

North Yorkshire Children's Trust Board
6th December 2017
Proposed priority areas 2018

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The report seeks approval for three proposed priority areas for the Board to focus on in 2018.

2 Background

- 2.1 At the last Board meeting there was a discussion around the Young and Yorkshire 2 performance framework. The Board agreed that it was important to focus on outcomes and understand the story behind the evidence. This level of in-depth analysis can then help to identify leadership challenges for the Board to consider.
- 2.2 There was also a discussion around focussing in on 2-3 priorities to give the Board more focus over the next twelve months. It would seem logical to identify a priority for each of the Young and Yorkshire 2 outcomes:
- A happy family life
 - A healthy start to life
 - Education as our greatest liberator
- 2.3 Furthermore, an important element of Young and Yorkshire 2 is that it makes a commitment to continually challenge ourselves by taking into account three key considerations at all times, especially where they raise uncomfortable questions or issues that we must work together to address:
- Place – we will tackle differences based on where people grow up.
 - Inclusion – we will recognise and meet the needs of diverse groups of children and young people.
 - Deprivation – we will confront material deprivation to improve life chances.

3 Proposed priorities for 2018

- 3.1 In identifying the proposed priorities consideration has been given to:
1. Analysis of the evidence base – suggests that there is an issue worthy of focus by the Board.
 2. Added value – the extent to which the Board can potentially add value over what is already being delivered by an organisation (s). In recognition of a recent report by Collaborate and Newcastle University [*A Whole New World: Funding and Commissioning in Complexity*](#) which states that “Outcomes are created by people’s interaction with whole systems, not by particular interventions or organisations”.

3.2 The proposed priorities for 2018 are set out in the table below and a brief summary of why they are being proposed is presented in the following paragraphs.

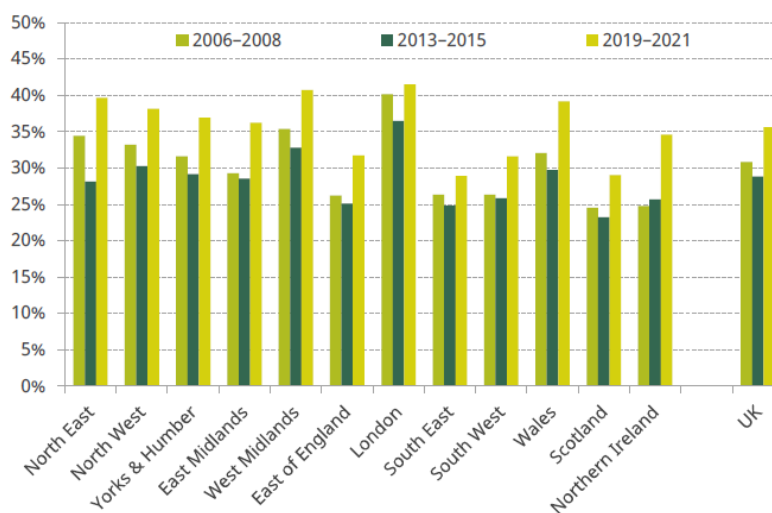
Young & Yorkshire 2 outcome	Proposed priority
A happy family life	Child poverty and social mobility
A healthy start to life	Social Emotional and Mental Health
Education as our greatest liberator	School readiness
Cross-cutting theme	
Community engagement – ‘listen and involve’	

3.3 Whilst the proposed priorities have been aligned to a Young & Yorkshire 2 outcome in the table above, in reality each priority impacts upon all of the outcomes to some extent.

Child poverty and social mobility

3.4 A report by the Institute of Fiscal Studies [Living Standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2017-18 – 2021-22](#) published in November 2017 projects that relative child poverty across the Yorkshire and Humber region will increase by 2019-21 as shown in the chart below.

