



LEADING THE WAY: Louise Casey gives an impassioned speech at the prevention service launch

County's ground-breaking prevention service launched

The UK's head of Troubled Families, director general Louise Casey, led the launch of North Yorkshire County Council's ground-breaking prevention service this month.

Formed out of existing but separate children and youth services, the new service will support families in a more joined up way, with workers able to stay alongside a child and their family, be they new-born or aged up to 19.

North Yorkshire is the first authority in the country to make the Troubled Families model a mainstream approach.

A key worker, with multi-agency support, will work flexibly to challenge and support families to turn their lives around, whether this is a family struggling to cope with parenting a toddler, children not attending school or a young person engaging in risky behaviour.

Developing Stronger Families – North Yorkshire's version of the Government's

Troubled Families scheme – has been praised by Louise Casey and Government ministers for its tailored and targeted work with individual families, resulting in reductions in truancy and exclusions, youth crime, anti-social behaviour and unemployment.

North Yorkshire was tasked with turning around 845 families by April 2015 and has achieved positive outcomes with all of those families.

The prevention service aims to increase the number of individual children and families the council supports at an earlier stage to lower the number needing more intensive and costly intervention later.

Prevention workers will operate in teams in 12 areas across the county alongside a new Healthy Child Programme team (see page 7), which covers vaccination, school nursing, sexual health, risky behaviours, and issues like weight management.

• **Support for parents: page 3**

In this issue

Click on the page numbers below to view those pages

Children mark 70th VE Day anniversary



page

Visit helps to prepare for troop movement



page

Film shows the value of making music



page

Play helps schools to deal with troops move



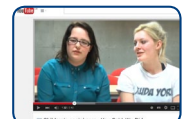
page

It's not OK says abuse awareness campaign



page

Video responds to care issues



page

HMS Heroes celebrate 70th VE Day anniversary

When the young Catterick Garrison members of HMS Heroes, the national support group for the children of service men and women and their relatives, were asked how they wanted to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day, they decided they would like to meet some real soldiers and have a tank at their school.

County council service pupils' champion Nickie Young arranged that for them with support from welfare officers and military personnel.

Le Cateau Primary School offered its sports field for the event on 8 May, and the Armed Forces were keen to join in. The first to sign up were the REME Band and the Band of the Royal Armoured Corps, followed by 1CS BN REME, the Royal Lancers, the Royal Dragoon Guards, the RMP and the Military Guard Service.

The event began with the lighting of the official VE Day Beacon, one of more than 200 across the country. Highlights included MOD Guard dogs Barney and Troy, tradesmen from 1 CS BN REME, including armourers and a blacksmith, an RMP car, and tanks from the Royal Dragoon Guards and the Royal Lancers, which the children could climb over and into.



Good progress shown against the priorities of Young and Yorkshire plan

A positive picture of progress against the three priorities of the North Yorkshire Children's Trust's Young and Yorkshire plan was presented to members at their June meeting.

Progress continues to be made, with improving or stable performances in 83% of the indicators for which quarterly data was available and year 1 targets have been achieved or exceeded in 25 instances.

The challenge now for some services is to maintain that strong performance. The Young and Yorkshire targets are ambitious and in some cases are proving hard to meet, particularly where they are set against national indicators that are themselves improving.

Headlines from the latest figures include:

- the proportion of children achieving five A*-C including English and maths had been revised upwards, from 60% to 61%, and the local authority is now ranked 29th nationally;
- the attainment gap between children eligible for free school meals and their peers has narrowed by 3% to 23%, but remains 5% wider than that observed nationally;

The Young and Yorkshire priorities

- Ensuring that education is our greatest liberator
- Helping all children enjoy a happy family life
- Ensuring a healthy start to life

- the attainment gap at Key Stage 2 between children with a statement of SEN and their non-SEN peers has narrowed, but has widened for children with SEN without a statement;
- performance across safeguarding and child protection remains strong, with a reduction in the number of children subject to a child protection order;
 - almost all young people presenting at homelessness hubs are being diverted into alternative accommodation, despite a rise in presentations of over a third compared with the start of the year; and
- the rate of hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children under 15 rose sharply compared to the previous year.

A screening process, introduced in September 2014, for contacts received by the county council's customer service centre, continues to have a positive impact on the proportion of referrals received by children's social care, helping all contacts to be dealt with in the most appropriate way and improving the timeliness of assessments.

