



North Yorkshire

Safeguarding Children Partnership

Arrangements for the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership



North Yorkshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Foreword

Through our multi-agency work, we have strengthened our partnerships, ensuring that the voices of children and young people are heard and that their safety and welfare remain at the heart of everything we do. Our focus has been on improving early intervention, identifying risks promptly, and ensuring that children and families receive the support they need at the right time.

As statutory partners, we remain committed to working together to continue improving our safeguarding practices and making a real difference in the lives of children across North Yorkshire.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all those involved in safeguarding children, including frontline workers, volunteers, and our partner organisations, for their tireless efforts in ensuring the safety and well-being of children. Your dedication is the cornerstone of our success.

Stuart Carlton,
Corporate Director,
Children and Young
People's Service



It is recognised that the move to ICBs offers increased opportunities to share good practice, reduce duplication and learn from the experience of other partnerships and professionals across the ICB footprint, and we are seeing the benefits. This work continues to further evolve and develop

and has been strengthened and overseen by the establishment of the Humber and North Yorkshire ICB Safeguarding Committee.

There are challenges ahead as the NHS landscape continues to evolve, however, the ICB is committed to continue to build on our strong partnership relationships, dedicated to strengthening the safeguarding and children in care practice across North Yorkshire, and is proud to actively contribute to the work of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Paula South,
Director of Nursing
(Governance), Humber
and North Yorkshire
Integrated Care Board



A partnership of this kind is about more than necessity. We have built upon the principles of Working Together to Safeguard Children, past improvements, and good practice from elsewhere. This has allowed us to develop innovative and collaborative ways of working that have ensured we continue to improve. We are continuing to invest time and resources into safeguarding children.

The professional attitude and responsibility from people working in the Partnership will make sure that we are never complacent and continuously strive to improve and better meet our responsibilities, inspired by the voices of children, young people and families.

Assistant Chief Constable,
Catherine Clarke,
North Yorkshire Police



Introduction

We are pleased to share with you the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's, (NYSCP,) Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements, 2024. The Children and Social Work Act 2017¹ and its accompanying guidance Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023² place a shared and equal duty on the statutory safeguarding partners to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area. This document sets out how the Safeguarding Partners in North Yorkshire coordinate safeguarding services and explains how we will work together to fulfil our legislative duties.

In North Yorkshire we have well established relationships with both our statutory partners and relevant agencies who demonstrate daily, their passion and desire to meet the needs of our county's children and their families. We agree to ensure children are at the heart of our work, we listen to their views, understand their lived experiences, and promote the inclusion of their perspectives in all our work.

Our partners know that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and we have a genuine ambition to ensure that all services understand and respond to those responsibilities in a way that has a really positive impact on the children and families we work alongside.

We understand that robust safeguarding arrangements help to prioritise children's wellbeing and safety, ensuring that information about a child and their family is shared effectively and that risk of harm is correctly identified and understood. We are committed to working alongside our communities to stimulate, support and develop activities that enable children, young people and their families to be happy, healthy, safe and achieving. When a child's needs cannot be met by services within their community, children and their families are able to access targeted services that meet their needs in a co-ordinated way.

¹ [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#)

² [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance](#)

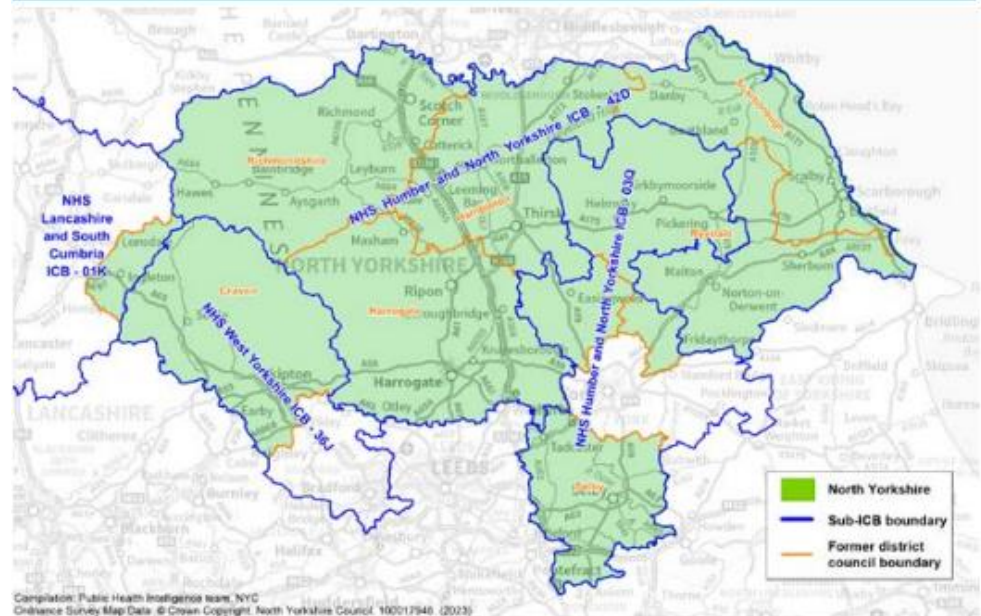
Geography

North Yorkshire Council is in the second year of delivering services to the residents of North Yorkshire as a unitary authority with the aim of being the biggest county with the most local services. North Yorkshire borders County Durham to the north, the North Sea to the east, the East Riding of Yorkshire to the south-east and South Yorkshire to the south.

