



## National award for 'outstanding' programme for children in care

A ground-breaking programme for looked-after children and young people in North Yorkshire has been judged as outstanding by Ofsted - and has also won a national award for innovation.

The No Wrong Door programme for looked-after children and young people and those leaving care has attracted Government attention and support for its innovative approach to the needs of some of our most vulnerable young people.

The programme centres on two hubs, one in Scarborough to serve the east and one in Harrogate to serve the west. The aim is to replace all traditional council-run children's homes with integrated provision coordinated by the hubs.

The Scarborough hub, 53 Stepney Road, was judged as outstanding by Ofsted in a recent inspection and No Wrong Door was also the innovation winner at the Local Government Chronicle awards at London's Grosvenor House.

The judges said they were very impressed with the results achieved by North

Yorkshire and the way simple ideas and a new approach had been applied effectively to produce striking outcomes to improve the lives of vulnerable children while also saving money.

This recognition, along with the Ofsted judgement, justifies the radical approach the County Council has taken to transform the lives of looked-after children and young people and those leaving care.

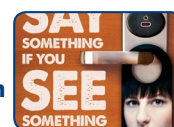
North Yorkshire was the first authority in the country to attract over £2m from the Department for Education's Innovations Programme for rethinking care for adolescents. The Government funding is more than matched by over £4m from the authority's own resources to develop this radical initiative over the next three years.

Each No Wrong Door hub has a dedicated, multi-disciplinary team. Each also includes residential care home beds; emergency residential beds; community foster family placements; supported accommodation and supported lodgings and outreach support.

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# Campaign urges: speak up about child exploitation

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board (NYSCB) is campaigning to raise awareness of the dangers of child sexual exploitation and how local businesses can help safeguard children and young people.

Called Say Something If You See Something, the campaign's aim is to work with local businesses so they learn to recognise the signs of child sexual exploitation (CSE) activities and know how to report it.

CSE includes grooming and trafficking of children and young people under 18 to involve them in exploitative situations and relationships where they receive some kind of reward for being involved in sexual activities.

Businesses vulnerable to misuse can include hotels, bed and breakfasts, off-licences, pubs and nightclubs, as well as others that provide goods or services that can be offered to children as gifts in exchange for sexual acts.

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board has co-ordinated activities being delivered by its partners across North Yorkshire. There will be training for staff working in holiday parks in the



Scarborough area. Further training will be provided to businesses in the Richmond area. A number of other events to support the campaign have also been arranged across the county.

When a business has a concern and thinks a child or young person is being sexually exploited or trafficked they should report it. If they think someone is at immediate risk of harm, businesses should call the police on 999. In less urgent situations they should contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or ring 101 for police help and advice.

If a business feels a child or young person is at risk they can also contact North Yorkshire County Council customer service centre on 01609 780780 or submit a referral. More information is available at [www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk](http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk).

## First steps to next children and young people's plan

The Children's Trust Board has discussed the future development of its Children and Young People's Plan for North Yorkshire.

Called Young and Yorkshire, the current plan was launched in April 2014 and sets out ambitious targets up to 2017.

Historically, at the end of the second year in each planning cycle, work has begun to develop a successor plan, so North Yorkshire's plan is due for a refresh, with a new plan to be developed to cover the period from 2017.

To develop the next plan, the board has agreed to:

- establish a development board and project team;
- review Young and Yorkshire;
- complete a multi-agency needs analysis;
- engage with children, young people and families;
- agree priorities and key outcomes;
- draft and consult on the revised plan; and
- produce and publish the final plan.

The board will receive regular updates.

## New website for county's safeguarding children board

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board (NYSCB) has launched a new website.

The site is designed to work with whatever device the visitor is using and has other new features including an RSS feed to keep people up to date with changes to the site and an integrated feed from the NYSCB Twitter account, @nyscb.

It also hosts the NYSCB revised procedures and practice

guidance in the professionals section of the site. The site has a new resource library where visitors can access a number of documents and forms. A new e-learning portal provides access to the basic safeguarding awareness course. People will be able to register for the course via the website.

For more information, see the NYSCB website, [www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk](http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk).

# School chef Kath is voted Britain's best

North Yorkshire school chef Kath Breckon has been voted Britain's best by a panel of professionals in a national school catering competition.

Kath, who works at West Cliff Primary School, Whitby, prepares meals for 140 children each day. She has been at the school for seven and a half years.

She won the national final of the LACA School Chef of the Year competition, which is organised by the Lead Association for Catering in Education.

