



North Yorkshire
Children's Trust

Changing Times

Issue 18 December 2009

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

Children's Trust reforms

The new Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 provides for wide ranging reform across children's services.

It will affect a number of services through reforms such as the dissolution of the Learning and Skills Council and transfer of responsibility for education and training for all 16-19 year olds to the local authority (see page 6), enhanced apprenticeships offer, extended powers of schools to conduct pupil searches, statutory Behaviour and Attendance Improvement Partnerships and a new independent parents' complaint service, as a few examples.

The Act can be found at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/>

One of the aspects of the Act is to strengthen Children's Trust Boards by placing them on a statutory footing and extending the duty to co-operate to promote children's well-being to additional partners, including all maintained schools, academies, FE colleges and Job Centre Plus.

North Yorkshire Children's Trust is well placed to comply with these new changes as many of the requirements are already established in North Yorkshire, such as involving partner agencies in the development of the Children and Young People's Plan and wide representation on the Children's Trust Board.

To help local areas understand the implications of the new Act for the Children's Trust, a consultation is currently underway on the new statutory guidance for Children's Trusts. This can be found at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations>

The final guidance will be available in March 2010. Over the next few months, we will be working to ensure that North Yorkshire is ready for the new legislation, and to ensure that everyone remains

updated on any changes to the Children's Trust.

If you would like further information, wish to contribute to the consultation response or want to know more about how the Children's Trust works in North Yorkshire, please contact Dave Chapman in the Performance and Outcomes Team at North Yorkshire County Council, e-mail dave.chapman@northyorks.gov.uk

Getting in touch with Diplomas

Student, Maria Cooper, learns more about the Diploma through an interactive display



**Full story on
page 2**

Every outcome, for every child, everywhere

(Continued from page 1)

Getting in touch with Diplomas



Students in years 9 and 11 got the chance to find out about education and training opportunities at a series of events across the county during October. Young people and their parents/carers were invited to attend one of six 'progression' events, designed to provide information about 14-19 reform and choices available, including Diplomas, ahead of options evenings.

County Councillor Jim Clark, North Yorkshire's Executive Member for Schools, said: "Today's young people must be sure that they have necessary skills, education and training to go out and compete in a global job market. In North Yorkshire, we want to make sure that we offer the broadest range of courses possible at the highest standards to put our young people on a front footing."

Over 600 people attended the events, which included a presentation outlining 14-19 reforms, information

stands, experts on hand to answer questions and the Department for Children, Schools and Families' (DCSF) Diploma roadshow.

One parent said: "This has been much more exciting than the options evenings I remember, although that was a long time ago! The touch screens are really good. Our daughter is keen on talking to her teachers about doing a Diploma with her A levels so it's been very useful."

Schools played an essential role in the success of the events by distributing invitations to students in years 9 and 11, and North Yorkshire County Council would like to thank those involved for their support.

For further information on the Diploma, please contact Bruce Wood, 14-19 Senior Adviser, on (01609) 536853.

Child intervention scheme aims to reduce deliberate fires

Fires started deliberately by young people are on the increase, posing a real threat to their families, the community, firefighters and to the young people themselves. Evidence is also emerging that young 'firesetters', if allowed to go unchallenged, go on to commit more serious crimes as they get older.



The primary aim of the Child Firesetter Network is to tackle inappropriate fire play or other dangerous fire related behaviour amongst children and young people, through a series of age appropriate fire education lesson plans and training schemes.

North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service works with parents, teachers, social care services and the criminal justice system to identify those children who display an unhealthy fascination for fire. Home visits are then carried out by trained volunteers, in the presence of a family member or guardian, to make the young person aware of the dangers and possible consequences of their actions and to encourage them to get involved in positive activities.

Using this non-threatening, non-judgemental, supportive and positive approach allows the volunteers to progress towards a mutually agreed solution. A number of programmes focus on firesetters' backgrounds and seek to change behaviour by tackling underlying causes.

