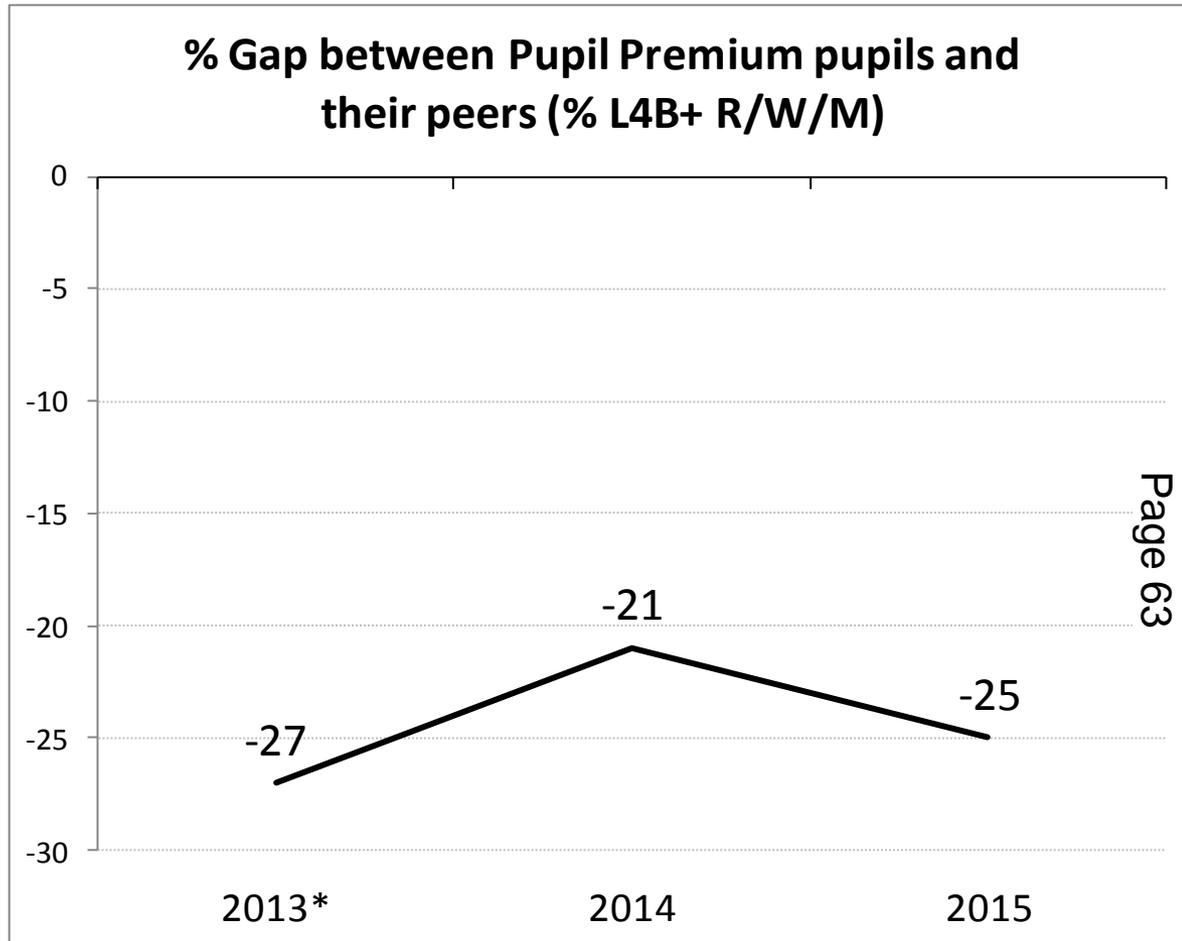


Key Stage 2 – L4B+

68%

achieving Level 4B+ in
Reading, Writing &
Maths

- ↓ 1pt from 2014
- 1pt below national



Key Stage 2 – L4B+

80%

achieving Level 4B+
in Reading

- ↑ 1pt from 2014, in line with national

88%

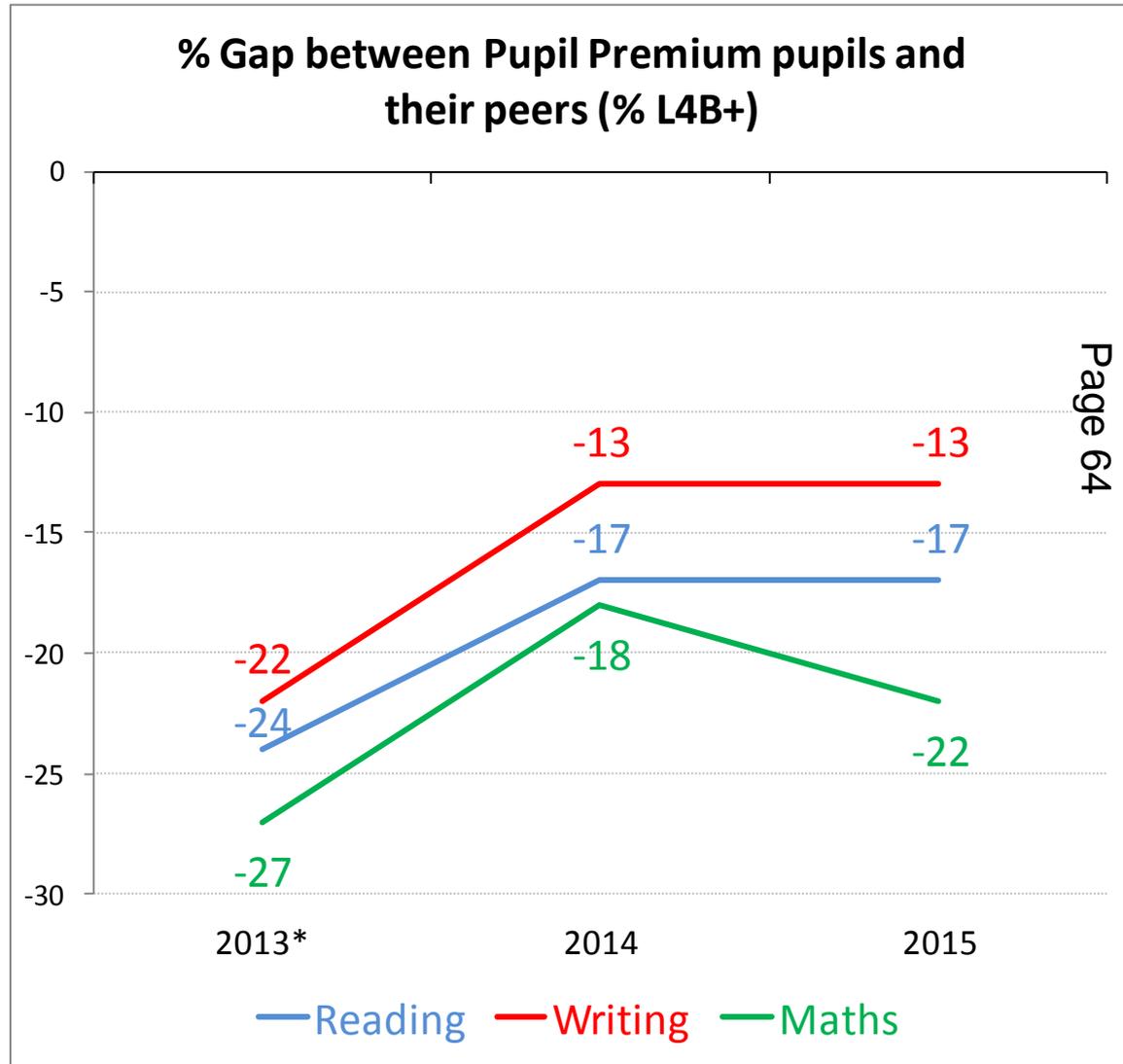
achieving Level 4B+
in Writing

- ↑ 3pts from 2014, 1 above national

75%

achieving Level 4B+
in Maths

- ↓ 3pts from 2014, 2 below national



Progress: Key Stage 1-2

ANNEX 1