For her dishes, Kath took inspiration from Whitby. Her main course was St Hilda's spicy beef pot, Caedmon Cross-Bread, Bram Stoker sweetcorn and 199 Steps croquettes. Her dessert was Dracula's bat-tastic lemon cheesecake.

Kath said: "With the skill amongst this year's finalists being so high, I felt it was an achievement in itself to



Kath Breckon receives her award with, left, Justin Clarke, Chair of the LACA School Chef of Year 2016 Judging Panel, and, right, Peter McGrath, LACA National Chair

compete with such a talented group of people. All of this just goes to prove what a good job school chefs do, day in, day out, up and down the country to provide tasty, nutritious meals for millions of children."

Kath's employer, North Yorkshire County Caterers, the County Council's school meals service, puts great emphasis on the training and skills of all catering staff, updating employees' training using its five food excellence and skills training kitchens across the county.

# County sees teenage pregnancies fall to lowest level since records began

Figures released by the Office for National Statistics show that the number of teenage pregnancies in North Yorkshire is its lowest since record-keeping began.

Nationally, the conception rate for young women aged 15 to 17 has been halved since 1998 and is now the lowest it has been since records began in the late 1960s. In North Yorkshire, there has been an overall 54.4% reduction in under-18 conception rates, compared to a national reduction of 51.1%. This equates to 175 teenage pregnancies in 2014.

All areas in the county are continuing to experience a fall in teenage pregnancies, ranging from -61.2% in Harrogate to -23.6% in Ryedale. Scarborough continues to have slightly higher rates than the national average but has come down by 59.4% from 61.3 under-18 conceptions per 1,000 females aged 15-17 in 1998 to 24.9 per 1,000 in 2014.

Reducing teenage pregnancies plays an important part in protecting the health and wellbeing of young people: teenage mothers are at higher risk of missing out on further

education – a fifth of women aged 16 to 18 who are not in education, employment or training are teenage mothers. Young fathers are also more likely to have had a poor education and a greater risk of being unemployed in adult life.

Initiatives being undertaken by the County Council to maintain a decline in the rate of teenage pregnancies include:

- workforce training programmes so staff feel confident in talking to young people about sexual health and relationships, including delaying early sex and supporting them to access services if needed;
- additional support for schools in areas of high teenage pregnancy rates to make improvements to their personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum.
- ensuring young people can access free and confidential sexual health services across North Yorkshire. Anyone wanting information can visit [www.yorsexualhealth.org.uk](http://www.yorsexualhealth.org.uk).

# Young offenders' bike refurbishment scheme benefits hospice

Young offenders being helped by North Yorkshire's Youth Justice Service to make amends in their community have been reconditioning unwanted bicycles.

The Youth Justice Service works with young people in a number of ways, such as helping at community events or assisting victims of crime directly.

The bike reconditioning programme, which began in October and is run from premises in Selby, offered a project that could be run during the winter.

Young people strip down, clean, repair and reassemble the bikes, which were donated following an appeal to North Yorkshire County Council staff, before they are checked over by a mechanic.

The completed bikes will be passed on to benefit local organisations or individuals, to help them to get to



Work under way on a donated bike at the Youth Justice Service's premises in Selby

work, go to college or just for leisure.

As part of the Youth Justice Service's reparations programme, victims of crime are invited to suggest what convicted young people might do to make amends or who might benefit from their work. One suggestion has led to St Leonard's Hospice being chosen to benefit from the first completed bikes.

The York hospice has a shop in Selby, which has received two bikes to sell to raise funds.

## Report raises key questions to be answered in achieving ambitions for education

Children's Trust Board members have been briefed about progress on one of the priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan, Young and Yorkshire.

The report was the third in a series of reports produced by the County Council's performance and intelligence team to support delivery of Young and Yorkshire and looked at the priority of "ensuring that education is our greatest liberator, with a greater proportion of pupils attending a good or outstanding school or setting".

The report looks at four areas that should be addressed to provide an "outstanding" service to the children and young people living or learning in the county. These are:

- pupil mobility;
- the impact of early years education;
- disadvantaged pupils; and
- the school workforce.

By looking at these areas, the report has raised important questions that will become challenges for the Children's Trust to address if the County Council is to continue improvements in the education of all pupils in North Yorkshire and become an outstanding service.

Three central themes emerged that provide an interesting conclusion. The first is that deprivation appears to be

a common denominator in many persistent issues; the second is that the cohort a pupil learns with can affect their outcomes; and the third, and most important for a trust, is that although some of these issues may be beyond the reach of some schools or agencies, they are not beyond the reach of a multi-agency children's trust. The North Yorkshire Children's Trust can adopt a holistic approach through initiatives like Developing Stronger Families and prevention work.

