



Members of the Learning Disability Partnership Board (from left) Karen Ravenhill, Robert Robson, Julie Dodsworth and Andrea Wyeth, with Sue Lear (centre), valuing people co-ordinator for the Learning Disability Partnership Board, outside the newly refurbished Mencap Centre in Northallerton.

## New strategy will help those with a learning disability

The North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board has launched its Live Well, Live Longer strategy.

The strategy is committed to giving people with learning disabilities in the county greater choice and control over important life decisions, and sets out how it will deliver this ambition. It is the result of a consultation to find out what people with learning disabilities living in North Yorkshire want.

Over the next five years, North Yorkshire's strategy will give people with learning disabilities the tools and support to enjoy longer, healthier and more independent lives. This includes ensuring they can:

- have more choice and control over decisions;
- access better health care;
- play an active role in their community;
- live in a home they can call their own;

- have support for their carers; and
- prepare for adult life.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is now working with the county's Learning Disability Partnership Board (which represents people with a learning disability in North Yorkshire) and the Learning Disability Provider Forum (which represents organisations that provide services to people with a learning disability) to produce an action plan to deliver the strategy's key commitments.

Live Well, Live Longer also looks at how to support people who care for a person with a learning disability, letting them choose how and when they can have a break, and have some peace of mind about the future when they are no longer able to care for their loved one.

The strategy can be downloaded from [www.nypartnerships.org.uk/livewell](http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/livewell).

## In this issue

Click on the page numbers below to view those pages

Fostering is changing lives in the county



\_\_\_\_\_ page

Volunteers needed to help young homeless



\_\_\_\_\_ page

Taking Young and Yorkshire to next level



\_\_\_\_\_ page

Pulling ahead through social work



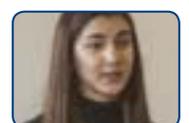
\_\_\_\_\_ page

Royal recognition for Phil's work



\_\_\_\_\_ page

Elected to represent young people



\_\_\_\_\_ page



Fostering North Yorkshire's Alison and Liana

## Fostering North Yorkshire highlights role of birth children

As part of this year's Foster Care Fortnight, Fostering North Yorkshire featured the very important work being done by the birth children of foster carer.

Liana is nine and plays an important part in the lives of the children and young people her parents, Alison and Tom, care for with Fostering North Yorkshire.

Liana says: "Sometimes, if someone comes to stay and they have lots of difficulties, it can be harder at the start, but I work to make sure we become friends and then when we argue it's friendly, just like brothers and sisters arguing. Before mum and dad started fostering I was a bit lonely as I'm an only child, but I'm never lonely now."

Alison added: "We love our roles as foster carers and want to keep on making a difference for the young people we look after. We're so proud of the fact that Liana

really wants to foster too when she's old enough – and she's set her heart on being North Yorkshire's youngest ever foster carer!"

More than 300 children are looked after by the county's foster carers every year and North Yorkshire County Council is seeking to recruit new carers in 2017.

Fostering brings with it generous tax-free payments and allowances, and while this is not the main motivation for most foster carers, additional income can be very welcome. For example, an accredited foster carer receives more than £300 each week tax-free for fostering a child aged 11 to 15, equivalent to £15,785 a year (based on a 52-week placement).

For more information about becoming a foster carer with Fostering North Yorkshire, visit [www.northyorks.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/fostering) or call 01609 534654.

## Let's work together to keep our children safe

Children's Trust Board members have been updated on the work the County Council is doing to help the county's children avoid injuries at home and when out and about.

The County Council has supported Child Safety Week, the national campaign from the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT). Together with its partner, Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT), it has also developed a booklet designed to help parents and carers identify and manage potential dangers in the home. Called Confident Parents, Safer Children, it empowers parents and carers of children under five.

The booklet provides information for parents and carers about the most common types of unintentional injuries and what can cause them. It also gives parents and carers the chance to think about risks in their own home through a self-assessment and draw up an action plan to avoid them.

The Confident Parents, Safer Children booklet is available from HDFT health visiting and County Council prevention service teams and can also be accessed on the County Council's website, [www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/23548/](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/23548/) Childrens-centres.

## New training on safeguarding children

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board (NYSCB) has launched a new range of e-learning packages for safeguarding children and young people. To use the new e-learning courses you will need to create a user account by completing an online form on the website.

NYSCB classroom-based courses can also be booked through the new NYSCB learning management system.

For more information regarding the new training arrangements, visit [www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/training](http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/training)

# Volunteers needed to help young homeless

SASH, the charity that helps to support young people who are facing homelessness, has put out an urgent call for volunteers in the Harrogate area.