91%

achieving 2 Levels Progress in Reading

- ↓ 1pt from 2014, in line with national

94%

achieving 2 Levels Progress in Writing

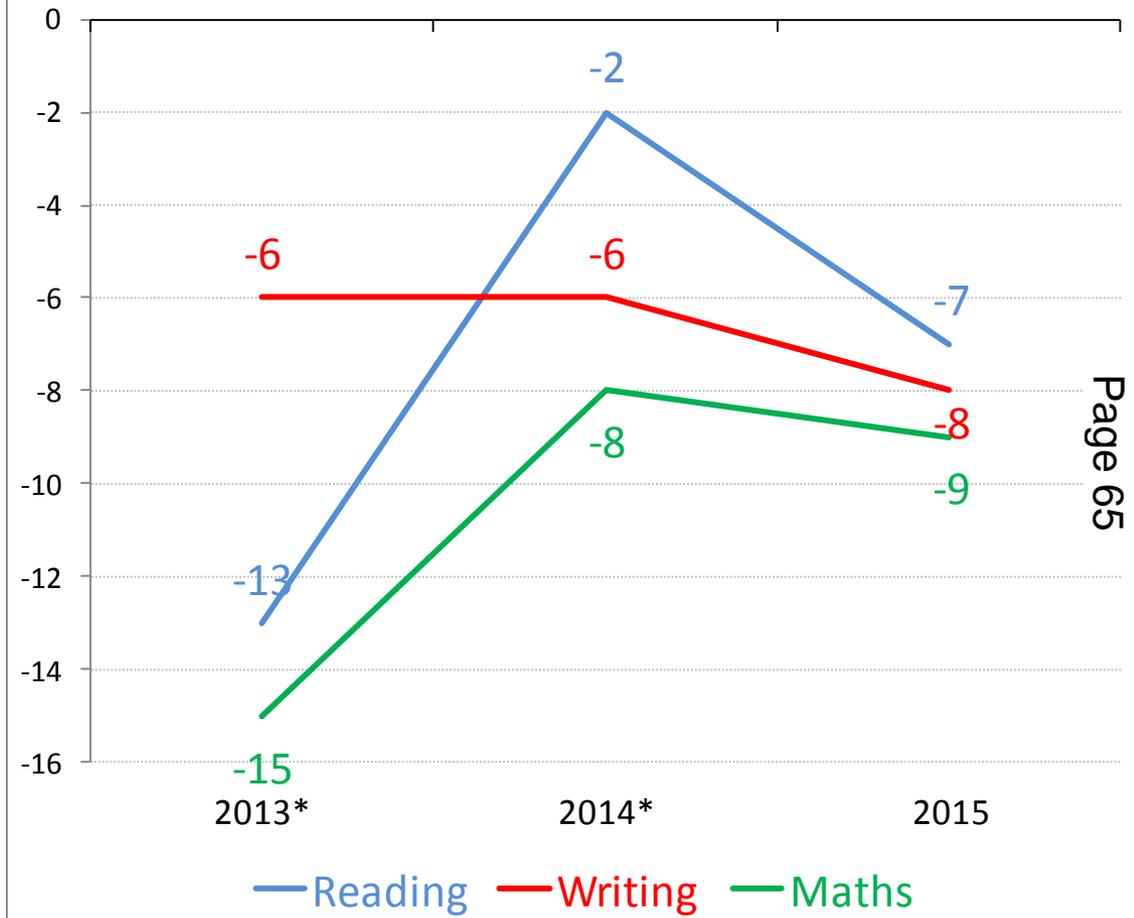
- ↑ 3pts from 2014, 1 above national

89%

achieving 2 Levels Progress in Maths

- ↓ 2pts from 2014, in line with national

% Gap between Pupil Premium pupils and their peers (% 2LP)



Page 65

Key Stage 4

64%

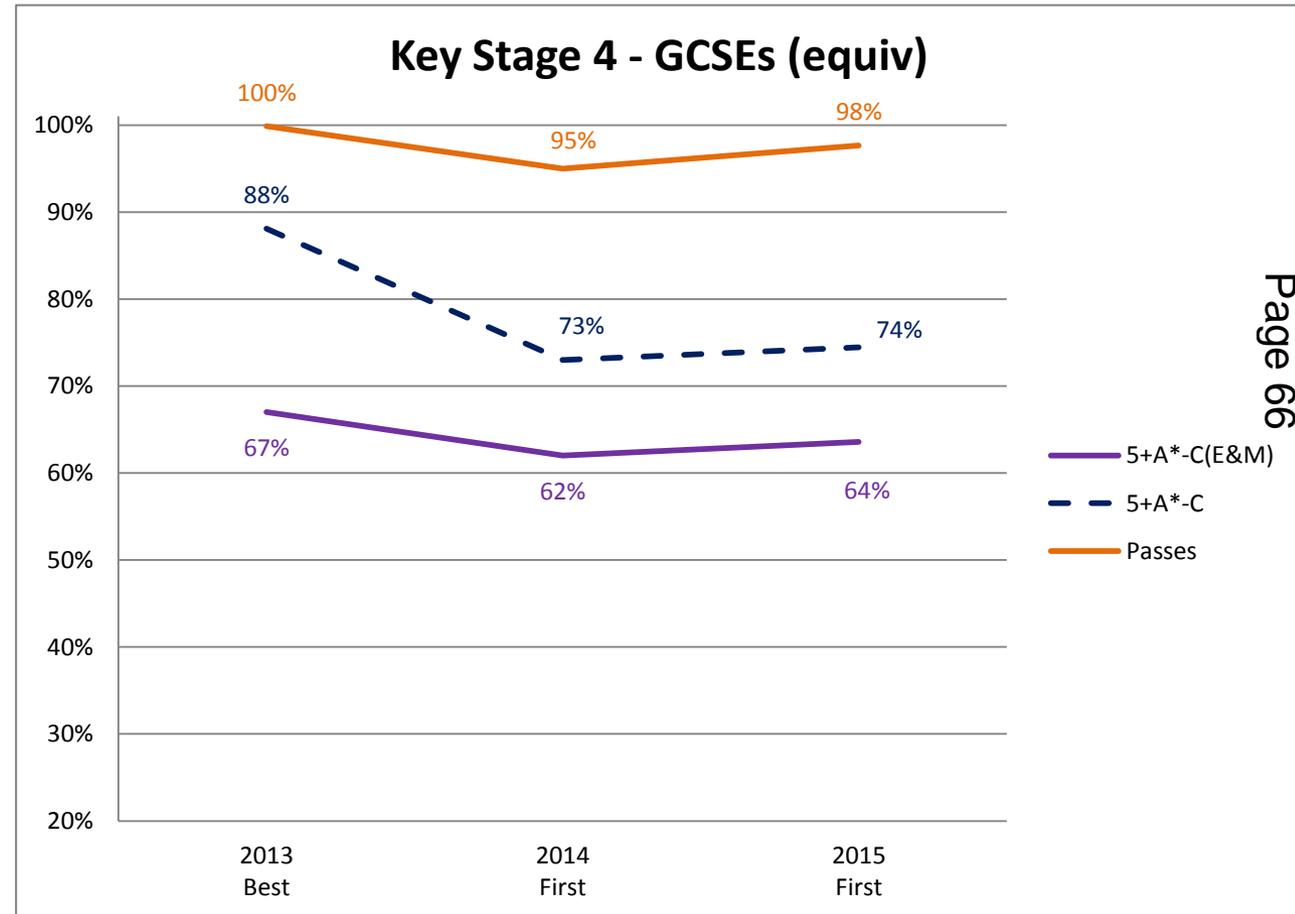
5+ A*-C incl. E&M

- ↑ 2pts from 2014

74%

5+ A*-C (any)