The County Council will continue to develop its work to ensure that education is the greatest liberator, with a higher proportion of pupils attending a good or outstanding school or setting. It will engage with colleagues who work with children and young people so that a discussion can develop that might lead to further improving the services for children in North Yorkshire, so that every child, even the most disadvantaged and vulnerable has access to a high-quality education.

The other priorities in the Young and Yorkshire plan are:

- helping all children to enjoy a happy family life, with a safe reduction in the looked after child population; and
- ensuring a healthy start to life, with more children and young people leading healthy lifestyles.

## Early education targets set out

At its recent meeting, the Children's Trust Board discussed a report about the County Council's ambitions for improving outcomes for children in their early years.

Forty per cent of two-year-olds are eligible for 15 hours of funded early education and in North Yorkshire 73% of those that meet the criteria take up their places. This is an increase of 5% from 2015. Currently, 90% of all three and four-year-olds take up their places.

Targets have been set to increase the take-up by two-year-olds to 80% by July 2016 and joint work between children's centre outreach staff and health visitors is being co-ordinated to achieve this. The target to increase take-up by three and four-year-olds is 94%.

The percentage of children achieving a good level of development in North Yorkshire is 66.6%, which is above the national figure of 66.3%. This was a 6% increase from the previous year. The Early Years Closing the Gap strategy and the Achievement Unlocked work in



primary schools are both targeted at raising attainment for all children, in particular the most vulnerable.

The County Council has clear strategic leadership of early education and is making good progress against schedules in line with the local authority transformation agenda and is in a strong position to make the responses to new policy that will be appropriate for children and families in different communities around the county.

The majority of children are able to have early education in schools and early education providers judged good or outstanding. Targeted initiatives are in place to narrow the attainment gap. The impact and outcomes of these are being carefully monitored by the County Council.

## Post-implementation review offers positive feedback of Prevention Service

The County Council's Prevention Service became operational in April 2015 when it brought together a range of preventative work previously undertaken by separate services. An underlying aim is to reduce the number of children and young people needing more intensive and costly interventions delivered through children's social care.

There is clear evidence that the service, which now works with 2,700 families, is achieving the ambition of easier access to targeted local involvement, which then impacts directly on the work going through to social care.

The service is expected to deliver benefits in terms of both improved service delivery and positive and sustained outcomes for children, young people and families, including:

- developing a service which operates seamlessly throughout the 0-19 age range to eliminate duplication;
- reducing the numbers of children and young people requiring more intensive and more costly interventions through children's social care and other services;
- linking in to the Developing Stronger Families programme and whole family model of working; and
- ensuring staff are clear on the vision, service offer and outcomes the County Council is trying to achieve and that they have been supported through the transition.

A post-implementation review has now been conducted. Information for the review was gained by:

- seeking feedback from staff;
- reviewing internal data related to finance, capacity and performance; and
- assessing, based on this information, whether the anticipated benefits have been realised or are on track.

While external feedback was not sought as part of this review, positive feedback has been received from schools and other agencies. The Prevention Service has also received awards and accolades, including:

- Shine a Light, a national communication charity, awarded Bev Crisp, a family outreach worker from the Whitby and the Moors Prevention Team, the status of National Communication Champion for 2015;
- The High Sheriff of North Yorkshire has formally recognised the six-week Being OK programme delivered to a group of young people in the Richmondshire area;
- Supported by the Prevention Service, the Scarborough South and Filey Youth Council won the North Yorkshire Police Lifestyle Challenge Award 2015.

A further review is scheduled to take place in June and will focus more on external views of the service.

# Tribute to champion of young people after sudden death

It was with great sadness that staff and colleagues at North Yorkshire County Council and the Children's Trust learned of the sudden death in March of County Councillor Tony Hall.



Tony was a member of the County Council from May 2005, representing the Northallerton division. He was an Executive Member for Children's Services, including special educational needs and youth justice, from 2012 to 2015.

He cared deeply about the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and it was in no small part due to his dedication that North

Yorkshire's children's services have been recognised as among the best in the country.

Pete Dwyer, Corporate Director for Children and Young People's Service, said: "We have greatly admired Tony's total commitment and passion for the children and young people's agenda. Tony played an important role in our improvement journey over recent years and took great pride and satisfaction in the part he had played in the Council's No Wrong Door innovation programme, which has been recently judged outstanding by Ofsted and won the LGC Award for Innovation. So many people within the children and young people's service and within our Children's Trust partners will be saddened by his loss."