SASH has been helping vulnerable young people to avoid homelessness for more than 20 years by offering them a room in the home of a volunteer host. Through its emergency Nightstop project and longer-term Supported Lodgings scheme, the charity supports 16-25-year-olds who need a safe place to stay while they find somewhere permanent to live.

The accommodation is provided entirely in the homes of local volunteers and the charity needs more people in the Harrogate area to come forward to help.

SASH is also working with the County Council to provide Supported Lodgings accommodation to some of the unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who have



Yvonne Dawes, who has been a SASH host since 2013, during which time she has helped more than 50 young people by providing a safe place to stay.

arrived in the county. These are young people aged between 16 and 18 who are applying for asylum and have no relative or guardian in the country. SASH's Supported Lodgings scheme provides them with a welcoming, safe home where they can learn to adjust to life in the UK.

SASH volunteers are fully trained and supported and receive expenses for each night they host and all young people are police-checked before being offered accommodation. There is information about volunteering on the SASH website, [www.sash-uk.org.uk](http://www.sash-uk.org.uk), or call 01904 652043.

# Stronger Communities updates progress in helping residents to help themselves

North Yorkshire County Council has developed an ambitious Stronger Communities programme to support communities in playing a greater role in the delivery of services in the county.

So far, the programme has concentrated its efforts around supporting the following priority services:

- the library service reconfiguration;
- the targeted prevention framework for health and adult services;
- the implementation of the 0-19 prevention service; and
- integrated passenger transport by helping to develop or improve community transport.

Since the launch of the programme in January 2015, a total of 41 initiatives for children and young people have been supported by the programme, with a total investment of £406,000. These include:

- Services and activities for disabled/disadvantaged young people.

- Junior Park Run.
- Parent and toddler groups.
- Support for voluntary sector childcare providers.
- Music, drama and art sessions in village halls and community centres.
- Intergenerational digital projects.
- Services for young people at risk of isolation and mental health issues.
- Parent advocacy and peer support.
- Peer support for families with disabled children.
- Mentoring for young entrepreneurs.
- Diversionary activity programmes for NEETs.
- Youth volunteering programme – in partnership with North Yorkshire Youth.

As part of the refreshing of the Young and Yorkshire plan, the outcomes framework for Stronger Communities has been reviewed and refined so that resources are directed at the emerging priorities where involvement of communities can add maximum value.

# Taking Young and Yorkshire to the next level

The North Yorkshire Children's Trust Board is launching an updated plan for children, young people and their families in September. Called Young and Yorkshire 2, the plan is driven by the vision that North Yorkshire will be "a place of opportunity where all children and young people are happy, healthy and achieving".

The refreshed plan has a wider approach that seeks to influence the climate and context in which children and young people grow up, for example by looking at family finances, housing and transport as well as the core children's services. The outcomes we are seeking are:

- a happy family life – strong families and vibrant communities;
- a healthy start to life – safe and healthy lifelong lifestyles; and
- education is truly our greatest liberator – high aspirations, opportunities and achievements.

The launch of the new plan coincides with the new



Director of Children and Young People's Services, Stuart Carlton, taking up his post following Pete Dwyer's retirement (see page 7). Stuart will pick up the baton from Pete in July, and will take the "happy, healthy, achieving" plan forward.

Pete commented: "The refreshed plan has been developed to consider many factors affecting the lives of young people growing up in North Yorkshire. We need to keep the momentum, harness the energy and enthusiasm that we collectively put into implementing Young and Yorkshire and take it to the next level for Young and Yorkshire 2."

## Final review of children and young people's plan reviews progress over its three years

The Children's Trust Board has discussed the third and final review of the Children and Young People's Plan, Young and Yorkshire, which assesses progress made across its three over-arching priorities up to the end of the 2016/17 financial year.

These are:

- ensuring that education is our greatest liberator, with a greater proportion of pupils attending a good or outstanding school or setting;
- helping all children 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.

Good progress has been made against all three priorities and a number of huge improvements can be identified, including:

- 10,000 children attending good or outstanding schools;
- top quartile Key Stage 4 results in the country;
- 20% reduction of young people in care (saving £2m);

- only 11 children in independent fostering agency placements – the average across all local authorities is 100; and
- bullying in school is down more than 10% compared to ten years ago.

A number of challenges remain. They include:

- reducing the number of children in reception and year 6 with excess weight;
- improving attainment at Key Stages 2 and 4; and
- reducing the number of children admitted to hospital with unintentional and deliberate injuries.

All the challenges identified in the review have informed the development of the refreshed Young and Yorkshire 2 (see above).

The full review can be downloaded from <http://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/ctbagenda>.

For more information, contact Louise Rideout, CYPS Strategy and Commissioning, on 01609 798009.



