



North Yorkshire
Children and Young People's
Strategic Partnership

Changing Times

Issue 15 April 2009

The newsletter for anyone working with children, young people and their families, or whose work impacts on them



Strategy sets out vision for children's workforce

In December 2008, the Government published the *2020 Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy*. This sets out their vision that everyone who works with children and young people should be:

- **Ambitious** for every child and young person
- **Excellent** in their practice
- **Committed** to partnership and integrated working
- **Respected** and valued as professionals

Whatever their role, the aim is to ensure that the workforce has the skills and knowledge to do the best job they possibly can to help children and young people develop and succeed across all the outcomes which underpin Every Child Matters: being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being.

The strategy sets out how the Government will work with partners and people in the workforce to ensure that every part of the children and young people's workforce achieve this vision.

Among the reforms, a Social Work Taskforce will be established to examine front-line social work practice and advise on improvements to social worker training, recruitment and leadership. There will be greater requirements for stronger partnerships across schools, further education and the wider youth workforce, together with training for 5000 current and future leaders and managers of Integrated Youth Support by 2011.

The Training and Development Agency for Schools and Lifelong Learning UK will devise a strategy for the development of a workforce to deliver 14-19 reforms, focussing on high quality delivery of diplomas and functional skills.

For the first time the vision for the schools' workforce, as recently set out in the 21st Century Schools document, has been included in the wider workforce strategy. There are strengthened links with the Department of Health's child health strategy with its overarching ambitions of excellent health outcomes, high quality services, excellent experience of services, and reducing health inequalities.

The Government also sets out steps that will be taken to ensure the strategy is effectively delivered which includes:

- establishing Children's Trust Boards as statutory bodies required to produce and publish a local Children and Young People's Plan, together with a strategy for deployment and development of their workforce,
- local reform, joint commissioning and training delivery,
- establishing an integrated communications strategy.

To find out more, visit www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/childrenandyoungpeoplesworkforce

We want to hear the views of our workforce - see back page for details of focus groups taking place this month

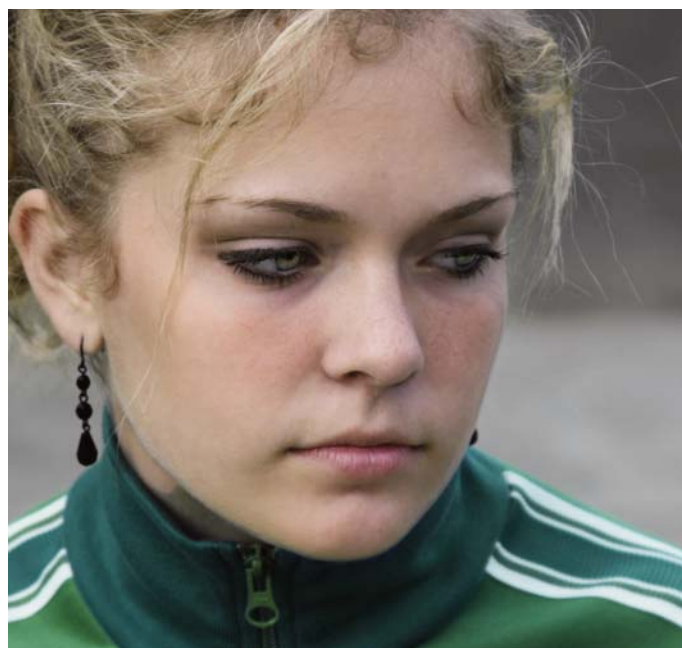
Private fostering – please tell us about it!

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board is urging people to help them ensure the safety and well-being of children who are being cared for by someone who is not a direct relative.

The call to action follows the national campaign launched in January, *Somebody Else's Child*, run by the British Association for Adoption & Fostering with the DCSF, and aims to raise awareness of private fostering in North Yorkshire.