- ↑ 1pt from 2014



Key Stage 4 – English and Maths

74%

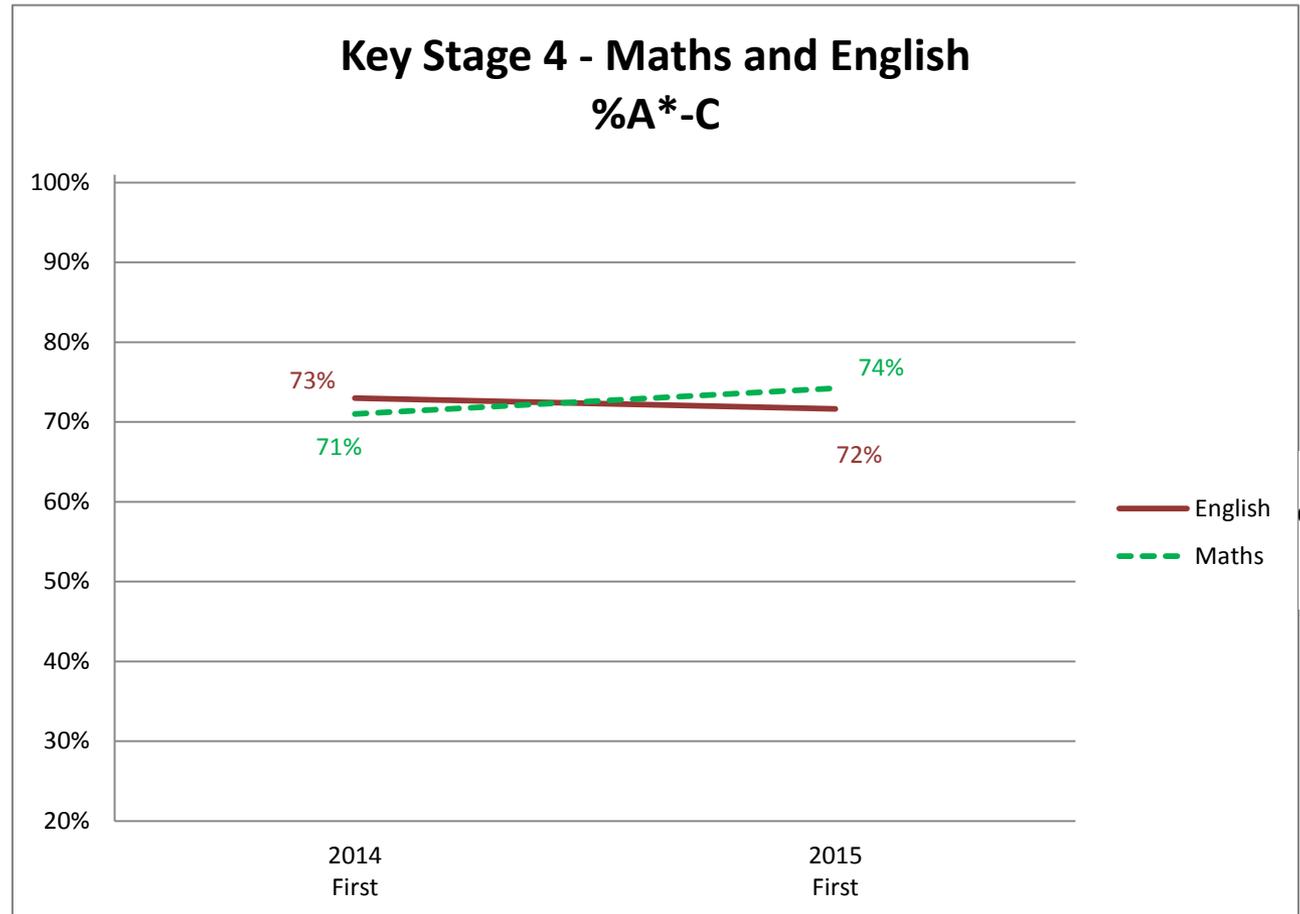
A*-C Maths

• ↑ 3pts from 2014

72%

A*-C English

• ↓ 1pt from 2014



Key Stage 5

94%

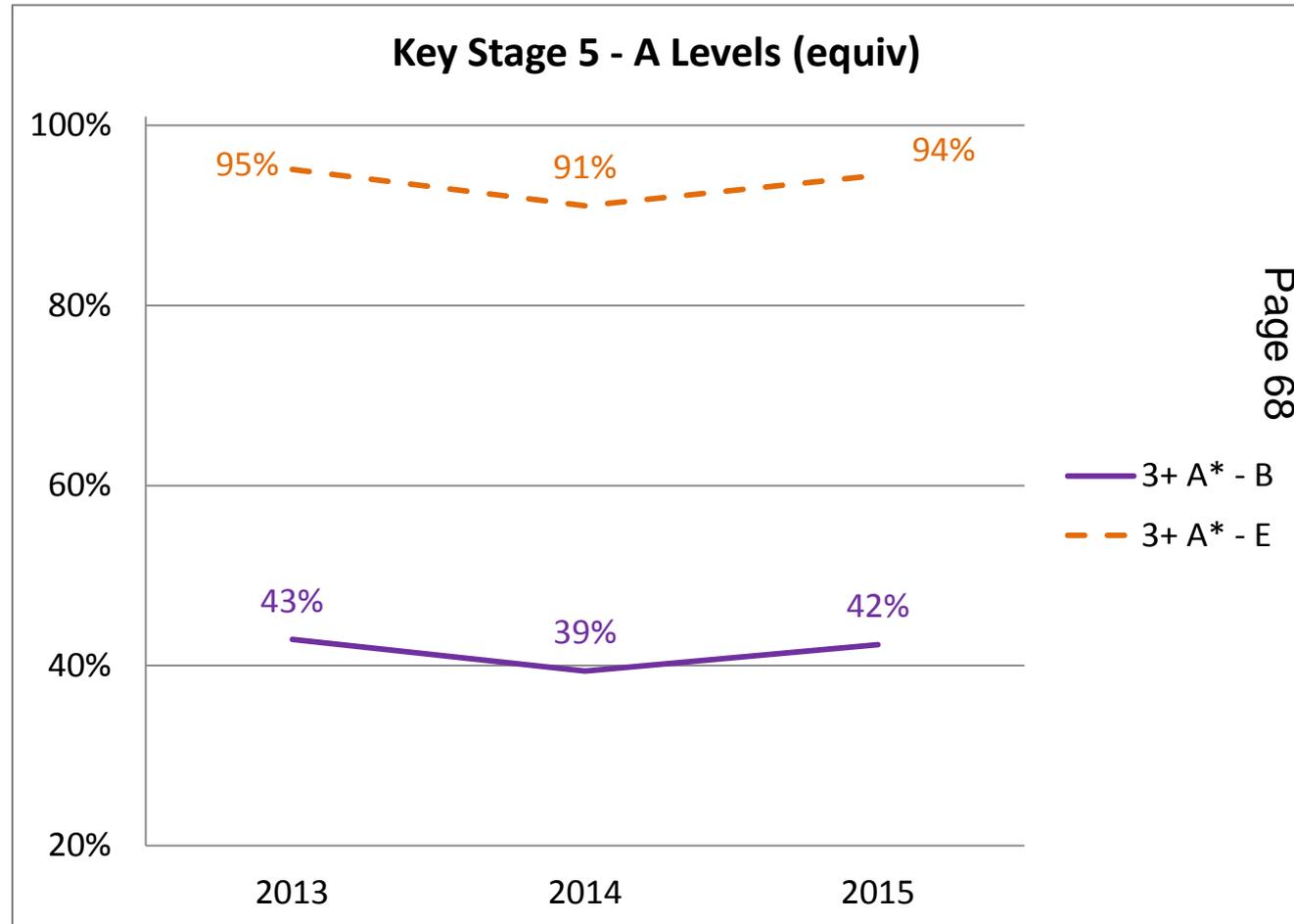
3+ A*-E

- ↑ 3pts from 2014

42%

3+ A*-B

- ↑ 3pts from 2014



York Learning Partnership

School Improvement Interim Commissioning Plan

Academic Year 2015/16

York Learning Partnership

School Improvement Interim Commissioning Plan 2015/16

The local authority will work with the headteacher members of the School Improvement Commissioning Group (SICG) and the chair of the York Learning Partnership to produce an annual commissioning plan drawn from a needs-based analysis to identify the school improvement priorities in the city. The commissioning plan will be presented to the School Improvement Commissioning Group and the members of the Schools Forum. The SICG agree the commissioning plan and recommend the funding agreement to the Schools Forum who will agree to the use of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to support the school improvement activities outlined in the commissioning plan.

Commissioning principles

- 1) The York Learning Partnership (YLP) is committed to providing **all** children and young people in York with a great education through ensuring that every school in the city is a great school.
- 2) Members of the YLP School Improvement Commissioning Group (SICG) take corporate responsibility for the use of the commissioning fund, which is de-delegated by the School's Forum from the DSG, to benefit **all** children and young people in the city so that outcomes improve, gaps are closed and barriers to improvement are removed.
- 3) All schools will benefit from the use of funding to commission CPD from Pathfinder Teaching School Alliance, which will be used to address the city's improvement priorities.
- 4) The use of school-to-school support funding will be prioritised to commission Ebor Teaching School Alliance to provide support for all schools that are not yet good or are at risk of losing their existing good status so that they to move to good within two years or are securely good at their next inspection.
- 5) The use of funding will be prioritised to ensure that gaps in performance between disadvantaged pupils and their peers are closed.
- 6) The impact of all commissioned interventions is reported to the School's Forum and the executive board of the York Learning Partnership.

The role of the Teaching School Alliances

York currently has two teaching school alliances (TSA), Ebor and Pathfinder. The teaching schools have a national, regional and local reach which provides York with the capacity to draw on York-based school improvement professionals and to benefit from the external links which the teaching schools are able to exploit. This allows York to benefit from internal strengths whilst remaining outward facing.

Ebor and Pathfinder have access to National College of Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) system leaders who can be used to develop CPD and school to school support at whole school, subject and individual teacher levels.

The two teaching schools will be commissioned to deliver against priorities outlined in the commissioning plan. Ebor TSA will be commissioned to lead the coordination and delivery of school-to-school support, and Pathfinder TSA will be commissioned to coordinate, plan and deliver needs-led CPD packages.

School-to-school support covers a broad spectrum of activity from individual coaching of teachers to improve classroom practice to whole school intervention in a failing school.

York Learning Partnership

Funding to support clusters

The six geographical clusters in the city have been allocated funding from the School Improvement Commissioning Fund (£125,000). This funding has been allocated to build the capacity to drive sector led school improvement in localities. The focus of collaborative work in clusters is determined by the improvement priorities identified in each cluster, but could include:

- 1) Improving the quality of teaching
- 2) Effective use of the pupil premium to close gaps between disadvantaged pupils and their peers
- 3) Developing middle and/or senior leadership
- 4) Improving behaviour and attendance.
- 5) Supporting effective transitions