We serve a diverse and dispersed population of an estimated 615,400 people, 151,000 of those are children, across a geographical area of over 8,000 square kilometres or 3,090 square miles. Much of the county of North Yorkshire is rural, with moderately sized towns as well as an extensive coastline. There are significant pockets of deprivation across the county and it is clear that this has the potential to impact on the outcomes for children and their families in these areas.



Sub-ICBs and former district councils covering North Yorkshire – July 2023



The geography of the Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) does not fit neatly within our local authority designated boundaries. *Almost* the entirety of North Yorkshire is part of the Humber and North Yorkshire ICB, however, the Craven area to the west is covered by the West Yorkshire ICB and there is also a small area around Bentham that falls within Lancashire and South Cumbria ICS boundaries.

This has the potential to create significant challenge in terms of data access and service planning. So, with such a varied population over such a large geographic area, we need to strive even harder to ensure that our services, systems and support are accessible for all children in our beautiful county.

Our Vision

Being Young in North Yorkshire is our North Yorkshire Safeguarding Partnership Strategy with the vision that:

‘All children and young people are safe, happy, healthy and able to achieve in North Yorkshire’.

Our Being Young in North Yorkshire 2021- 2024 strategy sets out our vision which is shaped by the feedback from children and young people living in North Yorkshire and sets out our four key themes of children and young people having:

Theme One
A safe life

- Protected from harm
- Live in safe communities
- Supported by family networks

Theme Two
A happy family life

- Families are empowered to be resilient
- School years are happy
- Community support networks help families thrive

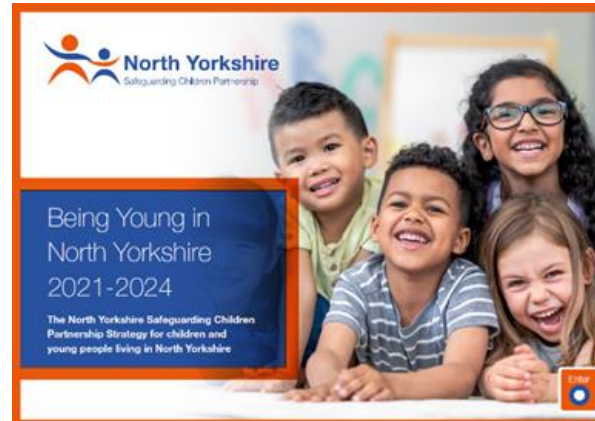
Theme Three
A healthy life

- Promote health and wellbeing through positive choices
- Improve social, emotional and mental health
- Reduce health inequalities

Theme Four
Achieving in Life

- Ensure children are 'school ready'
- Raise achievement levels for all
- Create environments where children have aspirations for their future

The NYSCP recognises the importance of ensuring children, young people and their families are given the opportunity to shape the policies and practice that impacts on their lives, whether that is through access to universal services or more specialist services. This strategy comes to an end in December 2024 and the NYSCP is currently consulting with children, young people and their families to ensure the new “Being Young in North Yorkshire 2” strategy is representative of and shaped by their views regarding what our areas of focus should be for the coming three years. For more information, please visit our website [here](#).



How we Work Together

Humans have very long childhoods compared to other mammals because we have such a big and complex brain to build³. Children and young people depend on adults to nurture them and emotional nurture is as important in developing the brain as good food is for the body. The brain grows when connections are made between the cells in response to what is happening to us, so, what happens to us shapes our brains. Brain connections help us to process and make sense of our experiences and research shows us that the brain is a social organ, every human relationship shapes the brain and loving relationships “feed” connections. Whenever we connect with people our brains change, repeated loving and respectful connections build strong patterns in the brain so we are able to function at our best. People need People⁴.

Professionals in North Yorkshire share a commitment to and responsibility for creating and “feeding” these respectful connections in order to achieve successful outcomes for all our children. Our relationship based, “Strength in Relationships,⁵” Practice model is embedded across our workforce. We recognise the need to provide the right support at the right time for children and families across North Yorkshire.

A shared responsibility

As set out in the Children’s Social Care National Framework⁶, as a partnership we will adhere to the following principles:

- children’s welfare is paramount.
- children’s wishes and feelings are sought, heard, and responded to.
- children’s social care works in partnership with whole families.
- children are raised by their families, with their family networks or in family environments wherever possible.
- local authorities work with other agencies to effectively identify and meet the needs of children, young people, and families.
- local authorities consider the economic and social circumstances impacting children, young people, and families.

Successful outcomes for children depend on strong partnership working with parents, carers, practitioners and senior leaders. Strong, effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in place across North Yorkshire ensure an effective response to local circumstances and engage the right people at the right time in the right way.

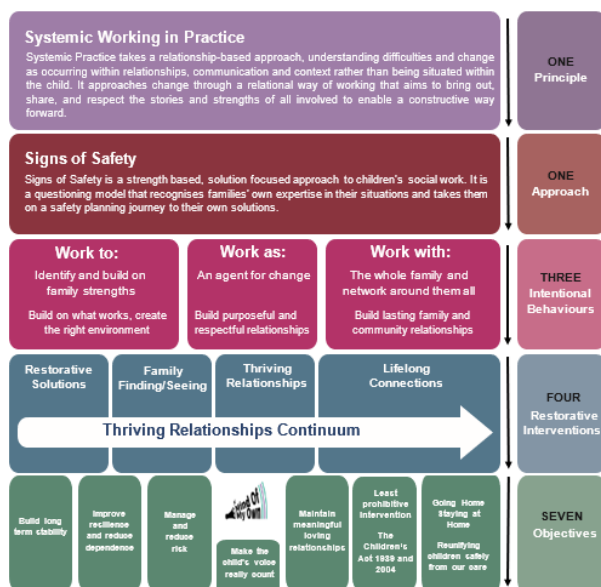


The Strength in Relationships Practice Model

North Yorkshire Children and Families

Our Purpose

To support positive change that continues after we no longer need to be involved. We will create conditions that allow relationships to flourish. Our collaboration in practice with you is built to deliver this outcome.



