

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 MAY 2019

STATEMENT OF EDUCATION & SKILLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

School funding

Concerns remain over funding for small, rural schools – secondary schools, in particular - and we continue to lobby central government to ensure that schools in North Yorkshire receive a fair funding deal; that the Spending Review 2019 will deliver more funding for schools but also ensure that additional funding is directed towards low-funded, rural authorities like North Yorkshire.

We continue to work with schools who are in, or are projecting to be in, a financial deficit position. Work will continue with individual schools to ensure that they are able to deploy their resources efficiently and we will support schools to identify ways to collaborate or innovate to continue to deliver a good or outstanding education for children and young people in North Yorkshire.

School Ofsted inspections – overall performance

From the start of the school year in September 2019, there were 40 school inspections. These were across all schools: 33 primary schools, 4 secondary schools, 2 special schools and 1 pupil referral unit. The outcomes were: 27 judged good, 10 require improvement and 3 judged inadequate. The three inadequate schools are primaries and all have secured academy sponsors through the Regional Schools Commissioner. The Council continues to support Local Authority maintained schools to implement the necessary improvements. The Regional Schools Commissioner is responsible for taking action where academies are underperforming.

The percentage of pupils attending a good or outstanding school continues to be high and is above national at secondary (89.1 North Yorkshire as compared to 79.4 national), but below national at primary (83.4 as compared to 86.9 nationally).

There are currently 39 schools judged requires improvement and 17 judged inadequate. At primary 33.3% of these schools are either academy status or are due to convert in the near future, whilst at secondary this figure is 80%.

Strategic Plan for SEND Education Provision 0-25

I am pleased to report the approval by the Secretary of State for North Yorkshire's bid for a special free school in the Selby area to move to the trust competition stage. Engagement events for proposers interested in the free school are being held in April and May 2019. Work is also progressing to implement the Strategic Plan. This includes:

- Finalisation of the ladder of intervention approach to supporting pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs
- Delivery of SENCO networks
- Development of new targeted provision model linked to mainstream schools including discussion with new schools interested in delivering the model
- Four out of five localities have preferenced a future model for pupil referral service/AP provision and this work has now moved to the curriculum development stage.
- Approval of the development of the Mowbray satellite provision on the Moorside infant school site and associated capital funding from the special provision capital fund (SPCF). This provision will be delivered from January 2020.
- Approval of capital funding for work at Brooklands Community Special School.

School organisation

The proposals for the amalgamation of Moorside Infant and Junior Schools in Ripon, and the establishment of satellite provision for Mowbray School on the Moorside Infant site, were both approved by the Executive Member for Schools on 12 March 2019. The amalgamation took effect from 29 April 2019 and the Mowbray satellite operation is scheduled to commence in January 2020.

The proposal to close Arkengarthdale School at the end of the current academic year is currently at the statutory notice stage. The Executive are scheduled to determine the proposal on 25 June 2019.

The consultation on a proposal to close Clapham School at the end of the current academic year closed on 4 April. The Executive at its meeting on 30 April 2019 received a report outlining the response to the consultation and agreed to halt the closure process after considering a recovery plan put forward by Governors and the local community. A formal review of the position will take place for end of the spring term 2020. This will be a joint review between the Governing Body (supported by Clapham School Action Group as they feel appropriate), the LA Officers and the Diocese.

A proposal to lower the age range at Thornton-in-Craven CP School is scheduled to be determined by Executive on 21 May 2019.

There have been two secondary and one primary academy conversions in Quarter 4. There are currently 20 schools that have either been issued with an Academy Order, or an Academy Order is pending, and that are in the pipeline to convert during 2019.

Beyond the expected conversions (forced and voluntary) during 2019, the pipeline appears to be slowing. It is thought that the increased number of schools forecasting financial deficits contributes to fewer conversions given the need to pass financial due diligence. It is a reasonable assumption, based on current knowledge, that there will be fewer conversions from 2020.

School Capital projects:

Significant capital projects are either underway or recently completed 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