Private fostering describes an arrangement when someone who is not a close relative (close relative means step-parent by marriage, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt) cares for another person's child for more than 28 days. Although this is done by private arrangement, legally the parent and the carer must notify the local authority where the child is going to live so that the local authority can ensure that the child is being properly looked after. Nobody knows exactly how many children are privately fostered but in 2001 the Department of Health estimated that there could be as many as 10,000 in England and Wales. It is feared that some of these 'invisible' children are at risk of abuse or victims of trafficking.

In the year to March 2008, there were 23 notifications of private fostering arrangements in North Yorkshire, a rate higher than many other authorities. However, local managers believe there could be many more. The Board wants to increase awareness of private fostering and is particularly asking people who work with children to be aware of private fostering and inform Social Care immediately if they suspect such an arrangement. The Board says the general public also has a part to play.



Paul Nixon, Assistant Director for Children's Social Care in North Yorkshire, says: "Everybody has a role in keeping our children safe - whether you are a teacher, youth worker, neighbour or just chat to the other parents at the school gate. If you hear about a child who is being privately fostered, please let us know immediately so we can ensure the child is being kept safe."

For more information on private fostering, visit North Yorkshire County Council's website at www.northyorks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3209 (this was highlighted in the national campaign as an example of good practice).

For more information, contact David Molesworth on **01609 534117** or e-mail david.molesworth@northyorks.gov.uk.

Young people have key role in assessing services

In February's issue of *Changing Times*, we reported on the exciting development of 'hubs' for young people across the County - a one-stop shop for information, advice, guidance and support.

Now, youngsters have played a key role in developing a hub assessor tool, designed to capture the opinions of young people using these hubs.

Area youth worker, David Fincham, and young people's development workers Alex Garbutt and Sam Hyde, were joined on a residential weekend in Scarborough by local youngsters to devise a way in which to effectively assess the hub, its workers and the services provided.

The young people relished the challenge, coming up with many innovative ideas and were praised for their commitment, team work and motivation.

The group came up with a questionnaire, based on the ideas put forward and incorporating the DCSF's information, advice and guidance standards.

The hub assessor tool is now complete and the questionnaire will be rolled out later this month across the County's hubs. The results will be fed back to the young people, staff and County Council to help ensure the hubs are continually improving and meeting the needs of the youngsters who use them.

Police pilot scheme for young offenders

North Yorkshire Police are piloting a new scheme, the Youth Restorative Disposal (YRD), designed to stop young offenders going to court for minor offences while at the same time ensuring they make amends for their offence via an apology to their victim.

This new measure offers a quick and proportionate response to a young person's low-level offending and allows victims to have a voice in how the offence is resolved.

It gives specially trained police officers and police community support officers on-the-spot discretion to hold to account young people who have committed certain minor offences. It is only possible to use a YRD for a first offence and both the victim and offender must consent to participate.

The scheme is intended to support victims, reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system for low-level crimes, and help reduce the risk of re-offending. It can also save police time by being able to manage the problem there and then, freeing them to deal with more serious offences.



There are eight police forces piloting the scheme and although North Yorkshire Police are not one of these official pilots, they decided to get involved as it is considered a positive way of dealing with young people.

The pilot, which began in February in the Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale area, is a joint initiative with partner agencies North Yorkshire Police, Targeted Youth Support and the North Yorkshire Youth Justice Service. Around 200 officers have been given training in restorative justice techniques, allowing them to resolve minor offences at the scene. In the first month, 20 YRDs were handed out across the area, with the majority of offenders aged 12-13 years. The pilot has been very well received so far by all involved, including officers, victims, parents and carers.

The pilot will run until the end of April.

For more information on YRDs, visit www.yjb.gov.uk/en-gb/practitioners/courtsandorders/disposals/youthrestoratedisposal

Youth Justice Service re-launch

North Yorkshire's Youth Justice Service unveiled its 'new look' in March.