Figure 2.8. Relative child poverty rates, selected years, AHC incomes



3.5 The report puts forward two main reasons for this projected rise. First, poorer families with children get a relatively small share of their income from earnings. This means that when earnings rise, median income tends to increase faster than the incomes of poor households with children. Second, the incomes of these households are particularly sensitive to planned benefit cuts. This is because benefits make up a large share of their income and the decision to limit the child element of tax credits and universal credit to two children will lead to significant income losses for poor households with three or more children.

3.6 The most recent Department for Work and Pensions data for North Yorkshire is May 2016 as shown in the table below.

Number of children living in poverty	9,730
Number of households dependent on benefits	5,370
Proportion of total 0-18 population living in poverty	7.8%

- 3.7 In November 2017 the Social Mobility Commission published [*State of the Nation 2017: Social Mobility in Great Britain*](#) which ranks all 324 local authorities according to a range of social mobility indicators. The index seeks to answer the question: *What are the differences between different local areas in the chances that a child from a disadvantaged socioeconomic background has of doing well as an adult?*
- 3.8 The table below shows the rankings for the North Yorkshire districts. Rankings are based on 324 local authorities in England, where 1 indicates best performing authority and 324 indicates worst performing authority. Craven is classed as a social mobility hot-spot (highest performing 20%), whereas Scarborough is a cold-spot (lowest performing 20%). The national average score is set at 0 and scores range from 115.71 to -83.20. It can be seen that four of the North Yorkshire districts are below the national average. The updated index is not wholly comparable with the 2016 index as key performance indicators have been updated and technical changes have been made to improve the robustness of the index.

2017 Social Mobility Index Results for North Yorkshire		
North Yorkshire District	Rank	Score
Craven	32	56.62
Hambleton	99	17.67
Harrogate	135	9.18
Richmondshire	179	-4.26
Selby	196	-7.98
Ryedale	240	-19.93
Scarborough	295	-43.21

Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)

- 3.9 The Government is committed to the publication of a children and young people's mental health green paper by the end of 2018.
- 3.10 The Mental Health Foundation states that nationally mental health problems affect about 1 in 10 children and young people, and 70% of children and young people who experience a mental health problem have not had appropriate interventions at a sufficiently early age.
- 3.11 The Childline Annual Review 2016/17 [*Not Alone Anymore*](#) states that one in three Childline counselling sessions are about mental and emotional health and wellbeing issues (when they include self-harm and suicidal thoughts or feelings).
- 3.12 The Care Quality Commission Review of children and young people's mental health services phase one report states that nationally too many children and young people have a poor experience of care and some are simply unable to access timely and

appropriate support. This first part of the review draws on existing research and evidence, as well as input from children and young people, their expert advisory group and the findings from their inspections of specialist child and adolescent mental health services (an update is being provided as a separate agenda item). The second part of the review which involved fieldwork across ten areas (one of which was North Yorkshire) is due to be published in March 2018.

- 3.13 A report by the Institute for Public Policy Research [*Making the difference: Breaking the link between school exclusion and social exclusion*](#) concluded that at least one in two pupils permanently excluded from schools have a mental health issue compared with 1 in 50 pupils in the wider population. The report suggests this might be as high as 100% once undiagnosed problems are taken into account. The report goes on to say that 99% of excluded children will finish school without five good GCSEs required by most employers.
- 3.14 In the 2016/17 academic year in North Yorkshire 1,904 children were subject to at least one fixed term exclusion and 329 (17%) of these were identified as having a SEMH need.
- 3.15 The table below shows that North Yorkshire was above the Yorkshire and Humber region and England average for hospital admissions for both mental health conditions and as a result of self-harm in 2015/16.