A leaflet has been produced to support this scheme. To request a copy, or to find out more about the Child Firesetter Network, contact the Community Action Team on (01609) 788546 or e-mail donna.abdy@northyorksfire.gov.uk



Public protection agencies launch new website

The agencies who work together to manage violent and sexual offenders have launched a new website to help the public gain a greater understanding of the important work they do. The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) comprise of three Responsible Authorities - the Police, Probation Service and the Prison Service. They work together with other key agencies to manage the risk posed by convicted sexual and violent offenders when they are released back into the community.

The website aims to increase public understanding and confidence in how authorities work to protect communities and minimise the risks posed by high-risk offenders.

The website provides a raft of information which explains how and why MAPPA work together to protect communities.

To find out more, visit www.mappayorkandnorthyorkshire.org.uk

A greater voice for North Yorkshire's youth

A new, county wide youth council, whose aim is to help teenagers get their voices heard in the corridors of power, has been launched in North Yorkshire.

The new body has been established with the support of North Yorkshire County Council's 4Youth service. Members will be drawn from the 20 local youth councils already in operation across the county, which are each taking an increasing role in distributing funding to young people's organisations, liaising with district and borough councils and organising events and activities for young people.

The new youth council will provide the opportunity for the area youth councils to work together, share ideas, and campaign on issues of common concern.

Representatives will also eventually take up seats on the UK Youth Parliament and the British Youth Council, giving North Yorkshire's youth a national voice.

At the first meeting in York, members from as far afield as Scarborough, Skipton, Selby and Richmond met to discuss how the new council will function.

Alex Christodoulou, a Youth Councillor from Selby District, said: "It's exciting to be a part of something big and new that is going to help the young people of North Yorkshire."

Any young person interested in becoming involved should e-mail james.parkes@northyorks.gov.uk or telephone 07854 498528.

Exciting new play spaces for children

The North Yorkshire Play Partnership is pleased to announce that a further 18 schemes across the county are to benefit from the second wave of DCSF 'Playbuilder' funding. This takes the total number of new or substantially refurbished play spaces developed through the Playbuilder programme to 30.

The £1.13m investment in play for 8-13 year olds is being used to create innovative play spaces. Through creative consultation with local children and young people, schemes are designed to ensure they are in keeping with the natural environment, allowing children to experience a managed level of risk, while also benefiting from the range of play experiences that contribute to physical, social, emotional and cognitive development.

Twelve, year one schemes are progressing well with site works due to begin over the coming weeks, transforming previously tired and outdated facilities and giving a new lease of life to other areas which will benefit from brand new play spaces.

Congratulations to the successful second wave schemes:

Applegarth Park, Northallerton
Arena View Play Park, Catterick Village
Burythorpe Sports Centre
Butler Road Play Area, Harrogate
Castle Dykes Play Area, Scarborough
Cononley Village Playing Field
Coronation Park, Catterick Garrison
Filey Country Park

Gallows Hill Recreational Open Space, Tadcaster
Ingleby Arncliffe Play Area
Kingfisher Play Area, Aiskew
Masham Recreation Ground
Preston-under-Scar Play Garden
Rainton Recreation Field
Scotton Parish Council Playing Field
Siltens & Kepwick Play Area
Spa Park Play Area, Ripon
Wrelton Village Hall

For more information, please contact Andrew Firth on (01609) 533383 or e-mail andrew.firth@norhyorks.gov.uk



How a typical new play space will look

North Yorkshire faces up to child protection and safeguarding challenges

As reported in October's *Changing Times*, North Yorkshire was inspected in September under the new inspection regime for Safeguarding and Looked After Children. North Yorkshire has been judged as providing 'Adequate' services for Safeguarding Children and 'Good' services for Looked After Children.

The full inspection report, with the breakdown of the grades against each judgement area, can be downloaded from the Ofsted website:

[http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_view/\(leaid\)/815](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_view/(leaid)/815)

In summary...