³ [five to thrive why people need people.pdf \(barnardos.org.uk\)](https://www.barnardos.org.uk/five-to-thrive-why-people-need-people.pdf)

⁴ [People Need People – A Poem by Benjamin Zephaniah – Mutual Responsibility](#)

⁵ [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/)

⁶ [Children’s social care national framework](#)

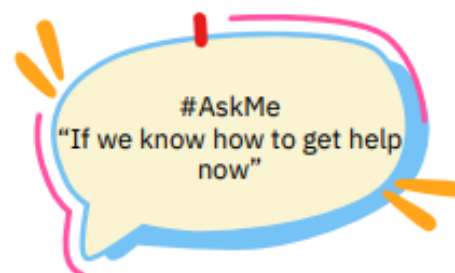
Working with our Parents and Carers

Parenting and caring for children can be one of the most rewarding jobs in the world, however, it can also be incredibly challenging, particularly when there are additional stresses and strains or unforeseen circumstances. Life means we do not know what is round the corner and there will be times throughout all our lives when we need extra help, either for ourselves or for our children. The NYSCP recognise the strengths in seeing parents and carers as safeguarding partners and giving them a voice in the decisions that are made with them and their children.



The NYSCP is continuing to look for opportunities to consult with parents with an area of success being our #AskMe...Have the conversation campaign⁹. The campaign was borne out of learning from a thematic review that considered three similar cases of nonaccidental injury to non-mobile infants. As part of the campaign planning the NYSCP was able to link in with parents who had tragically suffered the death of their child due to Sudden and Unexplained Death (SUDI). The parents bravely shared their experiences with the partnership, explaining that they hoped their involvement might prevent the deaths of other children, their views were then incorporated into the #AskMe conversation prompts. The NYSCP would like to sincerely thank both parents for their courage and determination in sharing their insights in order to develop future safeguarding practice.

Effective partnership working with parents and carers happens when practitioners build strong, trusting and cooperative relationships and empowers families to participate in service design and values their contributions and feedback. The NYSCP aims to create policies that are jargon free that reflect parents and carers' views which impact on service design. The Parent's and Carer's page¹⁰ on the NYSCP website is currently being re-designed with the invaluable help of the Experts by Experience parents and carers group who have been generous with their time in helping review this.



⁹ NYSCP (safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

¹⁰ NYSCP (safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

North Yorkshire’s Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

We are pleased to share with you the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements. This chapter sets out the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for North Yorkshire, established in accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023¹¹) which states:

“Nothing is more important than children’s welfare. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable, and loving home. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support. This requires individuals, agencies, and organisations to be clear about their own and each other’s roles and responsibilities, and how they work together.”

Lead Safeguarding Partners

In accordance with Working Together 2023¹² The Lead Safeguarding Partners, (LSPs,) have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements, which is underpinned by equitable and proportionate funding.

In North Yorkshire, the LSPs are:



Richard Flinton
Chief Executive
North Yorkshire Council



Stephen Eames
Chief Executive
Humber and North Yorkshire
Integrated Care Board



Tim Forber
Chief Constable
North Yorkshire Police

The LSP for Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board performs this function across 6 local partnership areas including North Yorkshire and the LSP for North Yorkshire Police performs this function in two local partnership areas, (North Yorkshire and City of York).

Each LSP is responsible for discharging their own statutory and legislative duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. As leaders of their organisations and the statutory safeguarding partners, it is for LSPs to assure themselves that their local arrangements are

¹¹ [Working Together to Safeguarding Children \(2023\)](#)

¹² [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance](#)

effective and keep children safe. This includes systems of assurance and accountability within each of their organisations.

Delegated Safeguarding Partners

In accordance with Working Together 2023,¹³ each LSP should appoint a Delegated Safeguarding Partner, (DSP,) for its agency. DSPs should be of sufficient seniority to be able to speak with authority, take decisions on behalf of the LSP and hold their sectors to account. The DSPs should have the authority to carry out these functions, while ultimate accountability remains with the LSP as the individual responsible for the delivery of the statutory duties of the safeguarding partners.

In North Yorkshire, the DSP's are:



Stuart Carlton
Director of Children and Families
North Yorkshire Council



Catherine Clarke
Assistant Chief Constable
North Yorkshire Police



Paula South
Director of Nursing (Governance)
Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)

A full description of the joint functions of the LSPs and DSPs can be found in [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114241/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023_statutory_guidance.pdf)

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, (NYSCP) consists of the three safeguarding organisations in North Yorkshire, namely North Yorkshire Council (NYC), the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and North Yorkshire Police (NYP).

Strong, joined-up leadership and clear accountability is critical to effective multi-agency safeguarding and the LSPs and DSPs in North Yorkshire are committed to a partnership model that focuses on continuous learning and improvement with a clear line of sight on frontline safeguarding practice. All leaders will

¹³ [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114241/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023_statutory_guidance.pdf)

promote a shared commitment to work together to improve outcomes for children and their families.

There is full commitment from the Lead Safeguarding Partners for coming together with the Delegated Safeguarding Partners biannually to gain assurance that safeguarding systems are effective and are working well. Given the complexity of organisational geographic footprints the mechanism for so is still under development. DSP's will also keep LSP's appraised on a regular basis through ordinary channels of communication.