2015/16	North Yorkshire	Yorkshire & Humber region	England
Hospital admissions for mental health conditions (0-17 year olds)	100.8 per 100,000 population (118 0-17 year olds)	66.3 per 100,000 population	85.9 per 100,000 population
Hospital admissions as a result of self-harm (10-24 year olds)	435.2 per 100,000 population (413 10-24 year olds)	384.8 per 100,000 population	430.5 per 100,000 population

- 3.16 The Future in Mind Local Transformation Plans set out how local services will invest resources to improve children and young people’s mental health across the whole system. The refresh process is included as a separate agenda item.
- 3.17 The January 2017 census identified 1,191 children in North Yorkshire receiving SEN support whose primary need was Social Emotional and Mental Health. There are also currently 446 children on a funded statement or Education and Health Care Plan whose primary need is SEMH.

- 3.18 It needs to be recognised that there is an existing multi-agency SEMH steering group which has produced a draft implementation plan that has recently been out to consultation. It is therefore suggested that the focus of the Board should be to support and provide a constructive challenge to the work of this group.

School readiness

- 3.19 A recent report on a survey of school leaders by the National Association of Head Teachers and the Family and Childcare Trust entitled [School ready?](#) found that 83% of respondents had an issue with school readiness and a majority believed this had become worse in the last 5 years. Respondents identified a number of issues that mean that some children are not ready for school. There was particular concern about speech, language and communication skills, and the social, emotional and physical development of some children was also cited as an area of concern.
- 3.20 Ofsted states the challenge in these terms: ‘Too many children start school without the range of skills they need...Too few who start school behind their peers catch up by the time they leave education’ (Ofsted, 2014a:4).
- 3.21 A cross-party manifesto [The 1001 Critical Days](#) emphasises why the conception to age 2 period is so critical. It states that the evidence shows that ensuring that the brain achieves its optimum development and nurturing during this peak period of growth is vitally important, as the foundations of babies’ mind are being put in place.
- 3.22 A research report by the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years [What does “school ready” really mean?](#) states that 97% of childcare professionals agree that the term school ready should be defined as children who:
- Have strong social skills
 - Can cope emotionally with being separated from their parents
 - Are relatively independent in their own personal care
 - Have a curiosity about the world and a desire to learn
- 3.23 North Yorkshire is marginally above the national performance for pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the Early Years Foundation Stage (71.6%), which is a good indicator of school readiness, and performance has improved steadily over the last 3 years. However, this still means that more than one in four children (28.4%) is not achieving a GLD - in 2017 this was equivalent to 1,753 pupils.
- 3.24 It needs to be recognised that a number of partners are already looking at school readiness including the County Council and a number of Clinical Commissioning Groups. However, it is felt that there is value in the Board providing some strategic oversight to the issue.

Community engagement – ‘listen and involve’

- 3.25 One of the key principles in Young & Yorkshire 2 is ‘listen and involve’ and we have promised that children and young people and their parents/carers will always be central to decisions we make about them.

3.26 It is therefore suggested that a cross-cutting theme across all priorities should be community engagement so that we understand the extent to which the voice of children and young people, parents/carers, communities and practitioners are shaping service delivery.

4 Proposed activity

4.1 It is proposed that a sponsor is identified from the Board for each of the priorities. The sponsor would then be supported by the Council's Strategy and Performance Team to undertake a review addressing the following five themes:

1. **Where are we now?** An analysis of the evidence/current practice.
2. **Where do we want to be?** A presentation of the strategies/programmes setting the ambition.
3. **Progress update** – narrative on progress towards delivery of the ambition.
4. **Challenges** – considering both the overarching challenges, but also more localised ones taking into account the key considerations set out in Young & Yorkshire 2.
5. **Adding Value** – what the Board could do to support delivery.

4.2 There is no reason why the three reviews cannot be undertaken concurrently and the work would be a focus for quarterly Board meetings.

4.3 There will be a need to consider what success would look like if this becomes the 2018 programme of activity. It is felt to be too early to define this, but the Board would need to consider this early in the programme.

5 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that the Board:

- i. Considers whether the proposed priorities should be the focus for the Board in 2018.
- ii. If the priorities are supported identify a sponsor for each priority to work alongside the Council's Strategy and Performance Team on the reviews.