Inspectors found that children in North Yorkshire are safe and see themselves as safe, and that some of the county's most vulnerable children - those looked after by the local authority - are educated and cared for to a high standard.

The inspection report stated that children who enter North Yorkshire's child protection system are allocated to suitably qualified social workers and that child protection reviews are held on time. It noted that more children are being protected with evidence of increasing numbers of children subject to a child protection plan and in court proceedings. It also stated that leadership is responsive, proactive and effective.

The outcomes for looked after children in North Yorkshire are very positive and improving, with inspectors praising "outstanding

practice" and "dedicated and committed practitioners" providing high quality services and a very strong child and young person centred approach. These have resulted in effective strategies and wide-ranging programmes to prevent children entering into care, to create high quality looked after services and minimise children's need to remain in the care system.

Inspectors stated that North Yorkshire also faces some real and present safeguarding challenges. Demand for assessment and safeguarding services has increased following national trends - the number of children with child protection plans has risen significantly since late 2008. Ofsted acknowledges that managers have responded well by developing a range of appropriate and strategic improvements to safeguard children and the County Council has identified additional resources. But these significant workload pressures have been exacerbated by difficulties with implementing the national computerised Integrated Children's System (ICS). These combined factors, says Ofsted, are affecting performance and the timeliness of responses in some cases.

Responding to the inspection

The inspection highlighted areas of comparative strength and many examples of good work that we do. However, a number of areas were identified for improvement, and

eight recommendations were made by the inspectors to target these areas:

Immediate action:

- As part of the action plan arising from this inspection, ensure service specific, detailed actions are incorporated relating to areas for development and priority actions arising from the unannounced inspection to enable monitoring by elected members, the Children's Trust and the Local Safeguarding Children Board.
- Utilise the combined resources of the council and its partners (contractors) to prioritise and address the difficulties associated with ICS.

Within 3 months:

- Undertake a full evaluation of current children's services actual spending to reconcile the need for increased safeguarding services against the current overspend and to ensure strong financial planning that sustains the service operation over the medium and longer term.
- Improve consistency in the quality and the timeliness of assessments and child protection investigations.
- Develop policy, procedure and practice to ensure effective arrangements are in place to support the transition to adult services for looked after children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

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

For more information about the work of the
www.nysp.org.uk/html/thematic-partnerships/

- Improve the effectiveness of elected members in their role as corporate parents to support the improvement of outcomes for looked after children.
- Develop a joint strategy between the County Council and the PCT for the delivery of physical, general and mental health services for looked after children.

Within 6 months:

- Conduct further analysis of the increased numbers of children subject to a Child Protection Plan for more than two years, and the increased percentage of children subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.

A comprehensive action plan has been developed to address each recommendation. This action plan has been endorsed by elected members and the Children's Trust. A copy of the action plan can be accessed via the NYSP website: <http://www.nysp.org.uk/html/thematic-partnerships/children-and-young-people/>

This action plan will be monitored by the Children's Trust and the Local Safeguarding Children Board to ensure improvements are made.

For further information, please contact David O'Brien, North Yorkshire County Council's Performance and Outcomes Manager, on (01609) 536022 or e-mail david.f.o'brien@northyorks.gov.uk

Children's Trust, visit
[children-and-young-people](#)

Successful funding bid is good news for young people



North Yorkshire Youth (NYY), are celebrating their recent success in securing a further three year's funding to continue providing the voluntary and community sector youth support service in North Yorkshire. The grant, provided by 4Youth, North Yorkshire County Council's youth service, shows the County Council's ongoing commitment to the voluntary sector and the volunteers who provide positive activities for young people.

Volunteer led youth work and provision make a significant contribution to providing places to go and things to do for young people in North Yorkshire. NYY, a registered charity, have held this grant for three years and thanks to their successful re-application, are able to continue providing high quality support and guidance to volunteers and young leaders working within their communities, from April 2010.