## Performance against priorities remains positive

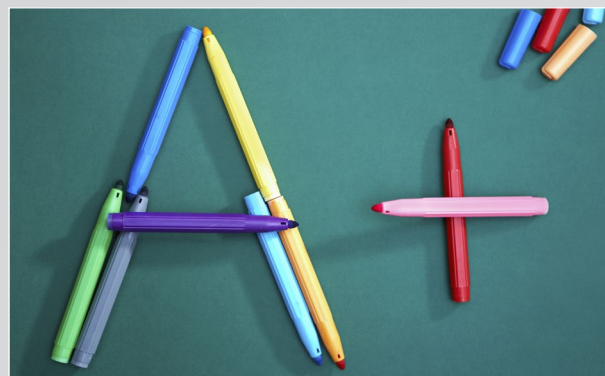
At their recent meeting, Children's Trust Board members discussed performance in the third quarter of 2015/16 against a range of indicators from the Children and Young People's Plan, Young and Yorkshire. The arrangements to monitor progress against the priorities and supporting outcomes set out in the plan includes the regular reporting of performance information to the Children's Trust Board.

The plan's three priorities are:

- ensuring education is our greater liberator
- helping all children enjoy a happy family life
- ensuring a healthy start to life

The performance position overall remains positive, and Board members were reassured by the continuing progress being made. Improving, or at least stable, performance has been achieved in 76% of the indicators and in the third quarter targets have been achieved or exceeded in ten instances.

# County is again above average at A level and GCSE



Once again North Yorkshire schools and colleges achieved results well above national averages at both GCSE and A-level.

National school performance tables showed that at GCSE 62.4% per cent of pupils achieved 5 A\*-C results including English and maths, more than five percentage points above the national average. North Yorkshire was again ranked in the top 20% of authorities for this key measure of secondary school attainment.

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils increased by almost 4 percentage points as the result of a county-wide focus on raising their achievement. Schools in North Yorkshire have been focusing on closing the disadvantaged gap, which narrowed by nearly 3% this year. These improvements for disadvantaged pupils compare favourably with more limited change nationally.

At A level, North Yorkshire students again performed well above national averages in all academic and vocational measures. Nearly 20% of North Yorkshire students gained at least three A levels or equivalent, at AAB grades which are needed for entry to many prestigious universities. This compares favourably with the national figure of 15.9%.

County Councillor Arthur Barker, North Yorkshire's Executive Member for Schools, said: "Strong school performance means all young people, including the most disadvantaged, can leave school with the skills and qualifications necessary to access the full range of choices.

"The local authority is ambitious for its schools and is working with them to ensure that each and every one of North Yorkshire's children and young people can attend a good or outstanding school. Increasing numbers of our schools are now achieving this category."

## County scores highly with school places

Nine out of ten parents in North Yorkshire (90.42%) secured their first secondary school preference for their child, higher than last year and continuing the high percentages of recent years.

Over 95% of all North Yorkshire children have received an offer from one of their top three preferences of secondary school.

Despite these high percentages, the County Council is urging parents to submit their application on time and list as many preferences as possible. In areas where there is pressure on places, such as Harrogate, this is particularly important. Four out of the five secondary schools in Harrogate elected to admit above their published admission number. This means more children are offered a place at the school ranked as their highest preference. But for some parents who submitted their application late, or failed to list their local school, or did not submit an application, this will not be the case.

## Pushing on with DSF programme

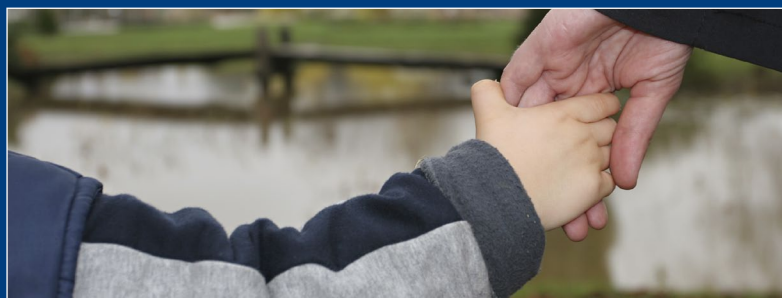
The Department for Communities and Local Government has agreed to fund North Yorkshire County Council to turn around 2,830 "troubled" families over the five years of the Developing Stronger Families (DSF) programme, 2015 to 2020.