Pete Dwyer with Isabelle Trowler (centre) with senior managers in children's services (left to right) Martin Kelly, Vicky Metheringham, Judith Hay and Paula Hopkins.

## North Yorkshire celebrates outstanding record on children's social work

North Yorkshire is celebrating an outstanding record in social work for children and young people.

A new survey of the county's social workers has found that 97 per cent said they would recommend North Yorkshire as a good place to be a social worker.

Since 2010, the county council has transformed children's services, including social work practice, for children and young people so that it has become one of the top performing authorities in the country. It is one of only four councils in the country that employs no agency social work staff and has an experienced and committed workforce.

North Yorkshire is one of seven exemplar children's

services to become a Partner in Practice for the Department for Education. The County Council is now working alongside other authorities to share good practice and develop long-term and sustainable high performance.

England's chief social worker, Isabelle Trowler, visited North Yorkshire and said: "North Yorkshire realises its ambitions for improving the lives of children and young people and not many can do this.

"They are helping families stay together and they are not resting on their laurels. They want to do more and be the best that they can be; that's why they are one of the nation's Partners in Practice."

## Priorities for Partner in Practice programme

North Yorkshire County Council is part of the Government's national Partners in Practice (PiP) programme. The programme has four principal work strands:

- understanding excellence and innovation;
- supporting sector improvement and modelling good practice in other local authorities;
- developing workforce and practice leaders; and
- building on high performance – for North Yorkshire this means developing areas to achieve "outstanding" status.

Key activities being undertaken to deliver these work strands are:

- extending the No Wrong Door scheme to care leavers and students with social, emotional and mental health needs;
- providing 840 days of support over four years to local authorities that are currently assessed as requiring improvement;
- developing specialist support services to create change in families and reduce referrals to children's social care; and
- linking up data collection systems to store information in a central place to provide a single view of the child.

The full programme update can be downloaded from <http://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/ctbagenda>.



## Royal party invitation recognises Phil's work

Phil Proudley, pictured, one of North Yorkshire Youth Justice Service's appropriate adults, has been given royal recognition for his work in the county.

Appropriate adults safeguard the rights, welfare and effective participation of children and vulnerable adults who are detained or questioned by the police. Phil joined the YJS in 2002, having volunteered previously as a mentor in various schools after retiring.

As part of his role as a YJS volunteer, Phil acted as an appropriate adult on over 1,500 occasions and a Referral Order Panel member. Phil's generosity with his time, reliability and invaluable assistance was acknowledged when he received a Police Area Commander's Award in 2009. He has now had royal recognition for this work with an invitation to one of this year's Buckingham Palace garden parties.

Phil said: "My trip to the palace was a day to remember and I feel extremely privileged to have had the experience. Thank you YJS for the opportunity."

## Performance progress continues to be good

Children's Trust Board members have received a report on performance on the final quarter of 2016/17 against a range of indicators from the children and young people's plan, Young and Yorkshire.

The plan's three priorities are: ensuring education is our greater liberator; helping all children enjoy a happy family life; and ensuring a healthy start to life.

The performance position overall remains positive. Data has been updated for 38 of the 84 indicators, and in the final quarter targets have been achieved or exceeded in 19 instances.

Among the performance successes reported, the percentage of childcare settings rated as excellent by Ofsted is 97%, which is 10% above the year-end target of 87%; the percentage of families turned around as a result of our developing stronger families intervention is 37%, against a target of 25%; and the average time taken from entering care to moving in with an adoptive family is 519 days, well below the national average of 558 days.

The full performance report can be downloaded from <http://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/ctbagenda>.

## New primaries welcomed

North Yorkshire will have two new primary schools to help meet the essential need for additional school places in parts of the county.

The Cambrai Community Primary School will be at Catterick and will provide 420 places to meet demand created by the expansion of Catterick Garrison bringing in more service families, as well as other housing development in the area. This bid was submitted by the Lingfield Academy Trust.

The schools will be funded through the Government's free schools programme. For the Keeble Gateway Academy, the County Council will make available a site and a financial contribution that has been negotiated with the developer. For the Catterick school, there is likely to be a contribution from developers towards the cost, which will also support the expansion of a number of the existing primary schools in the Catterick area.

The North Yorkshire schools were among 131 announced by the Department for Education to create more than 69,000 new school places nationally.

## Children's champion to lead on the coast

One of the UK's leading children's champions has been appointed by the Government to oversee a £6m programme to raise aspirations and improve opportunities and social mobility for children and young people on the North Yorkshire coast.

Sir Martin Narey, a government adviser on children's social care and former chief executive of Barnardos and director general of prisons, will chair the partnership board for the Opportunity Area, which covers Scarborough, Whitby and Filey.