Previously known as the youth offending team, the new name and logo reflects the way the service has grown and developed since 2000.

Over 200 staff and volunteers now deliver services not only to children and young people in the criminal justice system, but to those who are on the fringes of trouble to prevent problems from escalating.

For more information contact lesley.ingleson@northyorks.gov.uk or telephone 01609 533661. You can also find out more about the work of North Yorkshire's Youth Justice Service at www.ny-yjs.org.uk



Celebrating the re-launch are (left to right) Lesley Ingleson, Youth Justice Service Manager; John Marsden, North Yorkshire County Council Chief Executive; County Councillor Caroline Patmore, North Yorkshire's Executive Member for Children's Services; and Jon Bradnum, Regional Youth Justice Board

Many of you will have heard about *ContactPoint*, either through involvement in your job or from newsletters and other communications. For those who have little or no knowledge about this key development, here are some FAQs.

What is ContactPoint?

ContactPoint is an online directory which will store very basic information for all children and young people up to the age of 18 living in England. It will NOT contain any case information (such as case notes, assessments, medical data or exam results). It will be made available to authorised staff who need it to do their jobs and will be the quick way to find out who else is working with the same child or young person, enabling the delivery of co-ordinated services and support. It is a vital tool to help safeguard children, helping to ensure that the right agencies are involved at the right time and children do not slip through the net. ContactPoint will ensure appropriate information sharing, earlier intervention and identification of needs, and more complete service delivery.

It is a key element of the *Every Child Matters* programme to transform children's services by supporting more effective prevention and early intervention. The programme's goal is to improve the health, well-being and safety of all children.

There is a statutory requirement under Section 12 of the Children Act 2004 to establish the ContactPoint directory.

Why do we need ContactPoint?

The purpose is to help improve services to children, with a strong emphasis on early intervention and prevention. Currently, practitioners can spend days trying to find out who else is working with the same child or unknowingly duplicating work that is already being carried out by another service.

What will the benefits be?

- Less time trying to find other practitioners.
- Quicker assessment of whether a child is receiving universal services (education, primary health care).
- Enables more effective multi-agency working which leads to a better service experience for children and young people.
- A national system to ensure a more complete record for children and young people who access services in more than one area or move across areas.

What about access and security?

Access to ContactPoint is strictly limited to trained and vetted practitioners who need it to do their job. This will include those working in education, health, social care, youth justice and some voluntary organisations.

Before they are granted access, all users will have completed mandatory ContactPoint training and other relevant training (such as information sharing). They must have security clearance, including enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure, and will need a username, a PIN, a security token and a password. Use of the system will be closely monitored and audited.

What is 'shielding'?

Individuals whose circumstances may mean that they are at increased risk of significant harm, or for other reasons specified in statutory guidance, may have some of their details hidden on ContactPoint. This is known as 'shielding' and is to protect those vulnerable children that absolutely need it to prevent their whereabouts being identified. The Department for Children, Schools and Families and local authorities are working with local agencies and services to shield necessary records before ContactPoint is used by practitioners. This work started in January 2009.

If a practitioner or manager is concerned, and has reason to believe a child should be shielded on ContactPoint, they can contact the North Yorkshire ContactPoint team (see below).

How are we progressing?

Over 3400 practitioners in North Yorkshire have been identified as potential ContactPoint Users. Access to the ContactPoint system will start from autumn/winter 2009, when the two-year initial training programme is due to commence.

