

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 FEBRUARY 2018

STATEMENT OF EDUCATION & SKILLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

School funding

Following consultation with all schools, North Yorkshire will move to the new National Funding Formula from April 2018. This delivers approximately £7m additional funding to the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. As a result of the Government's announcement of an additional £1.3bn funding, nationally, no school in North Yorkshire will lose out as a result of the proposals. However, we continue to have concerns about sparsity funding, particularly for our smaller secondary schools.

At the same time, the DfE has confirmed changes to High Needs Funding. In North Yorkshire our annual budget of £45m has pressures of over £3m but we will receive only £334k additional funding in 2018-19 - in effect, a real terms decrease. This has given rise to real concerns about the level of funding we receive and the support that we, in turn, can provide to our mainstream and special schools. In consultation with schools, we have transferred 0.5% of the Schools Block, equating to approximately £1.6m, to the High Needs Block for 2018-19. This is only a temporary measure and will be insufficient to meet current costs and anticipated increases in demand. Further changes to the wider system of High Needs and SEND will be required to fully address the issue of financial sustainability.

We will continue to lobby the DfE on sparsity and High Needs to secure a better deal for children in North Yorkshire.

Secondary league tables

The performance of schools at KS4 across the County places North Yorkshire in the top 15% of LA s nationally at KS5 it is in the top 10% of local authorities nationally. We are first when benchmarked across the regional neighbours (see table below) and we come second across our 10 statistical neighbours (only Rutland is above us but they only have one high school).

Region/ Local Authority ¹	Average Attainment 8 score per pupil ³	English and maths GCSEs				Progress 8 ³		
		Percentage of pupils who achieved a 9-5 pass ⁵		Percentage of pupils who achieved a 9-4 pass ⁵		Average Progress 8 score ⁴		
Total (state-funded sector)¹	46.1		42.4		63.5		-0.03	
Yorkshire and The Humber	45.1	Y&H Rank	40.0	Y&H Rank	61.1	Y&H Rank	0.02	Y&H Rank
Barnsley	43.7	11	38.3	10	59.1	9	-0.16	14
Bradford	41.9	14	34.4	14	55.4	14	0.01	8
Calderdale	47.8	3	44.6	3	65.1	4	0.01	8
Doncaster	43.4	12	38.1	11	58.1	12	-0.16	14
East Riding of Yorkshire	47.0	4	44.1	4	66.4	3	0.02	7
Kingston upon Hull, City of	41.8	15	29.0	15	49.1	15	-0.07	13
Kirklees	45.0	6	40.8	6	61.9	7	-0.02	11
Leeds	44.8	7	38.7	8	59.8	8	0.06	4
North East Lincolnshire	43.0	13	34.7	13	57.9	13	-0.05	12
North Lincolnshire	44.3	9	39.6	7	63.9	5	0.12	2
North Yorkshire	49.3	1	49.9	1	70.4	1	0.17	1
Rotherham	44.7	8	36.7	12	58.7	11	0.06	4
Sheffield	44.3	9	38.7	8	58.9	10	0.01	8
Wakefield	45.3	5	41.6	5	62.6	6	0.05	6
York	49.0	2	47.7	2	68.5	2	0.11	3

However, we should not be complacent because when we look at the performance of disadvantaged groups and vulnerable groups we are in the bottom 20% of local authorities nationally. Scarborough district schools also do particularly poorly. In order to address these two issues we have two major projects: Achievement Unlocked and the North Yorkshire Coast Opportunity Area.

In short, non-FSM (Free School Meals) pupils in North Yorkshire do significantly better than non-FSM pupils in other LAs but FSM pupils do significantly worse. Analysis nationally suggests that this is not just a North Yorkshire issue but is true of many parts of the country where there are schools that have smaller percentages of FSM children.

School Ofsted inspections

Ofsted outcomes continue to be in-line with national trends. North Yorkshire continues to perform above national for the number of schools judged good or outstanding, notably so at Secondary. In the Autumn of 2016 and Spring of 2017 there was a change to the inspection framework and in that period of time the County was hit by a number of inspections that were demoting schools however this was in line again with national trends whereby about 50% of schools inspected were judged requires improvement or inadequate.

Ofsted is still focusing heavily on safeguarding and this is still causing some issues in some schools. Another focus is the provision for disadvantaged and vulnerable children and the use of pupil premium. This is an area which is a concern for us in North Yorkshire and something we are now highlighting with schools. The gap in achievement and progress in North Yorkshire schools is a major issue.

North Yorkshire Coast Opportunities Area

The North Yorkshire Coast Opportunity Area Programme is focussed on improving social mobility in Scarborough, Whitby and Filey. The Programme's Partnership Board has begun to identify and allocate funding to projects that are aligned with the programme delivery plan. These include a focus on attracting and retaining talented teachers to the Coast, the creation of a maths centre to support outcomes in primary schools and additional investment to develop the resilience of children and young people. Projects are being developed and launched through collaborative work with a range of partners, including schools, business, the voluntary and public sectors.

The Programme has recently launched two funds that will further support social mobility on the Coast. The Essential Life Skills fund will invest £800k in extra-curricular activities so that that young people develop skills that help them throughout life, and which complement their academic studies. The second fund - Opportunity Area Awards – is open to schools, colleges and youth-led groups to design, create and deliver their own social mobility initiatives.

Burnt Yates VA Primary School

The consultation process for the proposed closure of Burnt Yates VA Primary School is underway. All responses to the consultation received by 27 February will be considered by the County Council's Executive on 13 March 2018. If the Executive decides to proceed with the closure proposal, then statutory notices would be published in the local press on 22 March 2018. These notices would provide a further four weeks for representations to be made. A final decision would then be made by the Executive in May 2018. If agreed the school would close on 31 August 2018.

SEND transport proposals

You will be aware that we are currently holding a series of consultations on changes to home to school transport policy for those with special educational needs or disabilities. The consultations will

continue through to late March and consider a number of options to secure savings and bring about a fair and sustainable service.

Unlike the majority of councils in England, North Yorkshire has continued to provide discretionary home to school transport for free for post 16 young people with special needs or disabilities. This is alongside rising costs due to the increase in numbers of special needs pupils requiring transport and increases in the distances that they need to travel. Based on these current trends, transport in North Yorkshire will reach an annual cost of £30m by 2025, far beyond the current budget of £5m. Proposals currently being consulted have the potential to secure savings of £2m a year. For information about the consultations, including the dates and times of consultation meetings go to <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/home-school-transport-including-children-and-young-people-send>

Strategic Plan for SEND Provision 0-25

Work continues on the overall Strategic Plan for SEND provision in North Yorkshire for children and young people aged 0-25. Recent informal consultation has included feedback from over 400 individuals across all stakeholders. Formal consultation on the final plan will take place in April and May 2018, subject to approval to consult, with the intention that the plan is published in September 2018.

Alongside this work, a consultation on the proposals for use of the Special Provision Capital Fund is currently taking place, ending on 18 February 2018. This funding totals £500 000 over three years and has to be used to increase the number of places and/or improve facilities for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans. Proposals focus on a small number of special schools in North Yorkshire. The final plan will be considered by The Executive next month and is required to be published by 14th March 2018.

Cllr Patrick Mulligan
Executive Member for Education and Skills