The population and geographical spread means that small scale community-based provision is vital for young people and this unique partnership project between NYY and the County Council responds directly to local needs. Within the first three years, NYY supported over 100 clubs, projects or groups in North Yorkshire, and has provided support to enable over 1000 young people to participate in positive activities.

Lucy Downes, Head of Youth, said: "The team are thrilled to have been awarded the contract for another three years. We can now look forward to putting into action all the plans we proposed in our recent application for the funding."

For further information about the work of NYY, visit www.nyy.org.uk or e-mail info@nyy.org.uk

Driving the 14-19 agenda



Good progress continues to be made in relation to the 'Machinery of Government' changes. This will see the transfer of responsibilities for commissioning learning and training provision for all 16-19 year olds (and young adults with learning difficulties and disabilities) from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to local authorities. A formal agreement between the four

authorities comprising the North and East Yorkshire Sub-Regional Group has been drafted by North Yorkshire and is currently being considered for approval by all authorities.

The Strategic Commissioning Group, with new terms of reference and updated membership including local area consortia, has been re-designated as the 14-19 Strategic

Advisory Group. This is part of the Children's Trust and is supported by a delivery group which has responsibility for the commissioning process and driving forward the 14-19 agenda.

For further information, contact Chris McGee, Learning, Youth and Skills, on (01609) 532149.

Drama students highlight knives danger



Risedale Community College drama students with their message, 'don't carry knives'.

A collaboration between North Yorkshire Police's safer neighbourhood team and Risedale Community College has resulted in a hard hitting project by Year 10 drama pupils that highlights the serious and potentially devastating consequences of youths carrying knives.

Although incidents with weapons are rare in Catterick Garrison, PC Sean Godfrey of the Catterick Safer Neighbourhood Team approached college drama teacher, Emma Baldry, to ask if some of her

students could create a project to make other students aware of the dangers of carrying weapons.

PC Godfrey and Emma drew up a brief outline of what was required and the students then researched the topic and wrote the script. After three weeks of hard work and rehearsals, the students delivered their project which was later filmed at Richmond's famous Georgian Theatre Royal. The performance is to be shown at the college and other local schools, either live or on DVD.

The project was rated by the local authority's school improvement partner (SIP) as 'outstanding', and the way the students worked together and their off stage discipline was rated 'very good'.

The year 10 students were praised for their hard work, enthusiasm and maturity in tackling a difficult subject which has not only developed their drama skills, but will also help other young people understand the seriousness of carrying weapons and the often tragic consequences of such action.

Something for everyone who works or volunteers with children and young people



In order to provide the best possible outcomes for children and young people, it is nationally recognised we need a workforce that is world class. As workforce development is key to achieving this, North Yorkshire County Council has updated its Children and Young People's Service Professional Development Programme, with new courses now available.

The courses support the national One Children's Workforce Framework and Common Core of Competencies for the children's workforce and are designed to enhance development in a number of ways.

What courses are on offer?

There are a broad range of courses in the programme, from an *Introduction to Working with Young People* through to *Managing Transitions* and *Enhancing Your Influencing Skills*. Many of the courses are relevant to a wide range of job roles and in many different situations.

How will these courses help development?

The skills and knowledge gained on each course are designed to develop one or more of three main areas. These are:

- Integrated working with other professionals
- Current practice
- Managing effectively

Who can attend?

There are different courses for different audiences but some are open to anyone working or volunteering with children and young people. These are highlighted by this sign (right).



When and where are these courses available?

Courses are available over a range of dates and locations. There are also twilight sessions for those who cannot attend during the day

How can I access the programme information?

The full course programme is available online at <https://learningzone.northyorks.gov.uk/> under the CYPS pages. To request a hard copy or a copy in an alternative format, please e-mail ocw.cyps@northyorks.gov.uk, telephone Jo Burgess on (01609) 533271 or write to: Jo Burgess, CYPS, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AE.

