

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

14 NOVEMBER 2018

STATEMENT OF EDUCATION & SKILLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

School funding

From April 2018, we have moved towards the national funding formula which delivers approximately an additional £7m to schools in North Yorkshire. Although no school will lose out as a result of this, we recognise that schools in North Yorkshire continue to see budget pressures.

Schools in financial difficulty continue to be a concern with a significant number of schools setting an in-year projected deficit and one in four schools projected to be in deficit by the end of the year. However, we continue to work with schools to mitigate the financial pressures and we continue efforts to lobby central government to ensure that schools in North Yorkshire receive a fair funding deal.

High needs funding continues to be under severe financial pressure with a £5.5m underlying projected overspend in 2018-19. Following consultation and agreement with schools, we have transferred £1.6m from School Budgets to alleviate some of the financial pressure but significant savings will be required as this is only a temporary measure. It is likely that a further topslice from the Schools Budget will be required in 2019-20 although each school should still receive the minimum per pupil level of funding intended by the national funding formula. We are continuing to lobby central government for a better deal for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in North Yorkshire.

GCSE outcomes

The DfE recently published data in relation to this year's GCSE examination outcomes. I am pleased to report that performance remains very strong and significantly above the national and Yorkshire and Humber averages. 47.7% of pupils achieved a 9-5 grade (strong pass) in English and Maths ranking North Yorkshire 30th out of 152 local authorities.

The average Attainment 8 score, which measures the achievement of a pupil across eight qualifications, has reduced marginally, but performance is still strong with a national rank of 40th. Similarly the average Progress 8 score, which measures a pupil's progress from the end of primary school to the end of secondary school, has seen a small reduction, but the national rank remains high at 32nd.

School Ofsted inspections

There were only five school inspections in Quarter 2 owing to the summer holiday. All inspections were in primary schools with one outstanding judgement and four good judgements. The percentage of pupils attending a good or outstanding school continues to be very high and compares well to national and regional benchmarks.

Percentage of pupils attending a good or outstanding school (as at 28 September 2018)		
	Primary	Secondary
North Yorkshire	87.3%	86.8%
Yorkshire and Humberside	83.8%	76.9%
National	88.4%	82.2%

Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision 0-25

Following approval of the plan by the Executive on 4th September a detailed implementation plan had been developed and work is taking place on all three areas of the plan:

- The continuum of education provision
- Local governance, accountability, decision making and support
- Re shaping the high needs budget.

Key actions to note are the submission of North Yorkshire's bid for a special free school in the Selby area, consultation on the creation of a satellite for Mowbray School in the Ripon area, development of models for targeted mainstream provision and consultation on budget modelling for Pupil Referral Services/alternative provision. Proposals for years 2 and 3 of the Special Provision Capital Funding are also being developed.

Selby Free School Bid

North Yorkshire has submitted a bid to the DfE for a special free school in the Selby area. The bid is for a 100 place special school, age range 3-19, for children and young people with communication and interaction and cognition and learning needs. The bid is strongly supported by parent/carers, Selby district council, local mainstream schools and health colleagues. The DfE is looking at bids at the moment. We expect to hear more early in 2019.

School Organisation

The consultation on the proposal to amalgamate Ripon Moorside Infant and Junior Schools with a linked proposal to create a satellite Special School from Mowbray School in Bedale closed on 9 November 2018. The County Council's Executive will consider consultation responses at their meeting on 27 November 2018.

The representation period under the statutory proposal for the expansion of Overdale Community Primary School, Scarborough closes on 22 November with the County Council's Executive due to consider responses at their meeting on 4 December 2018.

The Governing Body of Oatlands Junior School, Harrogate consulted earlier this year on a proposal that the school change its age range to become a Primary school. Having consulted with the Department for Education they have decided not to proceed and announced this during October 2018. The County Council will now work with the school to achieve an expansion to become a 3 form entry Junior School as originally intended and to compliment the arrangements in place at Oatlands Infant School.

Schools Capital Building Projects

Significant capital projects are underway at a number of North Yorkshire schools and delivered from the School's Capital Programme and the Basic Need Programme. Examples are:

Barwic Parade CP School, Selby – hall extension and related improvements

Graham School, Scarborough - new two storey teaching block

King James's School, Knaresborough – new sixth form centre including demolition of existing provision.

Selby Community Primary School – provision of a new foundation stage unit

St Mary's RC Primary School, Malton – expansion to provide additional places

Cllr Patrick Mulligan
Executive Member for Education and Skills