Visit helps to prepare for troop move

A group of North Yorkshire County Council representatives visited Gutersloh in Germany to meet professionals from Service Children's Education (SCE) and members of the military community in preparation for the rebasing of 6 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps to Dishforth Airfield in summer 2016.

The group (pictured) comprised Matt Blyton, lead advisor, Education and Skills Service; Julie Lyon, head teacher of Dishforth Airfield Primary School; Helen Langford, service children's coordinator and teacher at Boroughbridge High School; Paul Carswell, divisional manager (west) Children and Families Prevention Service; Jill Wilson, schools admissions, and Annabel Hall, service pupils' champion. The group was supported by WO2 John Reynolds, military housing liaison officer.

More than 200 families and about 450 soldiers will begin the move to Dishforth in March, with the majority expected to arrive in August. For some children, this will be the first time they will have lived in the UK and marks



the closure of Princess Royal Barracks, Gutersloh, as part of Army rebasing and the drawdown from Germany.

Group members were briefed by the Commanding Officer and met the heads of the three main schools that service the base. They began to make plans for the arrival of about 130 primary and 70 secondary school children in North Yorkshire. Parents and children met the county council team and asked questions.

Matt Blyton said: "Being able to give a three-hour briefing to about 140 soldiers of 6 Regt was invaluable. This allowed reassurance to be given that as a local authority we have a strong track record of effective support for children of Armed Forces personnel. It was also very helpful to visit the schools that 6 Regt pupils will leave and to meet their key senior leaders."

• **Play helps schools affected by troop movement: p5**

New parenting strategy to be developed

A new Parenting Strategy for North Yorkshire is being developed to take a more comprehensive approach to parenting support.

The strategy will operate alongside the work of the county council's new Prevention service (see page 1). It will look at the two strands of universal support and targeted and specialist support.

It is proposed to develop a stronger web-based parenting advice service comprising videos and articles that parents can use to help them cope with issues such as sleep routines for babies and changing behaviour of teenagers. It is thought this level of self-help support would help many

parents. There would also be some universal support through courses for which parents could be asked to pay.

For targeted and specialist support, it is proposed to streamline the number of programmes available, focusing on those that have demonstrated the greatest impact in the past. Programmes run over recent years have been evaluated so that resources can be focused on courses that have the evidence to back up their effectiveness.

Work is being done to evaluate courses to support parents with autistic children.

The intention is to take detailed proposals for the strategy to the September meeting of the Children's Trust board.

Starting well is among key health priorities

North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board is seeking views on its strategy about what's important for good health and social care.

The draft strategy takes the themes of:

- connecting communities – creating places where communities flourish and people can shape services;
- starting well – promoting childhood health;
- living well – identifying ways in which people can live a

healthier lifestyle; and

- ageing well – encouraging people to take steps to ensure they can enjoy a healthy, independent lifestyle for longer and addressing issues such as loneliness and isolation.

The board is updating its Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and has put together an online questionnaire to find out what people think of its proposals. Take part at www.northyorks.gov.uk/jhwsconsultation.

Film shows the value of making music

NYMAZ, the youth music development charity operating in North Yorkshire, has released a new short film advocating music-making activities in special schools.

The film focuses on the positive experiences of Welburn Hall School, a North Yorkshire County Council maintained special school in Kirkbymoorside, explaining the huge impact music has made – from the perspective of both teachers and pupils.

The film can be seen at www.nymaz.org.uk.

Heidi Johnson, director of NYMAZ, said: “Music is now such an essential part of life at Welburn Hall School that the head teacher is committed to ongoing investment in it. Music has enabled pupils to improve their personal skills and physical development as well as assisting their learning in other areas and helping with mood control. It has also provided an unparalleled source of enjoyment and the pupils regularly enjoy whole school singing and signing sessions as well as giving performances.



SOUNDS GOOD: A pupil from Welburn Hall School in a scene from the film

“We hope that our film will encourage other music hubs to feel inspired by what can be achieved and to consider their offer to special schools. We also hope that individual schools will be moved to explore the benefits music could bring to their pupils.”

Special schools or music hubs interested in considering music-making activities for children and young people with SEND are invited to join the NYMAZ SEND Music Network. Membership is free and provides access to online training, networking events and e-bulletins. Find more information at www.nymaz.org.uk.