Each cluster completes an annual cluster improvement plan which outlines the focus of the cluster work, how the cluster funding will be used and how the impact of cluster work will be monitored and evaluated. Cluster chairs are accountable to the YLP for the use of cluster funding to deliver the outcomes outlined in the cluster improvement plan.

Funding to support category 3 and 4 schools

The partnership believes that **all** children and young people in York should be able to attend great schools. This will allow them to realise their ambitions and live their dreams. As a partnership of educators we will work together to support or schools to be good or better.

Schools that are yet good or are at risk of losing their current good judgements will be prioritised for support commissioned by the School Improvement Commissioning Group (SICG).

Improvement Priorities 2015/16

The following improvement priorities have been produced using national and local data sets, local intelligence provided by York Challenge Partners and the LAs risk assessment process.

Priority 1: Ensuring all schools are good or better

As of March 2015, **7** schools have Ofsted judgements of **requiring improvement**. Each of these schools has been prioritised for support and the interim commissioning plan will be used to commission targeted support for each of these schools. A support plan will be written for each school and this plan will outline the intended outcomes of the commissioned support. Commissioned interventions will be managed through the Ebor Teaching School Alliance and will depend on the needs and circumstances of individual schools but can include:

- 1) Support from a partner headteacher (including NLEs and LLEs and heads from neighbouring LAs)
- 2) Support to improve the quality of governance
- 3) Additional leadership or teaching capacity
- 4) Support from an SLE to improve a subject or aspect

The impact of commissioned interventions will be monitored and evaluated by the SICG and reported to the YLP executive board and the Schools Forum. Commissioned interventions will be included as part of the support plans and LA statements of action for grade 3 and grade 4 schools.

York Learning Partnership

Priority 2: Support for 'At Risk' schools

Through the process of annual risk assessment the local authority uses the following criteria to review the progress schools are making and to identify whether schools currently graded as good would be at risk of losing that status at their next inspection. These schools are prioritised for commissioned support.

Risk assessment criteria:

- Attainment and progress is below floor standards
- Value added is significantly below national for the core subjects and/or identified pupil groups
- There are wide gaps in performance between identified pupil groups e.g. gender, pupil premium, SEN etc and their peers
- There are wide gaps in performance between English and mathematics
- The quality of teaching is inconsistent across phases and/or subjects
- There are wide variations in performance between phases
- There are concerns about the quality of leadership (headteacher, senior and/or middle leaders)
- There have been significant changes in the context of the school since the previous inspection
- There are concerns about the quality of governance
- The school is not using its resources well to improve the quality of education and improve the well being of its pupils
- There are concerns about the behaviour, safety and attendance of pupils
- The school is failing to discharge its statutory duties effectively
- The school is failing to promote the social, moral, cultural and spiritual development of its pupils

Schools identified at risk will be identified for support by the School Improvement Commissioning Group. Support could include:

- Leadership support from an NLE, LLE, SLE or YLE
- Support for governance from an NLG or YLG. This could include an external review of governance conducted by an NLG
- Targeted CPD
- Use of SLEs to support improvements at subject level
- A Pupil Premium Review

The impact of commissioned support will be monitored by the SICG and reported to the YLP Executive Board, the School Improvement Monitoring Group and the Schools Forum.

Priority 3: Schools due for re-inspection during 2015/16

Under the current inspection framework there are **13** schools due for re-inspection during 2015/16. This will be reviewed in September 2015 following the introduction of the new inspection framework however it would be useful to commission professional development briefings for heads, senior leaders and governors to support preparations for Ofsted.