Designated Safeguarding Partners Strategic Group

In order to support the delivery of the joint functions, the DSPs meet as a Strategic Group a **minimum** of four times per year to undertake the functions as outlined in Working Together 2023. Additional meetings are diarised to deal with emerging issues and/or concerns or at the request of an LSP or DSP. These meetings are coordinated by the NYSCP Business Manager.

Escalation of issues to LSPs:

In order to ensure the LSPs have oversight of significant concerns that impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of the partnership arrangement the DSPs/Executive Chair and/or the Scrutineer can escalate concerns to all or relevant LSPs.

However, such action is only ever anticipated to be enacted in exceptional circumstances and only undertaken after matters have been fully discussed with all

or relevant DSPs and a resolution not reached. It is anticipated that DSPs would wish an opportunity to brief their respective LSPs on any relevant issues, and any such escalation would only be undertaken with the full knowledge of all relevant DSPs.

At all stages of escalation, the LSPs and their DSPs will consider making use of key stakeholders in North Yorkshire who may assist on developing a resolution (this can include involving the Scrutineer, Police and Crime Commissioners, Mayors, Lead Members or other independent persons). If the matter remains unresolved between the three safeguarding partners and their local networks the next stage of escalation to be considered is the Secretary of State.

Executive Chair

It has been agreed that within North Yorkshire, our Scrutineer will continue in their role as Executive Chair as they are able to provide scrutiny and challenge within meetings. This chairing role supports the three DSPs to focus on the agenda, discussions and decision-making and assists in the smooth and efficient running of the meeting, facilitation of discussion and keeps the conversation focused and balanced. However, a nominated DSP will support the agenda setting of the meeting. The discharge of the functions of the Executive Chair role are supported through regular communication with the Business Manager.

Independent Scrutiny

In line with Working Together 2023¹⁴ the decision on how best to implement a robust system of independent scrutiny has

¹⁴ [Working together to safeguard children 2023: statutory guidance](#)

been made locally with the aim that the system in place leads to objective and rigorous analysis of local arrangements.

In North Yorkshire, a decision has been made to appoint a Scrutineer to provide safeguarding partners and relevant agencies with rigorous, effective support and challenge at both strategic and operational level. The role supports the partnership drive for continuous improvement and assurance that arrangements work effectively for children, families and practitioners and adds value to the work of the partnership. This role contributes to a wider system of assurance and accountability including:

- **Assurance and accountability action undertaken at the request of the three statutory partners**
- **Wider partnership activity (such as quality assurance, performance management and learning frameworks)**
- **Independent inspectorate inspections**

The Scrutiny role is in line and compliant with Working Together 2023 in that the Executive Chair functions and scrutiny activity are separate. The Scrutineer acts as a **“critical friend”** to the partnership and provides opportunities to ensure the voice

of children and families are considered and encourages reflection relating to frontline practice.

The partnership Business Plan includes an outline of planned scrutiny activity during the business plan cycle. Additional scrutiny activity can be undertaken at the request of the DSPs. The Scrutineer attends the DSP Strategic Group when required and is involved in key partnership activity (such as partnership development Sessions).

Funding Arrangements

The three local safeguarding partners, identify, agree and maintain the budget for the NYSCP. The principal contributors to the NYSCP funding include:

- **North Yorkshire Council**
- **Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board**
- **North Yorkshire Police**
- **City of York Partnership (Child Death Contribution)**
- **HM Prison and Probation Service**

The NYSCP budget retains a reserve kept aside should there be a requirement to commission an independent child safeguarding practice review.

Structure of the NYSCP

The NYSCP operates under a subgroup structure with the Executive providing strategic direction for the partnership in line with national, regional and local objectives and priorities. The arrangements outlined below identify the safeguarding partnership structure which seeks to ensure partners work together and respond to the needs of children in the area.



Executive

In addition to the DSP Strategic Group, the DSPs meet with wider strategic leads at the Executive meeting on an eight-weekly basis. The Chairing of this meeting is undertaken by the Executive Chair in order to facilitate strong and effective communication and engagement from the three DSPs within the meeting.

The DSPs jointly develop and implement the partnership's business plan, identify and agree partnership strategic priorities and utilise the independent scrutiny role to support develop and strengthen the partnership arrangements.

The DSPs identify specific areas for scrutiny and assurance activity relating to either strategic or operational partnership working to provide insight into current practice and potential areas for improvement. This reporting provides assurance evidence and focus for identifying the future strategic objectives that lead to operational improvements.

Strategic Partnership Development Days

Every six months the NYSCP hold a strategic partnership development day where senior leaders from statutory and relevant agencies come together to consider the effectiveness of the local safeguarding arrangements and to evaluate and improve services for children across North Yorkshire. These sessions ensure local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are fully understood and rigorously applied within both statutory and relevant agency organisations.

Safeguarding Practice Review Group, (SPRG)

North Yorkshire Children's Services are duty-bound to notify the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and by extension the Department for Education and Ofsted, if it knows or suspects a child has died or been seriously harmed and abuse or neglect is known or suspected.

The SPRG is a multi-agency group of strategic leads from statutory and non-statutory agencies, including education, chaired by the Designated Doctor for Safeguarding and Children in Care and meets responsively when a referral to the National Panel is made. The SPRG meet four times per year to ensure there is progress against the recommendations and learning gathered from both national and local reviews.