Making a PACT with parents

North Yorkshire PACT (Partnership, Advocacy, Co-operation and Teamwork) is the new name of a parent forum, which consists of parents and carers of children and young people with a range of disabilities.

The group have the opportunity to work with professionals and the voluntary sector, to improve local service provision and influence future delivery, ensuring that the services provided accurately reflect the needs of families. This unique opportunity has arisen under the Government's 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' agenda, which has made parental consultation a requirement.



The county has been divided into three locality areas where regular meetings are held enabling parents and carers to meet, share experiences and highlight problems or issues. These are:

- Craven, Harrogate and Ripon
- Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale
- Hambleton, Richmondshire and Selby

As well as the three locality groups, there is a central steering group. A parent conference is scheduled for March 2010 and the steering group will highlight the most important issues to be discussed at this conference.

North Yorkshire PACT has no membership criteria, parents and carers can attend whichever meetings are most accessible to them, no diagnosis is needed and everyone will be welcome regardless of whether their child has a minor, short term difficulty or a serious, lifelong condition. It is hoped PACT will attract parents and carers who are experiencing the entire spectrum of disabilities, across the whole age range, and whose children attend both mainstream and special schools.

For more information, please visit www.cypexchange.org.uk

Holiday fun helps children discover the wonders of science

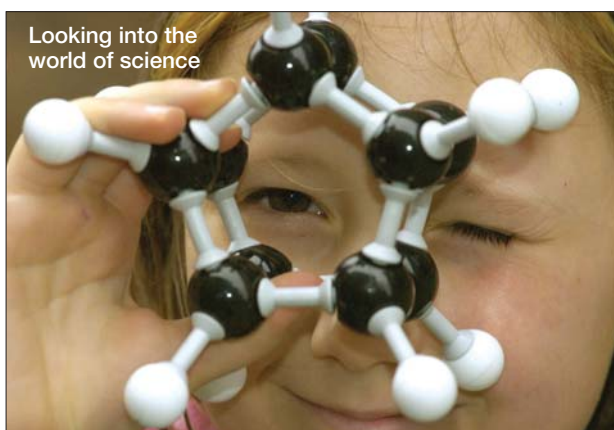
On the Coast, one of the activities that children highlighted when asked what they wanted to do in the holidays was to learn more about science. So, for the past two years, Filey Extended Services have been working with North Yorkshire

Business and Education Partnership Ltd (NYBEP), who deliver a science activity day for children during each holiday period, as part of a programme of activities in Filey. NYBEP helps to raise young people's aspirations and attainment

budding Einsteins have made rockets, balloon racing cars, fizzy bath bombs, improbable flying machines and catapults.

Susan Balf, Filey Extended Schools Co-ordinator, said: "These workshops are really popular. It is a great way to get all children involved in practical, fun activities and get them, or keep them, switched onto science."

There is a charge for the workshop but children receiving free school meals can use their Me Too! vouchers to get a 75% discount. To find out more about the holiday programme, contact Susan on (01723) 512354, ext 401.



through partnerships between schools, colleges and the world of work.

The science activity, called 'Professor Knowitall's Travelling Science Show', is very popular and regularly attracts a full house of 24 children. The

Have you completed the mandatory e-learning packages yet?

The North Yorkshire Children's Trust has launched a new Induction e-Learning package and an updated Information Sharing e-Learning package. These are both available through the North Yorkshire Learning Zone, which can be accessed at <https://learningzone.northyorks.gov.uk/>

Completion of both e-Learning packages is mandatory for all staff within the children's workforce in order to support integrated working and to ensure everyone working with children and young people is able to share information with confidence and clarity. Further information is available at <https://learningzone.northyorks.gov.uk/>



Wishing all our readers the very best of the Christmas season. We'll be back in February.



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

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