Twelve Opportunity Areas have been created in the UK in a Government initiative to target areas which face the greatest challenges in relation to social mobility.

Opportunity Areas will see local partnerships formed with early years providers, schools, colleges, universities, businesses, charities and local authorities to ensure all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The North Yorkshire coast Opportunity Area builds on pioneering work by North Yorkshire County Council. The Council has already committed £750,000 to an initiative called the Scarborough Pledge to bring about a community-wide shift in attitude about expectations for the area's young people.

## Warning follows e-cigarette prosecution

Trading Standards officers are warning that retailers must enforce the ban on anyone under 18 buying e-cigarettes after a prosecution in Scarborough.

E-cigarettes are the most popular way for smokers to quit, but it is illegal for under-18s to buy and use them. Trading Standards conducted informal surveys through attempted test purchases of e-cigarettes and nicotine inhaling products by under-18s at retailers, with sales occurring in four out of 16 attempts.

A new County Council-funded stop smoking service called Smokefreelife North Yorkshire provides free support for people who live or work in the county, including young people aged 12 and over who wish to quit smoking. A range of support is available. For more information call 0800 2465215 or 01609 663023, text QUIT to 66777 or visit [www.smokefreelifenorthyorkshire.co.uk](http://www.smokefreelifenorthyorkshire.co.uk).

## New director of children's services for North Yorkshire

**Stuart Carlton, pictured, has been appointed North Yorkshire County Council's director of children's services following the retirement of Pete Dwyer, who has led the service for the past four years. Stuart is currently assistant director for children's services at Lincolnshire County Council.**



**Stuart joins a service that has gained national recognition for best practice at a time when children's services nationally are struggling under enormous pressure. In addition, high and increasing numbers of children and young people attend good or outstanding schools, outperforming national comparators.**

**Richard Flinton, chief executive of the county council, said: "Stuart is exactly the can-do sort of person we need to lead our children's services. He will build on the great work already delivered**

**by Pete Dwyer and through strong innovative leadership ensure continued improvement despite the challenging budget climate and a more autonomous education system."**

**Stuart began his career in social services in 1991 and is qualified in both social work and social care management.**

**He said: "I am delighted to be joining the County Council as its director for the children and young people's service. It is an ambitious and well-regarded council.**

**"I am joining a great team and look forward to working with them to meet the challenges ahead."**

# Trio will represent young people



Three young people have been elected to represent the views of thousands of others throughout North Yorkshire on the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP).

The UKYP is run by and for young people and gives those aged 11 to 18 opportunities to use their voice to improve the lives of their peers and communities.

Eden-Maia Shackleton, Evie M Stevenson and Kitty Jackson (above, from left) were elected as Members of the Youth Parliament (MYPs) by their peers at the first meeting of North Yorkshire Youth Voice Executive, which has been established by North Yorkshire County Council to bring together Youth Voice groups around the county.

Voice groups represent the views of young people from diverse backgrounds across North Yorkshire, including looked-after children, young carers, children of armed forces personnel, LGBT groups and local youth councils.

Deputy MYPs were also elected. They are Shannah Strudwick (central), Alexander Wright and Dylan Kennedy (east) and Ella Bridgett-Tomkinson (west). The MYPs and DMYPs will serve two-year terms.

The County Council provides a dedicated manager to support the MYPs, for example helping to arrange meetings with officials and accompanying them to meetings, as well as financial support.

Later this year MYPs from across the UK will meet to debate and vote on policy at the UK Youth Parliament Annual Sitting and attend a sitting in the Houses of Parliament where they will debate topics they wish to campaign on.

More information about the UK youth parliament can be found at [www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk](http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk).

## Young Advisors help out

The way sexual health services are presented to young people in North Yorkshire is being improved following work done by the Young Advisors employed by North Yorkshire County Council.



Young Advisors are aged between 16 and 24 and advise community

leaders and decision makers on how to engage young people in community life, decision making and improving services. They are trained to offer guidance to local authorities, housing associations and other organisations on a young person's perspective. They do this work in addition to their studies.

The team has recently undertaken work for YorSexualHealth, which is commissioned by the County Council to provide sexual health services, to look at what sexual health services young people would like and where they might seek information about local clinics.

As a result of the Young Advisors' guidance, YorSexualHealth plans to streamline and enhance its website, access the feasibility of an online chat service and look at options for text prompts and reminders to customers, discuss how it works with partners to benefit young people and look at engagement with schools.

Any young people interested in finding out more about joining the Young Advisors should contact Kevin Jeffrey on 01609 535931 or email [Kevin.Jeffrey@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Kevin.Jeffrey@northyorks.gov.uk).

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>.

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

### 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.

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



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