Further information

For further information and examples of how ContactPoint will help improve services, please visit:

www.ecm.gov.uk/contactpoint

www.northyorks.gov.uk/contactpoint

Or you can contact the North Yorkshire ContactPoint team, Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council, on 01609 536665, e-mail: contactpoint@northyorks.gov.uk

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please e-mail Barbara Shirt, Communications Officer, Children and Young People's Service, North Yorkshire County Council at barbara.shirt@northyorks.gov.uk

Better future for children in care

North Yorkshire has developed a multi-agency strategy for children in care. At the heart of the *Looked After Children (LAC) Strategy* is the belief that all children should be able to experience lasting family relationships throughout their childhoods by helping them return home safely or live with their extended family or friends, or through another care arrangement which is permanent and secure, such as fostering, adoption or special guardianship. Children come into care when they can't live at home with their parents, for whatever reason, and many will have experienced abuse or rejection. Too many children in care experience instability and unexpected changes: our approach is designed to give children in care better chances of doing well.

The Children and Young Person's Act 2008 sets an ambitious agenda for change and improvement for children in care which North Yorkshire strongly endorses. A range of developments are coming from this legislation and the Care Matters White Paper which preceded it. Last year, North Yorkshire established a Children in Care Council in response to the White Paper,

to ensure that children and young people are better supported to take part in the planning and decision making that affects them.

One area we concentrate on in particular is helping children do well at school. We aim to reduce unplanned changes of school and provide extra support to help children reach their full potential. CAMHS (child and adolescent mental health services) and health services work closely with social workers to provide the right specialist services for children in care who sometimes need extra help to do well. We are piloting a *Staying Put* scheme so that young people can live with their foster carers beyond the age of 18. A number of young people and their carers are already using this scheme, awarded to North Yorkshire because of our growing reputation to improve outcomes for children in care.

The full LAC strategy will be published on the County Council website later this year. For further information, contact David Molesworth, General Manager, Children's Services, on 01609 534117 or e-mail david.molesworth@northyorks.gov.uk

National Breastfeeding Awareness Week 10-16 May 2009

Despite the overwhelming health benefits and cost savings of breastfeeding, breastfeeding initiation rates in the UK are around the lowest in Europe, and worldwide, with rapid discontinuation rates for those who do start.

In England and Wales, the breastfeeding rate for 2005 was 77%. However, some areas in North Yorkshire fall well below this figure; for example Scarborough has a rate of 57.6%.

Breastfeeding has short term and long term benefits for both mother and child. For mothers, it helps to strengthen bones and prevent osteoporosis; lower the risk of developing ovarian or breast cancer; increase the likelihood of returning to pre-pregnancy weight, and promotes closeness and bonding with your child. For babies, breastfeeding protects against diarrhoea, gastroenteritis, ear and chest infections; reduces the risk of diabetes, eczema, asthma and improves digestive health; lessens the risk of being an obese adult, and has long-term benefits - babies who were breastfed experienced lower mean blood pressure and total cholesterol.

NHS North Yorkshire and York are committed to promoting breastfeeding and, together with key

stakeholders, are taking the following steps:

- Introducing an Infant Feeding Strategy (this will work towards the achievement of the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative [BFI] principles).
- Working towards a shared vision and policy to promote optimal nutrition for babies aged 0 to 2 years.
- Have been awarded just under £100,000 from the Department of Health to increase breastfeeding rates and achieve BFI status in local hospitals and community settings.
- Together with the City of York Council and North Yorkshire County Council, have committed funding to work with young mums in Scarborough and York to find out what the key factors are in their decision to breastfeed or not. The findings to this 'insight' work will then be used to drive a local media campaign to help reverse the trend in these two areas.

For more information on breastfeeding go to:
www.nyypct.nhs.uk/StayingHealthy/breastfeeding/index
www.breastfeeding.nhs.uk

Smoking in pregnancy

The Department of Health has recently launched a campaign to support mums-to-be to stop smoking and to raise awareness of the immediate benefits of becoming smokefree for mother and baby.

Facts about smoking in pregnancy

- Every cigarette smoked by a pregnant woman harms her unborn baby. Cigarettes restrict the essential oxygen supply to the unborn baby, so the baby's heart has to beat harder every time their mother smokes.
- Women who smoke while pregnant are less likely to carry their babies to full term and there is a 26% increased risk that they will miscarry or experience a still birth.
- Younger mothers are more likely to smoke before or during pregnancy than older mothers.