York Learning Partnership

Priority 4: Closing the gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers

York performs consistently well against key national performance indicators at the end of key stages. However, this high performance against key attainment indicators has hidden the underperformance of disadvantaged pupils in the city. Whilst there have been improvements performance across key stages remains inconsistent with gaps closing in some key stages and widening in others due often to cohort factors rather than the impact of interventions. In 2014 the gap narrowed in both Early Years and Key Stage 2 however the gap remains static in Key Stage 1 and has widened in Key Stage 4.

The small size of the disadvantaged cohort in York (approximately 300 children per year group) means that they are very thinly spread across the city. As a result, their outcomes can vary significantly by school and cluster. On the whole, schools with the largest numbers of disadvantaged pupils have the narrowest gaps; however, this can be caused by the headline figure for their peers being at or just above the national average. The gaps tend to be wider in schools where the cohort size is small and headline performance is significantly above the national average.

Sharing best practice and focusing on the cohort at city- and cluster-level will be important to sustainably closing the gap. The data shows that the gaps are widest in literacy, particularly in writing, across all key stages. This impacts on the progress of disadvantaged pupils and makes it more difficult for them to access the curriculum and engage fully with learning.

Requiring Improvement schools that receive a grade 3 for the quality of leadership are being instructed to commission Pupil Premium reviews. Currently these reviews have to be conducted by accredited NLEs or LLEs. In York we have two LLEs who are accredited Pupil Premium reviewers.

As part of the commissioning plan for 2015/16 it would be useful to commission Pupil Premium reviews for 'At Risk' schools with wide gaps which are likely to be re-inspected during 2015/16.

Priority 5: Improving the quality of teaching

School self evaluation and external quality assurance by Ofsted and York Challenge Partners and advisers shows that there are variations in the quality of teaching across key stages, subjects and schools. Ensuring that the quality of teaching is consistently good or better in all phases and subjects will mean that all children in York achieve the best possible outcomes and are able to attend schools that are good or better. Even in good and better schools there are aspects of teaching in phases and subjects that require improvement and in order to support their continuous improvement it is important to provide all teachers with access to high quality continuing professional development (CPD).

In order to secure a city wide CPD offer Pathfinder Teaching School Alliance have completed an extensive consultation exercise which is being used to develop a comprehensive, needs led programme of CPD. This programme will focus on using the skills of existing good and outstanding teachers and school leaders to develop and sustain professional learning networks.

City-wide priorities for continuing professional development include:

- Securing excellent learning and progress in the early years
- A focus on developing the quality of teaching and leadership in English, mathematics and science
- Improving writing across all key stages but particularly in KS1 and KS2
- Developing understanding of changes to assessment and the curriculum across all key stages with a particular emphasis on assessing without levels and progress 8
- Supporting high quality PSHE across all phases
- Support for KS4 subjects which performed below the national average for GCSE in the subject in 2014. These subjects were: English Language (just in line), Art and Design, IT and PE.

York Learning Partnership

Priority 6: Succession Planning and improving the quality of leadership

Developing and growing teachers and leaders are crucially important to maintaining good and better schools in York. A key priority is to ensure that York has systems in place to support teachers throughout their careers and to spot and grow talent. The two teaching school alliances, Ebor and Pathfinder will work in partnership with the Local Authority, the NCTL and the city's universities to develop career and leadership pathways which will ensure that York is able to attract and retain the brightest and the best to the city's schools.

To do this York needs to continue to have in place:

- Strong ITT through Schools Direct and SCITTs
- Comprehensive and high quality induction, support, training and quality assurance procedures for NQTs
- Specific support and training for RQTs
- Middle leader development
- Senior leader development
- Headteacher induction
- Support and development for serving headteachers

Outline funding requirements

In 2014/15, the following amounts of DSG were de-delegated to the local authority to support school improvement:

- School Improvement Commissioning Fund: £125k
- Schools Causing Concern Fund: £200k
- Support for School Improvement: £641k

This gave a total de-delegation of **£966k**

York Learning Partnership

Funding for 2015/16

Improvement priority	Funding required
<p>Priorities 1 and 2: Support for RI schools and 'At Risk Schools'</p> <p>Priority 6: Succession planning and improving the quality of leadership</p>	<p>£251,700 – This will be used to commission the Ebor Teaching School Alliance (ETSA) to provide NLEs, LLEs and SLEs as required for the school to school support plans written for each RI/'At Risk' school. Each support plan will be written following due diligence exercise conducted in partnership between the LA and the ETSA. See Annex 1.</p> <p>This funding would be used to ensure that capacity is in place to source and deploy system leaders. The deployment plans will outline the accountabilities and outcomes expected from each deployment.</p> <p>The ETSA will co-ordinate bids to the NCTL School to School Support Fund to support the deployment of system leaders (individual bids of up to 20K can be made). Successful bids will reduce the demands for DSG funding.</p> <p>An average deployment of a term for an NLE/LLE would cost £10,000</p>
<p>Funding to support clusters</p>	<p>£125,000 – currently the School Improvement Commissioning Fund is used to support school improvement in clusters. It is proposed that this should continue to be used to support cluster work with each cluster using a proportion of its funding to focus on work to improve the quality of teaching and close the gap in attainment and progress between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.</p>
<p>Priority 3: Schools due for re-inspection</p>	<p>£2,000 – to commission professional briefings from external consultants</p>
<p>Priorities 4 and 5: Closing the Gap and Improving the quality of teaching.</p> <p>Priority 6: Succession planning and improving the quality of leadership</p>	<p>£226,680 – to commission a city-wide CPD programme from the Pathfinder Teaching School Alliance (PTSA). In order to deliver the programme PTSA need to be supported to recruit posts in their structure. Details of the offer and the costs of posts are shown in Annex 1.</p> <p>The programme of CPD will be developed through a process of annual consultation with all members of the York Learning Partnership.</p> <p>An annual programme of quality assurance drop-ins will be conducted by the LA to ensure that the programme is delivering best value.</p>
<p>Priorities 1 and 2: Support for RI schools and 'At Risk Schools'</p> <p>Priority 3: Schools due for re-inspection</p>	<p>£200,000 – The local authority School Causing Concern Fund. This will be retained by the LA to commission emergency interventions as outlined in the Schools Causing Concern statutory guidance. The use of the fund will be audited annually and the audit report will be received by the Schools Forum and the YLP Executive Board. Any unused funding will be returned to the DSG at the end of the financial year.</p>

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**Learning & Culture Policy and Scrutiny
Committee****20 October 2015****Report of the Assistant Director of City & Environmental Services****York City Walls Scrutiny Review- Feasibility Report****Summary**

1. This report suggests a programme that would enable a detailed scrutiny review of York City Walls in terms of conservation policy, interpretation facilities, ownership / management structure, and staffing. It describes briefly the technical work required; outlines timescales for this work; and sets out the staffing and financial resources that would be required to carry out the review.
2. In this report, York City Walls is used as a convenient term to include both walls and structures built to define and defend the City of York, St Marys Abbey Walls, and the remains of St Leonard's Hospital in Library Lawn area that now form part of the scheduled area of York City Walls.