Action plans are created from recommendations gained in reviewing serious incidents and these recommendations are shared with the Executive via an assurance report. Action plans are managed through the Practice and Learning Subgroup with learning points shared with practitioners via Practitioner Learning Events. Anonymised briefing papers in the form of 7 Point Briefings are published on our "Learning for Professionals¹⁵" webpage.

Practice and Learning Subgroup

In September 2023, after a period of consultation with partners, the NYSCP made the decision to make a change to the sub-group structure of the partnership. The consultation identified the opportunity for efficiencies to be gained by merging the

¹⁵ [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

Learning Improvement and Practice Development sub-groups to become the Practice and Learning Sub-Group. This group is the “engine room” of the partnership and has seen partners across police, health, the local authority, education and the voluntary sector come together on a six weekly basis to drive forward the partnership’s priorities and embed learning from audits and reviews across the workforce.

Multi-Agency Audit Group

When partner agencies and individual professionals engage in case auditing, it helps:

- Identify good practice.
- Understand the effectiveness of front-line practice in protecting children and young people.
- Be clear on the impact of locally delivered training
- Ask questions about whether things could be done differently to improve the safeguarding system

The partnership undertakes three learning themed audits per year with audit subjects identified from multi-agency data sets. Audit reports are developed with the aim of developing “SMART” recommendations which are progressed through action plans managed by the Practice and Learning sub-group. Multi-agency learning from each audit is shared across the partnership via various networks, learning events, training sessions and written briefings.

Partnership audits

Alongside multi-agency audits the partnership also undertake biennial Section 11, 157 and S175 audits where safeguarding partners and education

settings are required to provide assurance to the Executive regarding their safeguarding arrangements.

These audits result in an understanding of best practice which is shared across the workforce and allow for the development of practice through the delivery of targeted training sessions.

Child Death Overview Panel

The reviewing of child deaths is a statutory obligation as set out in the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 which states that child death review partners must make arrangements to review all deaths of children normally resident in the local area.

The NYSCP recognise the life changing impact the death of any child will have on their family, friends and local community. The panel review each child’s death with dignity and respect with the mantra that the review, from a professional perspective, is the last good thing that can be done for any child who has sadly died.

North Yorkshire and City of York work together to review children across their areas and the purpose of the review process is to identify any matters relating to the death of a child that are relevant to the welfare of other children in the family, in their local area, or to public health and safety.

The Child death review partners publish an annual report on:

- **Local patterns and trends.**
- **Lessons learnt and actions taken.**
- **The effectiveness of the wider child death review process.**

Deaths of Care Leavers¹⁶

Working Together 2023 states, “the local authority should notify the Secretary of State for Education and Ofsted of the death of a care leaver up to and including the age of 24. This should be notified via the Child Safeguarding Online Notification System.

Should any of our young care leavers sadly die, the NYSCP and City of York partnerships have agreed on a shared process to support the identification and management of the deaths of these young people.

Information on the Child Death and Care Leaver review procedures is available from the NYSCP website¹⁷ where The Child Death Review Annual Reports can also be accessed.

MACE and Contextual Safeguarding

The MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Strategic subgroup provides strategic oversight, scrutiny and challenge of the NYSCP MACE arrangements. This is achieved through the analysis of performance management data to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of operational activity.

The meeting takes place quarterly and is chaired by the Head of Safeguarding Partnerships, North Yorkshire Council.

MACE Level One: The Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and Contextual Safeguarding (CS) Level One process relates to the identification, risk assessment and

risk management of those children vulnerable to all forms of exploitation.

This case discussion takes place across partners in the Multi Agency Screening Team alongside the allocated worker and any other local professionals required. It allows partners to offer challenge regarding the risk level and risk management plans for the young person. The meeting will result in an agreement as to the risk level which can be one of four outcomes: High risk, medium risk, low risk or no risk. Plans will be put in place and reviewed agreed based on the risk level.

MACE Level Two: The Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Level Two meeting draws on information from our [Multi Agency Child Exploitation \(MACE\) and Contextual Safeguarding Strategy](#). The strategy aims to build on existing structures in place across North Yorkshire to bring together expertise, knowledge, and skills to deliver services in a co-ordinated way across the following strands of exploitation:

- **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**
- **Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)** (inc. county lines, financial exploitation & organised crime)
- **Children Missing from Home (MFH),**
- **Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB),**
- **Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT),**
- **Online Child Exploitation,**
- **Peer on peer exploitation/teenage relationship abuse**
- **Radicalisation and extremism**

¹⁶ Care leavers are entitled to support from their Personal Adviser up to their 25th birthday. Local authorities are required to keep in touch with all care leavers up to the point they reach age 21, and to make their best efforts to contact all care leavers aged 21 to 24 annually to remind them that they remain eligible for support. If a young person chooses not to take up support

between 21 to 24 years of age the local authority may no longer be aware of a care leaver's whereabouts or circumstances (and therefore their death).

¹⁷ [NYSCP website](#).

The group will include a focus on children and young people aged up to 18 years, however, will incorporate the transition of children and young people over 18 into adult services up until age 25 years.

The meetings are held monthly, virtually in Scarborough, Ryedale, Craven, Richmondshire, Hambleton, Harrogate and Selby to discuss local issues and concerns regarding child exploitation and contextual safeguarding concerns in the locality.

The purpose of the Level Two meeting is to facilitate the sharing of information and identify action regarding:

- **The places and spaces where children and young people may be at risk of exploitation.**
- **locations that could pose a risk of exploitation to children and young people,**
- **The review of community intelligence and emerging themes, trends, and links in local areas,**
- **The identification of potential perpetrators and the coordination of partner intervention and disruption.**

For further information regarding descriptions and work of the various subgroups please see our 2023/24 annual report¹⁸

Relevant Agencies

Relevant agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the safeguarding partners consider are

required to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children.