Immediate priorities identified in closing the attainment gap for our most deprived children

Educational outcomes in North Yorkshire are among the best in the country, but in common with many local authorities, particularly rural ones, the progress of the county’s most deprived young people does not match that of their peers.

In fact, in this one area, North Yorkshire is among the worst-performing authorities in England.

That’s the background to the Closing the Gap strategy that was presented to the Children’s Trust board at its June meeting by the county council’s director of children’s services, Pete Dwyer.

The strategy, which is being debated by headteachers from the school improvement partnerships, identifies immediate priorities, including:

- ensuring closing the gap is a key priority for schools, settings and improvement partnerships;
- defining the roles of the various parties in moving this agenda forward;
- auditing all performance and practice to identify

particular areas of concern, successful interventions, activities that are not having sufficient impact and schools on which to focus funding;

- setting challenging targets;
- ensuring that national and local resources are allocated to addressing this issue;
- focusing strategies on particular areas, for example the coast;
- developing discrete and ambitious projects for early years;
- encouraging all schools and settings to identify a senior manager and a governor with responsibility for this agenda;
- working with schools and governors to set out clear expectations for both them and the local authority.

“I hope that this strategy will command widespread support,” says Pete Dwyer, “and that it will act as a spur for us all to redouble our efforts. Closing the Gap should be a matter of professional pride for all of us.”

- The strategy can be read in full on the Children’s Trust’s website.

Play helps deal with troops on the move

A theatre project commissioned by North Yorkshire County Council has been touring schools to help pupils affected by troop movements to develop resilience at a time of major change for the armed forces.

The impact of the drawdown of troops from Germany and the closure of all Ministry of Defence schools there, as well as other military mobilisation, means schools in North Yorkshire will have to manage significant numbers of children coming and going. Up until late 2016, about 6,000 troops will come into the county and about 4,500 will move out. This will affect all schools that serve the units based at Catterick Garrison and its outstations.

This period of turbulence can be unsettling for many children in affected schools. The county council commissioned Invisible Man Theatre Company to develop an interactive drama to help primary school children aged seven to 11 to cope with the changes associated with such significant troop mobility.

The project was also to encourage civilian pupils to appreciate the challenges faced by the children of our Armed Forces when they are posted. In addition, it encouraged schools to reflect on their policies and procedures for dealing with pupil mobility.



HOME TRUTHS: Primary school children watch the play

The interactive drama was followed by class-based activities to encourage children to reflect on the action.

The drama, *Wherever Home Is*, was funded through the MoD's Education Support Fund for State Schools. It was delivered in 20 primary schools throughout the county in April and May before touring four primary schools in the Hohne Garrison area of Germany.

To research *Wherever Home Is*, the theatre company visited schools in Catterick and Germany, working with children, parents and staff.

County can press ahead with school improvements thanks to £51 m capital fund

North Yorkshire County Council is to invest £51m over the next three years to invest in a schools capital programme to upgrade facilities such as science labs, design technology, art, music and drama spaces to support teaching and learning as well as improving school kitchens and maintaining the fabric of school buildings.

The money will also be invested in building and site improvements to support school mergers and make split-site campuses work better.

The funding has come through a number of government allocations for maintenance, improvements and new build.

North Yorkshire's capital allocation this year amounts to £13.2m, £1.8m more than last year. Including the money that is devolved directly to schools, this figure amounts to just over £17m, with a similar indicative amount for the following two years.

The increased allocation has come partly in response to a national school property survey that revealed a high need for improvements to school buildings in North Yorkshire. The

county has one of the largest numbers nationally of small schools and old buildings and the government's allocation reflects the level of need for the first time.

The authority has also received additional capital funding of nearly £600,000 to support the delivery of universal infant free school meals. This means North Yorkshire is able to refurbish a number of school kitchens in most need of renovation.

The county council has also been allocated a further £1m for the provision of additional school places in 2017/18 supporting an allocation of £40m announced last year. A programme of school expansions was agreed in September.

Pete Dwyer, the county council's corporate director for the children and young people's service, said: "We have a rising backlog of building maintenance and this funding, even with the increased allocation, is not going to address all of that. However, it will go a long way to helping our schools continue to be fit for purpose to deliver a 21st century school curriculum."