Background to Review

3. At full Council on 30 July 2015 a Motion was proposed by Cllr Myers and agreed that, inter alia, requested "officers to report back to the Executive on how to maximise the unique asset of the City Walls in order to broaden their appeal". Shortly thereafter, Cllr Myers submitted a Scrutiny Topic on 'York Walls including St Mary's Abbey Walls and St Leonard's Hospital (see Annex A). Cllr Myers sought the views of the Executive Leader on his scrutiny topic proposal and the Leader agreed the topic was suitable for scrutiny review and confirmed that officers should proceed with supporting the proposed scrutiny review ahead of implementing the agreed Council Motion, with the caveat that if the scrutiny topic did not proceed to review, officers would continue with any outstanding work required as a result of the agreed motion.

Introduction to City Walls

4. The walls around the historic core of the City of York are perhaps the finest medieval walls in this country. York City Walls are part of the character of York, a defining feature in the cityscape. They are perhaps second only to the Minster in the identity they create for the City and in

the recognition they generate among residents and tourists. They extend for 2.5 miles around the city centre area. The earliest elements date from the Roman period; the majority of the walls were built in the period 1200 to 1500. Some 1 million people walk all or part of the wall walk each year.

5. York City Walls are a critical part of the cultural resource of the City. They are used in community events, as a series of venues for artistic and creative interventions (e.g. York Youth Mystery Plays, Illuminate York), and are the focus for a multitude of guided walks and tours, all to the cultural benefit and enrichment of residents and visitors. York City Walls form a green corridor and are a popular traffic-free pedestrian route for residents and City Centre workers. They are used by joggers and walkers as part of their healthy living programmes. York City Walls and ramparts form critical publicly accessible open spaces surrounding the City Centre.
6. The City Walls are a strong, identifiable image of the City. They encapsulate the City's unique character. This image and character are significant elements in the City's mission to create a prosperous city for all. A dynamic approach to regenerating the economic, educational and cultural value of this unique asset will bring benefits that will contribute to the wider mission of the Council.
7. The City Walls are a scheduled ancient monument, listed Grade I structures, and lie within the Central Historic Core Conservation Area. They thus enjoy the highest levels of statutory protection. The walls are owned by the Council, though parts of St Leonard's Hospital are now under the operational control of York Museums Trust and York Explore.
8. The Council has a statutory duty as owners of the walls to provide access for the general public and a duty to maintain and preserve the monument. In order to ensure that the walls are in a safe condition for the general public and also to ensure the long-term preservation of the walls, the Council has an annual programme of repair and restoration. This programme is based on a comprehensive condition survey of the walls in 1991.
9. Over the past 18 months, York City Walls have been monitored and assessed against the 1991 Condition Survey by an external Conservation Accredited Engineer. Based on this work, Part 1 of a Quinquennial programme of restoration (2016/17 to 2020/21) has been identified. This forms the basis of a Capital Resource Allocation Model (CRAM) Bid for the 2016/17 City of York Capital Programme. This

quinquennial approach places the Council's restoration and maintenance practice within the same framework as that used by Cathedrals, churches and the National Trust.

10. The Council has to date invested through its capital programme £90,000 a year on a rolling programme of repair and restoration on York City Walls. This has been augmented in the past by one-off bids to provide additional funding for larger programmes of work (e.g. Railway Arches, 2004, £425000; Robin Hood Tower, 2010, £22500). At other times, funding has been rolled over from year to year in order to provide sufficient funding for a project (e.g. current work at Walmgate Bar).
11. City of York Council commissioned a Conservation Plan and an Interpretation and Access Plan for York City Walls in 2004. These were received and adopted by City of York Council in autumn 2004. They provide a policy framework for all work (both repair and restoration and interpretation) on York City Walls.
12. City of York Council receives no external grant aid or additional funding for this essential programme of repair and restoration. A pilot programme in 2011/12 to raise income through voluntary donations via collection boxes in the Tourist Information Centre and through mobile phone donations met with limited success.
13. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) will not grant aid for simple schemes of repair and restoration, however large, desirable or necessary they may be. The HLF is interested in funding schemes which address access, education and interpretation issues as well as repair and restoration.

Consultation

14. This report has been prepared by Planning and Environmental Management who if resources were made available could lead this process.
15. If the Committee were to proceed with the proposed scrutiny review, it would require consultation with community, amenity and statutory bodies (e.g. Friends of York Walls, York Civic Trust, Historic England).

Conservation Plan and Interpretation & Access Plan

16. A Conservation Plan is a document that describes a conservation site, what is happening to it; and what the key issues are in order to look after it. In the case of York City Walls, it helps City of York Council (CYC) to

understand why they are valued and by whom, and it enables CYC to formulate an overall view.

17. The current Plan also sets out a framework of policies that help CYC make decisions about how to look after York City Walls whilst ensuring they continue to be used, enjoyed and made accessible. The information it contains helps design new work; plan conservation and restoration works; improve interpretation and public access; support bids to the HLF, and plan activities to help people engage with York City Walls. The Interpretation Plan builds on the content of the Conservation Plan and set out how interpretation and access to York City Walls can be enhanced.
18. An up-to-date Conservation Plan is a requirement specified by external funding agencies such as the HLF and Historic England, and is one of the benchmarks of good conservation and management practice. It covers a whole conservation site and not just parts that may be included in a bid to the HLF for funding.
19. The current York City Walls Conservation Plan and Interpretation and Access Plan are both critical and have driven conservation and interpretation policy and actions over the last 11 years. However, they both require review and updating. An update of these two documents would include:
 - A review of CYC conservation policy
 - A review of management and ownership options
 - Staffing requirements in both professional and craft areas of expertise
 - How to address future programmes of repair and restoration
 - enhancing interpretation facilities
 - Future funding options
20. It would also include extensive consultation with community, amenity and statutory groups and organisations.

Proposals for Scrutiny Review

21. The process of producing an updated Conservation Plan and Interpretation Plan covers three stages:

Stage 1 - The creation of a brief i.e. the preparation of documents, consultation with stakeholders and potential funding partners, procurement, management of the process, and production of an Action Plan. This will cost approximately £9k.

Stage 2 – The production of an updated Conservation Plan and Interpretation Plan. The cost of the revised and updated Conservation and Interpretation Plans is difficult to estimate, as the precise scope and content has at this time not been defined. Based on recently commissioned Conservation Plans and Interpretation and Access Plans, one might expect an external consultancy to cost up to £40k.

Stage 3 - To identify the recommendations and proposals in the Plans that CYC and other stakeholders want to take forward – each of these will need to go through a design, costing, commissioning and implementation procedure.

Resource Implications

22. At present, there are no resources (either staff or financial) available to take this forward. Stage one is likely to take approx 20 days of CYC staff time. Without a firm commitment and the necessary funding to complete stages 2 & 3, it would be impractical to proceed with this stage given the associated cost.
23. There are two possible routes for Stage 2 above:
 - a) Identifying appropriately qualified consultants; obtaining and assessing quotations; appointing consultants; managing the project; producing a report with an Action Plan and making recommendations to Members or;
 - This way forward has the benefit that it will have a minor impact on the day-to-day work programme already in place and this impact will be spread out over an extended period. However, it will require approval for additional expenditure.
 - If this route is chosen it is likely that the process will take at least 8 months: 2 months to prepare documentation for procurement; 4 months to appoint and for the consultant to carry out the commission; and 2 months to prepare an Action Plan ready for reporting
 - b) Carry out the work in-house to produce the Conservation Plan (with officers time being backfilled by an additional temporary post for the duration of the project)
 - This has the benefit of exploiting the knowledge of City of York staff. However the work programme for the relevant staff within PEM is already fully occupied with Development Management advice,

Design advice, Historic Environment Record management, managing the existing City Walls programme, and monitoring archaeological projects. An additional resource would need to be identified in order to bring in an additional member of staff to cover these work areas while PEM staff produced the revised Conservation Plan, which may prove both time-consuming and expensive. Failing to provide this cover would render this option almost impossible to implement.