Education Subgroup

In North Yorkshire we recognise the complexities of engaging with nearly 400 schools (including alternative education and further education providers), as well as over 600 childcare providers. Currently there is no statutorily designated role to represent “education” in partnership arrangements, however, the NYSCP recognises education staff often play a pivotal role in the daily lives of children. Schools offer a universal service and are therefore well places to spot any early indicators of safeguarding concerns alongside supporting their emotional health and wellbeing, helping them achieve their potential and potentially being the first trusted adult to whom children or families may share worried or concerns.

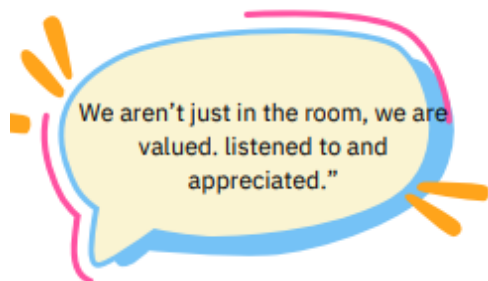
Meeting on a termly basis, the Education Subgroup group was established in 2023 and brings together representatives from the education and childcare sector. Members of the group represent “education” in its broadest sense, rather than acting as a voice for their own setting. The aim of the group is to ensure the education sector is included in the development of strategies, practice guidance and other areas of partnership work. Chaired by the Head of Alternative Provision, this group began as a focus group however, the NYSCP Executive requested the terms of reference be strengthened so that it now forms part of the formal Multi-Agency Safeguarding

¹⁸ [NYSCP-Annual-Report-2023-2024.pdf \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](#)

Arrangements Subgroup Structure, further cementing the way in which the education sector is represented across the Partnership.

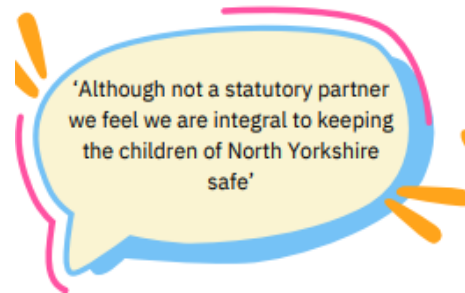
Working with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE)

Voluntary, charity, social enterprise (VCSE) and private sector organisations (including sports clubs and organisations) and agencies play an important role in safeguarding children through the services they deliver. The staff, students and volunteers in these settings play an important role in building relationships, identifying concerns and providing direct support for children, families and communities. In North Yorkshire there are over 7,000 VCSE groups supported by over 67,000 volunteers and 15,000 paid staff.

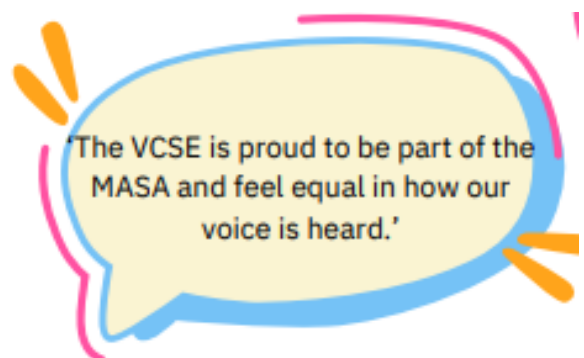


A VCSE group was established in 2023 to further develop the partnership links across the VCSE sector and explore the changes to Working Together and the implications for the voluntary sector and their role in the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. Work of the group has led to the development of communication strategies with the voluntary sector (with a focus on information being shared into the

partnership from the VCSE and information being shared to the VCSE sector from the partnership) via the development of a Key Safeguarding messages campaign¹⁹. VCSE partners are represented across the partnership subgroup structure and are seen as a vital partner in the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in North Yorkshire.



In North Yorkshire, a joint children and adults safeguarding self-assessment checklist has been produced to support colleagues in the VCSE sector to identify the safeguarding arrangements that need to be in place in their organisation and the need to work with safeguarding partners, which is then used to provide assurance back into the partnership. (For a list of all relevant agencies please see Appendix 1.)



¹⁹ [571428852-Safeguarding-message-A4-poster.pdf \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/571428852-Safeguarding-message-A4-poster.pdf)

Sharing Good Practice

Awards

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Awards celebrates the multi-agency work between the Council, Police, NHS and wider partners in safeguarding vulnerable children and their families. The recipients of the awards have all demonstrated their passion and determination to keep children and young people at the heart of the work they do in what can be exceptionally challenging circumstances. Strategic leads would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt “thank you” to not only the award winners but to all practitioners who work, day in day out to keep children safe and to help them to achieve their full potential.

Media

The NYSCP use a variety of media sources in order to share key safeguarding messages, best practice and opportunities for learning and development. Our monthly e-bulletin²⁰ is full of information and resources for partners and includes a “Do your Part” practice and research themes section which focuses on key safeguarding themes for practitioners.

The NYSCP has a social media presence, including a YouTube channel where practitioners can access training events delivered through our monthly learning events among other things.

Practitioner Forum

Frontline practitioners are the linchpin to the vital support that is offered across the partnership to support children and families

across North Yorkshire. They hear, on a daily basis, the views of the children and families they are working with and have valuable insight into the experiences and challenges that are affecting their lives. With that in mind, the NYSCP have developed a practitioner forum to provide an opportunity for frontline practitioners to share their experience, best practice examples and views in order to help shape the development of multi agency strategy, policy and action planning.