Strategy to support disabled children and young people is implemented

A new Strategy for Supporting Disabled Children, Young People and their Families was approved for implementation by North Yorkshire County Council's Executive in May.

The strategy represents a coherent approach to support and provision, which makes improvements where possible, minimises disruption to the lives of disabled children and young people and their families and ensures the council meets its statutory duties.

Development of the strategy was set against reduced funding that required savings of £887,000 from a budget of £5.2m, a 16.6% reduction.

The strategy was informed by a 12-week consultation, as well as the engagement of the voluntary and community sector, and the insights of a group of parents from NYPACT, the forum for parents of children with disabilities.

Personalisation, local delivery and community support are at the heart of the strategy.

Changes include:

- The council's eligibility criteria for services for assessed needs are not changing. This means there would continue to be about 450 families requiring support at the highest level.
- Bureaucracy will be reduced by lowering the level of professional oversight for the families of about 130 children with lower levels of need.
- More control will be offered by promotion of Direct Payments, which let families choose how funds are spent.
- All cases and packages of support will be reviewed with the intention of reducing the cost while continuing to meet assessed needs realistically.
- More specialist foster carers to provide short breaks to give respite to families will be recruited as an alternative to residential short breaks in children's resource centres (CRCs). As family-based short breaks increase, less CRC capacity will be needed, so after three years the intention would be to close either The Ghyll, Skipton, or Morton-on-Swale.
- The budget for the discretionary short breaks grant is to be capped at £100,000 a year from 2016/17.
- A grant to East Barnby outdoor education centre will end and the council will help the centre develop sustainable funding. Outdoor activity provided by Woodleigh children's home, Harrogate, will continue.
- There will be investment in supporting people with the most complex needs as they move into adulthood.
- The council will work more closely with the community and voluntary sector to help groups to meet lower levels of need.

'It's not OK' says child sexual abuse awareness campaign



Photography by Tom Hull. The child pictured is a model.

NSPCC registered charity numbers: 216401 and 5037712

Sexual abuse is NEVER ok

Please visit www.itsnotokay-york.org.uk for further information.

For support or if you're concerned that a child has been sexually abused please contact the NSPCC 24 hour helpline Tel: 0808 800 5000 or email: help@nspcc.org.uk

If a child is at immediate risk of harm call 999

City of York Safeguarding Children Board In partnership with NSPCC

"It's not OK" is a joint child sexual abuse awareness campaign between City of York Safeguarding Children Board (CYSCB) and the NSPCC.

It aims to help parents, carers, children and young people, professionals and the public recognise the signs of child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, understand where to get help and increase confidence to say or do something to stop the abuse.

The year-long multi-agency campaign, the first of its type for the NSPCC in England, will have four phases, each targeting a different audience.

Dot Evans, from the City of York Safeguarding Children Board, said: "I hope that this campaign will not just help young people who may be at risk of abuse or exploitation, but help raise awareness of the issue with people of all ages across the city, helping to protect future generations."

Helen Westerman, NSPCC campaigns manager, said: "We know how difficult it can be to speak out about sexual abuse and exploitation and we hope that this campaign provides a voice to children and young people living in abusive situations."

Find more information at www.itsnotokay-york.org.uk.

Views sought as autism strategy is developed

A new autism strategy is being developed for North Yorkshire. This is a new chapter for the provision of support for people with autism across the county and North Yorkshire County Council is keen to know what residents think.

The new strategy has been written by the County Council and the NHS. Other agencies have contributed to or will be supporting the strategy, including North Yorkshire Police and the seven district and borough councils.

The strategy sets out targets for public sector organisations in North Yorkshire to achieve in relation to health, education and social care for people with autism. The strategy will be published in October this year and will run until October 2018.

People with autism and their families are invited to read the draft strategy, then have their say by completing a questionnaire, which can be found at www.northyorks.gov.uk/autismstrategy. Alternatively, people can share their opinion at one of the council's events that will be held during July. Details of these will be available on the council's website.

Healthy Child service launched

North Yorkshire County Council's Healthy Child Service for 5-19-year-olds began operating on 1 April.

The service focuses on prevention and early intervention and is the result of work to address gaps in services by raising the profile of the public health needs of children and young people.

Four services will work together and in partnership with other health providers to ensure that children and young people can find the advice and help that they need to tackle health concerns.

The Healthy Child Service can be contacted on 01423 557711.