- It is probable that this route would take an additional three months to complete the necessary work i.e. late 2016.
 - If this route were taken, a suitable experienced external consultant would still be required to review and produce a revised Interpretation and Access Plan This would cost approximately £15k.
24. There are no resources to meet any of the costs associated with stages 1 & 2 above, regardless of the chosen route. If Scrutiny wishes to take this forward as set out above, Scrutiny will have to identify the necessary resources. If an external consultant was procured, the cost could be up to £50k. The cost associated with carrying out the work in house has not been fully explored but is likely to be of the same magnitude, if not greater.
25. As there are no resources available to take this forward, if Members decide they would like to proceed with the review, the first step would be to seek the necessary funding from the Executive via the Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee.

Scrutiny Review Options

26. Option 1 – Proceed with the scrutiny review in order to enable a holistic review of the future potential for improving the visitors experience through improved access, education and interpretation of York City Walls, by :
- a) Seeking appropriate funding to enable stages one and two of the process of updating the Conservation Plan and Interpretation Plan, to take place, including considering the most appropriate route for implementing stage two as detailed in paragraph 23.

- b) Subject to the appropriate funding being made available, participate in the creation and development of a stage one brief as detailed at paragraph 21 above.

27. Option 2 - Note the content of this report and agree not to proceed with the scrutiny review.

Recommendation

28. Having considered the scrutiny topic proposal and the information within this report, as provided by appropriate officers, Members are asked to:
- i. Note and comment on the contents of this report
 - ii. Explore the advantages and disadvantages of updating the Conservation Plan and Interpretation & Access Plan at this point in time, in advance of deciding whether to undertake the review
 - iii. Consider the review options detailed in paragraph 25 and the associated resource implications and agree whether or not to proceed with the review.

Reason: To progress the work of the Committee.

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for report:

Mike Slater
Assistant Director of CES
Tel: 551448

Martin Grainger,
Head of Planning &
Environmental Management.
Tel: 551317

Report Approved



Date 9th October 2015

Specialist Implications Officer(s):

Wards Affected:

Guildhall & Micklegate

Annex:

Annex A – Scrutiny Topic Proposal

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SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION / ASSESSMENT FORM FOR COUNCILLORS

What is the broad topic area?

York Walls inc St Marys Abbey Walls and St Leonards Hospital

What is the specific topic area?

i.e. what should be included & excluded from the topic? what are the drivers behind your topic registration?

Included in the topic:

Included:

Lighting upgrade for safety, display and as part of 'Illuminated York'.

Disabled access,

Interpretation panels and info points,

Opening up Bootham Tower 2nd floor, refurbishing all Bars and towers.

Repairing and bringing into use St Marys Water Tower

Repairing and bringing into use Monk Bar portcullis

Soft and hard landscape, ground level footpaths and seating.

Design a Walls visitor centre in and around the St Leonards

Hospital, Multangular and Anglian Towers

To pave the bottom of the moat and improve boundary walls and surroundings of the moat and Wall on Lord Mayors Walk.

Driver- To bring the historical fabric of the Walls into the 21st century

To ensure the future and encourage more people to walk the walls.

Ambitions for the review:

i.e. what is the review trying to achieve & why e.g. financial / efficiency savings and/or performance improvements? what will be different as a result of the review?

To improve the visitor offer of York's Walls and ensure York is seen as a unique City to visit, work and live. Enable more early evening walks and encourage use of the Walls as a backdrop for art, music and plays.

To invest in a maintenance team of stonemasons to show visitors areas

needing pointing/repair, and opportunities to give 'hands on' work experience to visitors and residents.

Please provide as much additional information as you can to support your topic suggestion. This may include documents you have already gathered in support of your suggested topic and/or links to information online that you want the Committee to be aware of.

Refurbishment of Lincoln Castle.
Scrutiny on disabled access in York.

The section below is to be completed by the scrutiny committee when considering your topic registration:

1. Does it have a potential impact on one or more sections of the population? **Yes** * **No**
2. Is it a corporate priority or concern to the council's partners? **Yes** * **No**
3. Will the review add value? and lead to effective outcomes? **Yes** * **No**

4. Is it timely, and do we have the resources?

Yes No

5. Will the review duplicate other work?

Yes No

If the answer is 'Yes' to questions 1 – 4 and 'No' to question 5, then the Committee may decide to proceed with the review. To decide how best to carry out the review, the Committee will need to agree the following:

1) Who and how shall we consult?

i.e. who do we need to consult and why? is there already any feedback from customers and/or other consultation groups that we need to take account of?

City Archaeologist – Person in charge of the Walls

English Heritage- Government Dept in charge of listed buildings

Friends of York Walls-A community group

2) Do we need any experts/specialists? (internal/external)

i.e. is the review dependent on specific teams, departments or external bodies? What impact will the review have on the work of any of these

It will have an impact on the Councils in house depts and we will need external bodies and heritage experts

3) What other help do we need? E.g. training/development/resources

i.e. does this review relate to any other ongoing projects or depend on them for anything?

what information do we need and who will provide it? what do we need to undertake this review e.g. specific resources, events, meetings etc?

4) How long should it take?

i.e. does the timings of completion of the review need to coincide with any other ongoing or planned work

Initial design consultation, costing and grant submissions 2years?

Project completion 4years?

Provisional Meeting Dates	Learning & Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee– Draft Work Plan 2015-16
Mon 22 June 2015 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductory Report inc. Ideas on Potential Topics for Review in this Municipal Year 2. York Museums Trust – Partnership Delivery Plan Bi-annual Update Report (Janet Barnes) 3. Explore York Libraries and Archives Mutual Ltd SLA & Bi-Annual Update (Fiona Williams) 4. Feasibility Report on proposed TdF Scrutiny Review 5. Update on Parks Development (Dave Meigh) 6. Draft Workplan 2015/16 & discussion re future topics
Tues 29 July 2015 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance of Executive Member for Culture, Leisure & Tourism – Priorities & Challenges for 2015/16 (Cllr Ayre confirmed) 2. York Museums Trust Funding Report (Charlie Croft) 3. Report on ‘Make it York’ & Attendance of Managing Director (Steve Brown) 4. Bi-annual progress report on Safeguarding & Looked After Children (Eoin Rush) 5. Update on Implementation of Children & Families Bill (Eoin Rush) 6. Workplan 2015/16
Tues 15 Sept 2015 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. York Theatre Royal SLA Performance Bi-annual Update Report (Liz Wilson) 2. Report on ‘Make it York’ & Attendance of Managing Director (Steve Brown) Deferred from previous meeting 3. Attendance of Executive Member for Education, Children & Young People's Services - Briefing on Priorities & Challenges for 2015/16 4. Year End Finance & Performance Monitoring Report (Richard Hartle) 5. First Quarter Finance & Performance Monitoring Report (Richard Hartle) 6. Workplan 2015/16 & City Walls Topic Registration Form
20 Oct 2015 @ 5:30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. York Safeguarding Board Bi-annual Update & Attendance of Chair (Simon Westwood) 2. Explore York Libraries & Archives Mutual Ltd SLA & Bi-Annual Update (Fiona Williams) 3. School Improvement and Ofsted Update on Schools Performance (Maxine Squire) 3. City Walls Scrutiny Review Feasibility Report (John Oxley) 4. Workplan 2015/16