The good news is that stopping smoking will benefit the baby immediately. While stopping smoking before pregnancy is the ideal, the earlier the mother stops smoking, the greater the benefits she and her baby will enjoy.

Help for pregnant smokers is available

For pregnant smokers living in North Yorkshire, there is a specialist service just for mums-to-be and their families. Specialist trained advisors offer confidential, personalised, one-to-one support at a time and place to suit the mum-to-be. To access this service, telephone the **North Yorkshire Stop Smoking Service on 0845**

8770025. This service also offers stop smoking help for other smokers. Pregnant smokers can also speak to their midwife, GP or pharmacist who will provide them with further information and refer them to the specialist service.

For expert advice on the health risks of smoking during pregnancy and for advice on ways to go smokefree, please call the NHS Pregnancy Smoking Helpline on **0800 169 9 169** or visit www.nhs.uk/smokefree

There is a range of leaflets and other materials available to help pregnant women to quit, including a leaflet for the mum-to-be, providing information about the harm caused by smoking and how they can stop successfully with NHS support. The leaflet also has a coupon to order the free NHS smokefree pregnancy support DVD. There is a leaflet for partners and also a new poster explaining how cigarettes harm an unborn baby and promoting the free NHS Pregnancy Smoking Helpline.

How to support the campaign

Promoting stop smoking to women of child bearing age before they become pregnant is considered one of the most effective interventions in reducing rates of smoking during pregnancy. The campaign materials will help you to raise awareness of the effects of smoking in pregnancy and where help and support is available. You can telephone the NHS Pregnancy Smoking Helpline on **0800 169 9 169** to receive the above free resources and make them available to women of child bearing age, pregnant women and their families/partners.

A 'feast' of family fun

Families from St John's C of E Primary School in Knaresborough have been learning how to prepare and cook healthy meals as part of a Wider Family Learning course.

The course, which is being delivered by North Yorkshire County Council's Adult Learning Service, took place at Knaresborough Children's Centre throughout February and March.

The families have been learning how to make simple healthy meals including home baked bread, lasagne and fresh soup.

North Yorkshire County Council's Wider Family Learning courses aim to give parents and children the opportunity to learn a skill together. Previous courses held in Harrogate have included gardening and crafts.

If you would like to find out more about adult learning opportunities in the Harrogate area, please contact the area office on **0845 300 2412.**



Pupils and their parents enjoying a cookery lesson together

Pirates ahoy! Look out at the library

Young children were able to get down to some buccaneering escapades throughout February as North Yorkshire County Council's libraries held a series of pirate-themed events to celebrate Bookstart Month.



Youngsters at Bilton library and information centre, Harrogate, enjoying storytime with a member of staff

North Yorkshire County Council has been gifting Bookstart packs to babies for the last 10 years. Introducing children to books at the earliest possible age increases their interest in reading and gives them a head start to learning.

Bookstart is a national programme providing free books to children under four. Research shows that babies and toddlers who love books begin reading sooner and go on to do better at school in all areas of the curriculum.



However, the Bookstart packs are only half of the gift to children and their families: the second, more lasting gift is the enjoyment and benefits of book-sharing. Bookstart works in partnership with libraries and supports a number of projects for babies and young children. One of these is the Bookstart Book Crawl, a library-joining incentive for children age 0-4 years. By regularly borrowing and reading books from the library through Book Crawl, under 4s can collect certificates rewarding their reading. This scheme helps to encourage a library habit that children can maintain throughout their lives and establishes a lifelong love of books.