Wider Partnership Working

Links to other Strategic Partnerships

The NYSCP works as part of a larger collective with other strategic partnerships across North Yorkshire and other Local Authorities to support children and families. We recognise that in working together to consider cross-cutting themes we are more likely to have positive impacts on the lives of children and their families. This includes but is not limited to other public boards, including:

- **North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership**
- **Local Family Justice Board**
- **Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Strategic Management Boards**
- **Drug Partnerships**
- **Health and Wellbeing Board**
- **North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board**
- **Domestic Abuse Partnership Board**
- **Corporate Parenting Board**
- **Youth Justice Management Board**

<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/nyscp-e-bulletin/>

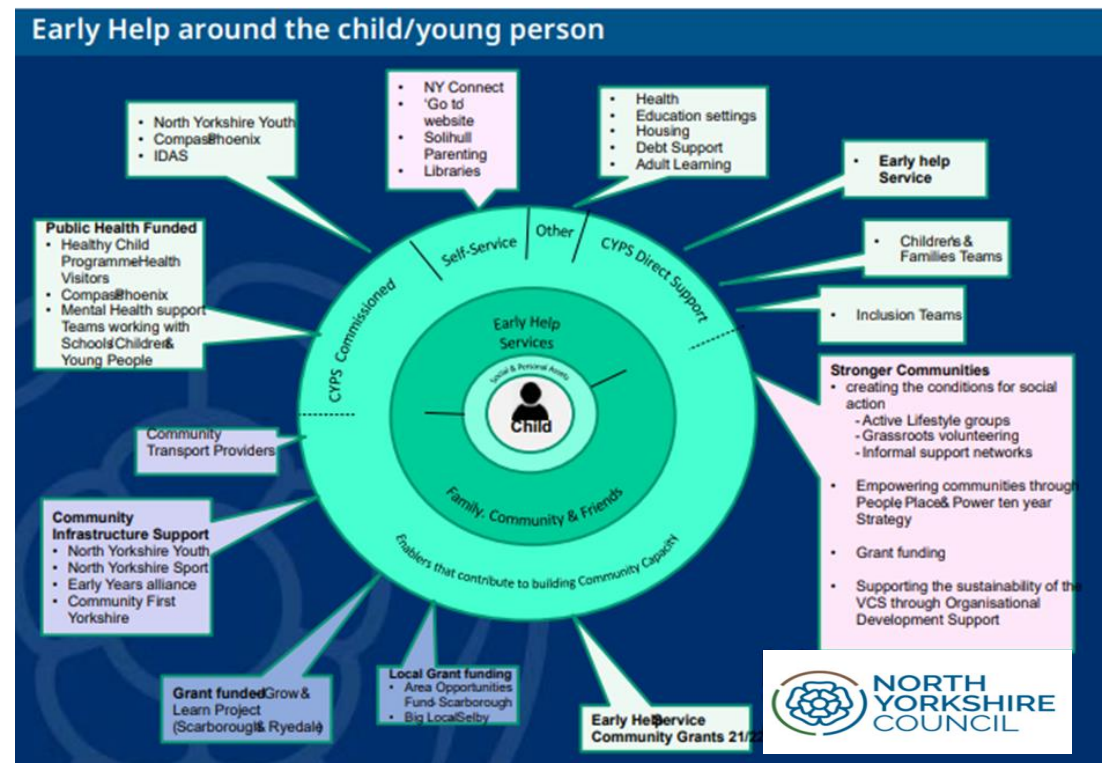
How we Support Partners

Our Multi-Agency Strategies

Our vision is for all children in North Yorkshire to be safe, happy, healthy and achieving. This vision underpins all the work undertaken across the partnership and is used as the starting point for the development of all our key strategies. When we consulted with children on this vision, they told us that they like it, they understand it and they feel it reflects what they want for themselves and each other. The aim of all our multi-agency strategies is to provide useable frameworks for frontline practitioners to support the work they undertake on a daily basis with children and their families. We want our strategies to be meaningful and accessible for everyone and as such we aim for a consistency in language with a recognition that the strategies do not exist in a vacuum and should be considered in conjunction with each other

Early Help Strategy

The aim of the multi-agency Early Help Strategy is to help children, their family and friends understand what support is available throughout their lives. We understand that early help is not one service but a system of interconnecting people, services and support networks. Early help is about recognising the value of adults in communities who support children and families and build positive connections. This could be the teacher in a dance class, a football coach, a member of a church group, a kind neighbour, a music group volunteer, school teachers, friends, family, and any other interaction that nourishes and supports a child to thrive. When a child's needs are identified that cannot be met by services within the community, families in North Yorkshire are also able to access our Early Help Service who offer targeted support to families based on their individual needs and circumstances.¹ This strategy is currently under review with the launch of the new strategy planned for early 2025. To view our Early Help Strategy, please [click here](#).



Multi-Agency Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding Strategy



Multi Agency
Child Exploitation (MACE)
and Contextual Safeguarding
Strategy 2024/27



NYSCP's vision for the MACE and Contextual Safeguarding arrangements is that:

“All children in North Yorkshire who are being exploited and are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse are effectively identified and protected by services which are delivered in a coordinated and informed way that consistently responds to the harm and risks and improves the outcomes for our children, their families and the wider community.”

The strategy sets our four priorities to tackle child exploitation in North Yorkshire:

- Prepare
- Prevent
- Protect
- Pursue

It also incorporates the principles of our BeAware knowledge hub for children and young people, parents and carers, professionals and community partners to recognise the signs of exploitation.

