

Working in North Yorkshire Children and Young People's Service

The Service in North Yorkshire is ambitious, hardworking and honest. It is genuinely committed to the interests of every child.

The communities we serve are more diverse than many imagine. Overall standards of attainment are very high, but they are not uniform across the County. Our challenge, therefore, is complex. We must raise standards where they are too low, maintain momentum where they are rising, and offer credible partnership and challenge where they are already very high.

To achieve this the whole Service has key objectives:

- to secure and maintain a high trust, high standards relationship with schools and settings;
- to base its work on sophisticated strategic planning which reflects the diversity of the County;
- to be open and rigorous about knowing what is being achieved;
- to be optimistic and determined about improvement.

We are reframing our agenda for the next three years. Our central commitment remains to raise standards inclusively. Service strategies will incorporate three key themes – collaboration, communities and children – to increase the impact we can achieve for learning and for wider corporate objectives.

Overall we have about 125,000 children and young people between 0-19, of whom about 92,000 are in 392 schools and over 250 early years settings. 47 Secondary schools are organised diversely; most are comprehensive but there are selective areas in Ripon and Skipton. There are 328 Primary schools varying in size from 20 to 600+ pupils (18% have fewer than 50 pupils), and 11 Special schools of which 4 are residential. Extensive support services are provided and there are thriving Community Education, Music and Outdoor Education Services. There are Sure Start and Neighbourhood Nursery projects in 6 parts of the County, plus very strong links with the Children's Fund, Connexions, Learning Partnership and Learning and Skills Council. Children's Social Care has about 600 staff, and there are about 400 children Looked After by the local Authority at anyone time. The Service employs over 13,000 staff, has over 5,000 school governors and a revenue budget of £270M.

North Yorkshire is committed to excellence and making a difference. The Education Service was rated with *** for performance and improvement in the CPA 2004. Our Children's Service was graded 3 under the Annual Performance Assessment in 2005.

Our challenge is to improve further. Can you help us?

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