Further information on Bookstart can be found at:
www.northyorks.gov.uk/bookstart
www.bookstart.org.uk

Vaccination programme gathers pace

The new HPV vaccination is to help protect against cervical cancer which is caused by a virus called *human papillomavirus*, or HPV. The virus is very common and can be caught by being sexually active with another person who has the virus. Most of the time the virus does not cause cancer as it is killed off by the body's immune system, but not always. This is why the vaccination is so important - having it reduces the risk of getting cervical cancer by 70%. In the UK, prevalence is low in girls aged 14 years or under but rates rise sharply from this age until the early 20s.

The first vaccine programme, which started in September 2008 and ends in June 2009, is being delivered via a school based programme to ensure the most efficient delivery and uptake. It is being offered to all girls in year 8 and will become a routine vaccination programme. Year 13 girls are being offered their vaccination in GP practices. Starting in September 2009 and finishing in spring/summer 2010, there will be an acceleration catch up programme for girls in years 10 to 11 through schools, and years 12 to 13 through primary care. Three doses are required over a six month period.

North Yorkshire and York

Development of the HPV programme within North Yorkshire has required input from a number of organisations and a wide range of people such as nurses, public health specialists, education professionals, parents, commissioners and GPs, to enable successful delivery of the programme.

In North Yorkshire, 2958 girls are to be immunised across 82 schools, and good communication and partnership working is vital to the success of the programme.

The additional health benefit gained makes this an important programme of work for NHS North Yorkshire and York and our partners, now and in the coming months. The uptake figure so far for North Yorkshire and York is 89.6 % and these figures are expected to increase further as more data is received. This is a tremendous start to the programme and demonstrates how well as partners we have risen to the challenge.

To find out more, visit www.immunisation.nhs.uk/hpv

Youth justice volunteers commended



Martin Narey (centre) with guests at the reception in Scarborough

The Chief Executive of the children's charity, Barnardo's, has paid tribute to volunteers who help North Yorkshire's youth justice team to give young people the best start in life.

Martin Narey, formerly the Director General of the Prison Service, was the guest of honour at a reception in Scarborough in January, attended by volunteer members and staff of the North Yorkshire Youth Justice Service.

Mr Narey, who took over as chief executive of Barnardo's after leaving the criminal justice service, congratulated the volunteers on their hard work, and the important part they play in ensuring positive outcomes for young people.

The event, attended by more than 100 people including volunteers, professionals, magistrates and young people, was held at Scarborough Library and Information Centre.

For more information on the work of the North Yorkshire Youth Justice Service, visit www.ny-yjs.org.uk or contact Steve Walker, area manager, on 08450 349497.



Listening to our workforce

Getting over the rainbow...



As reported in February's *Changing Times*, we are carrying out a review across the children's workforce to identify what needs to be done for us to achieve our aspiration to be world-class.

To help us, we are holding a series of half day focus groups across the County to hear your views and learn about your experiences. To take part, please contact the Children and Young People's Workforce Planning office on 01609 533061 or e-mail jessica.wallis@northyorks.gov.uk

Date	Morning Times	Afternoon Times	Location
20 April	10am-12pm	2pm-4pm	Selby AVS Community House
21 April	10am-12pm	2pm-4pm	Bewerley Park Outdoor Centre
23 April	10am-12pm	2pm-4pm	Pickering Library
24 April	10am-12pm	2pm-4pm	Boroughbridge Library
27 April	10am-12pm	2pm-4pm	County Hall, Northallerton

If you are unable to attend, you can still get involved by filling in an online questionnaire or completing a 'week in the life of' diary. For details of how to access these, please contact Jessica Wallis

Who are the partners?

North Yorkshire County Council, North Yorkshire schools, North Yorkshire and York PCT, district and borough councils, North Yorkshire Police, Connexions, Youth Justice Service, North Yorkshire Probation Service, Learning and Skills Council, Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and the voluntary and community sector.

How do I get copies?

The newsletter is e-mailed to partner organisations and is available via North Yorkshire County Council's website. You can also call Barbara Shirt on (01609) 532014 or e-mail barbara.shirt@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 E-mail: communications@northyorks.gov.uk