You said,
we did



North Yorkshire's Young People's Council has been busy over the past few months and has been working hard to share the voice of looked-after children and care leavers with decision makers. Members have been working with the county council to produce a video, You Said, We Did, which takes young people's feedback and shows how decision makers are listening and, more importantly, doing something to address the issues raised.

You can view the video on You Tube. Search for Children's social care - You Said, We Did.

County takes a lead on adoption support service

North Yorkshire County Council is taking a lead in the roll-out of a national service designed to help adoptive parents access the best possible therapeutic care for children who have often been victims of abuse and neglect.

North Yorkshire was one of ten authorities last year to pilot use of the Adoption Support Fund, which pays for therapeutic services, such as cognitive therapy, play and music therapy, and intensive family support, helping children

to recover from their previous experiences, bond with their adoptive families and settle into their new lives.

The £19.3m fund has been set up because many families need some support following adoption and too many have struggled to get the help they need. It will enable adoptive families to access the services they need more easily.

North Yorkshire will now champion the fund and help other authorities take it on board.

Challenging behaviour strategy

A strategy for supporting children and young people who have behaviour that challenges is being developed in response to growing concerns from schools and settings about meeting the needs of such children.

It will aim to identify and remove barriers to learning for pupils whose behaviour can impede their progress and disrupt the education of others.

It will help schools and settings secure better outcomes and where issues persist will provide specialist input through the inclusive education service.

A final draft is to be produced, taking into consideration engagement and consultation that has taken place.

A dozen youth clubs re-open under NYY

North Yorkshire Youth (NYY) is re-opening more than a dozen youth clubs in North Yorkshire.

A new contract between NYY, which is based at Carlton Lodge Activity Centre near Thirsk, and North Yorkshire County Council means that the provision of youth clubs continues under the guidance of the experienced NYY youth development team. The new contract runs until August 2016.

David Sharp, chief executive, said: "The new contract is an outcome of the decision to move more youth club provision into the voluntary sector and we are delighted to have been chosen to provide the service. Our experienced youth development team is ideally placed to undertake this."

Pete Dwyer, the county council's corporate director for the children and young people's service, said: "North Yorkshire County Council is looking to transform the way it provides services, meeting its responsibilities in innovative and effective ways and working with communities to develop services for themselves.

"The authority is committed to more targeted work with particular children, young people and families through the new Prevention Service, getting in early and helping to stop problems escalating. This great partnership with North Yorkshire Youth will complement this work, giving young people right across North Yorkshire access to new youth clubs. By NYY encouraging local communities to be involved in the running of the clubs, we expect new and exciting opportunities to be created."



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, York and North Yorkshire Probation Trust, North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and the voluntary and community sector.

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

Tel: (01609) 532917 Email: communications@northyorks.gov.uk



If you print this newsletter, please recycle when you have finished with it.

Seeking carers to open a door to a young person

North Yorkshire County Council is looking to recruit hub community family foster carers and supported lodging hosts in the Harrogate and Scarborough areas to have key roles in its innovative No Wrong Door vision.

The council wants to support young people in their families and communities wherever possible, and when this is not possible it wants to give them the opportunity of life within a caring family environment.

Recruits should have experience of working with or fostering young people with complex and challenging behaviour and have a spare bedroom in their home.

As part of the No Wrong Door team, carers will receive excellent training and on-going support. More details are available at www.northyorks.gov.uk/nowrongdoor.

Ante-natal education initiative is finalist in RCM national awards

Coast and Ryedale Ante-natal Education Initiative was runner-up in the President's Award for Partnership Working in this year's Royal College of Midwives National Awards.

The project is a collaboration between county council children's centre service manager Simone Wilkinson and Lynda Fairclough, community midwifery team leader with York NHS Foundation Trust. It was developed in 2013 to enhance ante-natal provision in Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale.

Parents said they wanted a greater understanding of the broader services available to them. The new programme began in 2014 and the partnership has enabled midwifery to sustain ante-natal education in the community and provide parents with more access to other areas of support provided via the children's centre.

To submit an article to this newsletter, email Martin Feekins at martin.feekins@northyorks.gov.uk

How do I get copies?

The newsletter is emailed to partner organisations and is available via the cyps.info website. You can also call Martin Feekins on 01609 533109 or email martin.feekins@northyorks.gov.uk