Troubled families are households that:

- are involved in crime or anti-social behaviour;
- have children not in school;
- have an adult on out of work benefits;
- cause high costs to the public purse;

As well as helping these families, the work being done through the DSF programme and the new County Council Prevention Service is generating cost savings by reducing demand on crisis-led services. The County Council has front-loaded its DSF programme, and by the end of 2015-16 will have worked with, or be working with, 58% of its allocated 2,830 family target.

## Personal budgets come into effect from April



**From April this year families using disabled children's services will be given the opportunity of receiving personal budgets.**

**A personal budget is the sum of money allocated to a child or young person to meet their assessed care and support needs. The services the personal budget will be spent on are set out in a support plan. The support plan must meet the assessed needs and outcomes agreed for the child or young person.**

**The personal budget can either be paid to the child or young person's carer as a direct payment so that they can arrange their own care and support, or the County Council can arrange services for them**

**using the budget. Carers do not have to manage money unless they want to. The final budget has to be agreed by the County Council.**

**The new system means that:**

- families will have more choice and control over what goes into the support plan;
- families decide for themselves what would be of most help to them;
- families can choose more creative care solutions which suit them and their circumstances; and
- personal budget amounts are allocated fairly according to the needs of the child and their carer. A resource allocation system will support assessments.

## Trust board reviews the way it works

The Children's Trust has discussed its performance against the opportunities and actions in the self-assessment action plan. Key activities for the coming months will include:

- involving representatives from the County Council's stronger communities team, economic development and the district councils to improve information sharing and joined-up working;

- developing strong working relationships with other partner agencies and boards, such as the North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board, to avoid duplication of work; and

- considering the development of a joint commissioning plan to deliver positive outcomes for young people with special educational needs and disabilities while growing into adulthood.

# Pupils take sides for schools debate

Children across North Yorkshire completed the first rounds of the schools debating competition in the run-up to the Easter break.

It is clear that children have polished up their debating skills to bring powerful arguments to the district council chambers. The final of the competition will be held at County Hall on 24 June and the topic will be: do you think our climate is changing?

The competition was started by Cllr Cliff Trotter four years ago.



The Scarborough debate between Newby and Scalby Primary School and Northstead Primary School

## Young volunteers category in community awards

Nominations are open for the North Yorkshire County Council community awards 2016, which include a young people volunteering category.

The winner of each category will be awarded £1,000 for the relevant project, group or nominated relevant local charity in the case of the volunteer awards.

Nominations can be submitted until 31 May 2016: details at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/communityawards](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/communityawards).

This newsletter is produced by North Yorkshire County Council on behalf of the Children's Trust

For more about the work of the Children's Trust, visit <http://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/childrenstrust>.

### Who are the partners?

North Yorkshire County Council, North Yorkshire schools, NHS North Yorkshire and York, district and borough councils, North Yorkshire Police, Youth Justice Service, National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies, North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and the voluntary and community sector.

### How do I get copies?

The newsletter is emailed to partner organisations and is available via the cyps.info website. You can also call Helen Bawn on 01609 533665 or email [helen.bawn@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:helen.bawn@northyorks.gov.uk)

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please ask us.

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# Youth group takes third place in national awards

A group from Eastfield Youth Council has been placed third in the finals of the National Crimebeat Award 2016 for their work in helping to promote safety in their community.

The group is made up of Pindar School students aged 13 to 15 and is supported by a North Yorkshire County Council family outreach support worker. Four of the group's members, calling themselves Youth Assemble - Dylan Kennedy, Dylan Riley, Shannon Kemp and Jack Dobson - were entered for the award for an event they ran last summer as part of North Yorkshire Police's Lifestyle challenge.



They organised a Safer Community Fun Day at Eastfield Community Centre and Library in August. The event included displays and advice from the police, the fire and rescue service, the RNLI and the County Council's road safety team, as well as other attractions and entertainment. Money raised was donated to Animal House Birds of Prey charity, which is based in Eastfield.

The National Crimebeat Award is a crime prevention initiative run by the High Sheriffs Association in England and Wales. The awards ceremony took place in London on 16 March, where the Eastfield Youth Council group gave a short presentation about their project.

In all, 38 projects from across the country were entered for the award, six were shortlisted for the finals and of those Eastfield Youth Council came third, picking up £500 for the youth council to spend, certificates and High Sheriff medals.

Youth councils are run across North Yorkshire. More information is available at [www.nyyc.co.uk](http://www.nyyc.co.uk).

To submit an article to this newsletter, email Helen Bawn at [helen.bawn@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:helen.bawn@northyorks.gov.uk)