<p>Wed 25 Nov 2015 @ 5:30pm</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make it York Report of Removal of Parliament Street Fountain (Steve Brown) 2. Learning Services Self-Assessment Overview Report (CC) 3. Schools Outturn Data 2015 & Update on Implementation of 'Narrowing the Gap' Scrutiny Review Recommendations (Maxine Squire) 4. Workplan 2014/15 inc. verbal update on ongoing reviews
<p>Thurs 27 January 2016 @ 5:30pm</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance of Chair of Learning City (Alison Birkenshaw) 2. York Museums Trust – Partnership Delivery Plan Bi-annual Update Report (Janet Barnes) 3. SACRE (Standing Advisory Committee on RE) Annual Report & Review of York Schools' Agreed Syllabus 4. Second Quarter Finance & Performance Monitoring Report (Richard Hartle) 5. CYC Bi-annual progress report on Safeguarding & Looked After Children (Eoin Rush) 6. School Improvement Update - Key Stage 4 Performance 2015 (Maxine Squire) 7. Workplan 2015/16
<p>Mon 21 March 2016 @ 5.30pm</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. York Theatre Royal – Service Level Agreement Performance Bi-annual Update Report (Liz Wilson) 2. Attendance of Chair of York Safeguarding Board for Bi-annual Update (Simon Westwood) 3. Attendance of Chair of York@Large (Chris Bailey) Moved from Jan 2016 3. Workplan 2015/16
<p>Tues 24 May 2016 @ 5:30pm</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. York Museums Trust – Partnership Delivery Plan Bi-annual Update Report (Janet Barnes) 2. Attendance of Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People's Services – Update on Priorities & Challenges for 2015/16 3. Attendance of Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Tourism – Update on Priorities & Challenges for 2015/16 4. Third Quarter Finance & Performance Monitoring Report (Richard Hartle)

Annex 1

May to Oct 2015

Explore Inclusive Arts & Media

Lab46

Successful £15K funding bid to the CYC Delivery of Innovation Fund (DIF). 12 month pilot project, Lab46 will pilot the use of emerging touch screen technology, to connect people with media, the arts, reading and learning in accessible and playful new ways and to encourage co creation in shared spaces for social innovation and fun.

Based around makerspace and hackspace ethos, Lab46 involves closed and open access activities around Art Labs, Digi Labs and Hack Labs working with groups such as adults with learning difficulties and young people with mental health difficulties.

Partners – Blueberry Academy, New Visuality, Leeds University/Media & Communications dept, York University Research and Enterprise dept, York Hackspace.

Phase 1 of project completed: Highlights:

Closed group sessions at Blueberry Academy working with adults with mild to profound learning disabilities: E.g.

- Trainees collaborated with York University interns to develop prototype social media platform software making the use of Twitter & social media more accessible
- Digital platform integrated as a tool for group collaboration into delivery of Blueberry curriculum workshops & sessions e.g. functional skills, citizenship, living skills
- Arts Labs x 3
 - 62 x young artists from 'Young Artists of Acomb', a group set up by Keith Myers and Greg McGee to combat stereotypes of Acomb.
 - 50 x children from, summer holiday Art Lab
 - 30 x young people not in mainstream education (Blueberry Academy & PHASE group from City of York Council's Adults, Children and Education and Skills).

Phase 2 – October to March 2016 will be delivered at York Explore.

Arts Council Bid:

Staff consultations, discussions & meetings with artists, community & cultural organisations have been underway over past 6 months to develop ACE funding proposal. Focus of the bid will be a 3 year arts development project to raise the profile and establish York Explore as an inclusive, open access, creative cultural space in the heart of the city which enriches and enhances York Explores core services around Health & Well Being, Reading, Digital and Learning.

We have had a very productive and positive response from Arts Council England regarding our plans.

Cultural Commissioning Locality Project (CCLP):

A collaboration with Theatre Royal. Yorkshire Museums Trust, National Centre for Early Music, Accessible Arts & Media.

CCLP is a programme of support to strengthen cultural commissioning in local areas. Its aim is to help strengthen relationships between arts & cultural organisations and public service commissioners in these localities, and foster a climate in which commissioners engage with the arts & cultural sector to deliver their outcomes.

York was one of only 4 locality projects chosen out of 28 geographical applications.

UPDATE: 3 Consultation partnership days have been held. Focus of locality project is health & well being. Next partnership day in November will involve commissioners from the Public Health sector.

York Explore cultural programme

First York Explore quarterly programme released for Sep to Dec and distributed across city and beyond. It showcases the breadth & depth of York Explore's cultural offer and its contribution to the cultural life of the city e.g. author talks, cinema, art exhibitions/installations, theatre performances, reading groups etc.

Upstage Theatre performance – Where I'm Stood – Sat 5 Sep

An example of utilising flexible spaces in York Explore, Where I'm Stood was a major pop up theatre production in the local history space at York Explore by Upstage Theatre.

“Can I begin by saying a very heartfelt thank you to you and all your colleagues who helped make our event such a great success! Everything went so smoothly and everyone we encountered seemed genuinely keen to make sure everything went as well as it could. This makes such a difference and I know that our crew, creatives and actors were all very grateful and impressed at your dedication and commitment.” – Joshua (Upstage theatre producer)

YorNight – EU researcher’s night - September 24, 5pm – 8.30pm

YorNight is York’s contribution to a Europe-wide project called European Researchers’ Night. For one night in September, researchers will take over the city, to show the value and impact that research has on our daily lives.

Utilising various spaces and rooms on both floors YorkNight@York Explore was a highly ambitious event which attracted 590 people of all ages enjoying a variety of hands on practical activities run by York University researchers, artists, York Explore staff and National Railway Museum. It also included an author talk by Dr Bettany Hughes who is an award-winning historian, author and broadcaster.

Community Cinema pilots:

Working in partnership with Cinema@ (South Bank Community Cinema), 3 pilot screenings in New Earswick, York Explore & Acomb have been completed and/or in the process of being screened to test out the viability of community cinema in Explore library spaces. Monitoring and evaluation, lessons learned and findings will hopefully form the basis of a funding application to British Film Institute community cinema funds in February 2016.

UNESCO City of Media Arts & Digital York

We are in productive discussions with UNESCO & Digital York reps regarding Explore’s contribution to both initiatives around accessibility, inclusion & participation.

Film Commissions:

Currently in early stages of developing income opportunities through community and corporate film commissions working in collaboration with freelance film makers.

Youth4media European Network – AGM May 15

Y4M is a European association of 46 organisations from 31 countries working in the field of community media and civil society.

Representative from Explore York attended Y4M international AGM in Munster which was an opportunity to meet and work with fellow European partners on developing European and international cooperation projects, training, exchange, professional development opportunities through European funding strands such as Erasmus+, Creative Europe, Citizens for Europe.

Representative from Explore York will be in attendance at the Y4M international AGM in Munster,

Coming up highlights:

Explore Light – Illuminating York day – Sat 31 Oct

Working with partners from University of York, The Institute of Physics and York Hackspace, Illuminating York and York Explore present a day of fun, hands-on activities and talks from artists and physicists focussing on light. Find out more about the inspiration behind this year's artistic programme and how light is used in scientific research today.

Aesthetica Videoteque – 5 Nov

The BAFTA Qualifying Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF) returns to York Explore.

ASFF Videotheque offers an opportunity to see the full catalogue of short films from the ASFF 2015 programme.

Poetry By Heart – County Contest Finals

After its hugely successful hosting of PBH 2015 final, York Explore will be hosting next years final on 27 February 2016.

“I felt the way you supported the students with their daunting public speaking task, was excellent. Your warm-up and ice-breaking activities were inspirational and a stroke of genius. It really helped the students make the most of the day and enjoy the experience.”