BeAware
of child exploitation
in North Yorkshire

A knowledge hub for everyone in
North Yorkshire, so we can tackle
child exploitation together.

www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/beaware



Key Policies

Framework for Decision-Making

The NYSCP “Framework for Decision-Making: Right help, at the right time by the right person” has been developed to help and support practitioners working with children across all agencies and organisations when faced with a decision about the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person.

The guidance sets out which agencies and which levels of intervention may be needed to:

- **keep children safe**
- **support families**
- **build on their strengths**
- **promote resilience, and**
- **improve overall outcomes for children, young people and their families.**

The Framework can be accessed from:

www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/practice-guidance/threshold-document

It is important for all practitioners across the partnership to work alongside families and other professionals in order to have a full understanding of the needs of the child and their family. The NYSCP has established multi-agency safeguarding procedures and practice

²¹ [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

guidance to support those working with children, young people and their families across North Yorkshire all of which are available on the NYSCP website.²¹



Professional Curiosity

Being professionally curious is fundamental to how we work with children, their families and other professionals. To work alongside people, we need to understand their perspectives and lived experiences so that we can support them to achieve their full potential and by understanding multiple perspectives, we gain a

deeper connection with each other meaning that we are better able to work together.

The NYSCP recognises the importance of practitioners having access to useable guidance that supports their professionally curious interactions and as such have recently updated this guidance²² based on feedback from parents, children and practitioners.

Managing Differing Professional Perspectives

This practice guidance aims to support practitioners, professionals, and volunteers with an effective means of exploring different professional perspectives, addressing differing opinions and is supportive of professional and respectful challenge. Respectful challenge should be viewed by all agencies as a positive activity that places the primary focus on the safety and wellbeing of children and in doing this, the child remains at the centre of effective safeguarding practice.

Working Together 2023 references that strong multi-agency and multi-disciplinary working is vital in identifying and responding to the needs of children and families. The NYSCP understands it is important to promote a culture of ‘mutual challenge’ across the partnership, where practitioners challenge themselves and each other by questioning each other’s assumptions and seeking to resolve differences of opinion in a restorative and respectful way.

²² [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

²³ [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

²⁴ <https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/training-north-yorkshire/training-courses/>

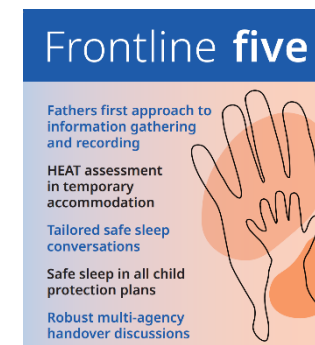
Our Managing Different Professional Perspectives²³ practice guidance provides practitioners with the framework for understanding the perspectives of others, encourages open dialogue and sets out a pathway for when escalation processes should be implemented.

Training

In accordance with Working Together 2023, the NYSCP ensures the provision of appropriate multi-agency safeguarding professional development and training.

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership in conjunction with the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board have produced guidance which is designed to assist partners in identifying training needs and offers a variety of multi-agency in-person and e-learning advertised through the NYSCP website,²⁴ and on our YouTube²⁵ channel alongside training delivered by NYC Training and Learning Team.

Good practice and learning from reviews is shared via our 7-point briefings on our Learning for Professionals²⁶ page and in our newly developed “Frontline Five” format which highlights five key points for practice developed from learning from safeguarding practice reviews.



²⁵ [NYSCP - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

²⁶ [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

Data

Effective data collection, sharing and analysis, both local and national enables early identification of new safeguarding risks, and emerging threats, themes and trends. The NYSCP compiles a comprehensive multi-agency data which is shared as a quarterly standing agenda item on the Practice and Learning Subgroup and also features on the NYSCP Executive agenda on a quarterly basis. A partnership dataset is also used as part of the Multi Agency Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding (MACE) meetings to gain a comprehensive understanding of the harms faced by young people in North Yorkshire outside the home.

How any youth custody and residential homes for children will be included in the safeguarding arrangements.

There are no youth offending institutes within North Yorkshire, it is however important to recognise the duty and ensure the duty is applied in respect of North Yorkshire children who may be placed in custody in other local authority areas. The Head of Early Help in North Yorkshire has responsibility for Youth Justice ensuring that this important area of work is considered throughout the NYSCP's sub-groups.

Conclusion

We thank you for taking the time to read our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements 2024 and encourage you to peruse our comprehensive partnership website. [NYSCP](#)

Appendix 1

Relevant Agencies

Within North Yorkshire, the Relevant Agencies include but are not limited to:

Sector	Organisation
Education and Early Years	All Education Setting (Maintained, Academies, Independent, Further Education and Higher Education) All Early Years Setting
Health	Airedale NHS Foundation Trust Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust Child Death Review Partnership General Practitioners Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board NHS England Primary Health Care (Pharmacy, Opticians) South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Spectrum Community Health CIC Tees Esk Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust Vocare West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Yorkshire Ambulance Service
Criminal Justice	CAFCASS National Probation Service
Voluntary Sector	Commissioned services Compass Phoenix Community First Yorkshire Just B North Yorkshire Youth NSPCC North Yorkshire Sport Other voluntary sector groups by discussion and representation
Local Government	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) North Yorkshire Council Health and Adult Service North Yorkshire Council Public Health Youth Justice Board
Public Services	Army Foundation College British Army Welfare Service British Transport Police North Yorkshire Fire Service North Yorkshire Police Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

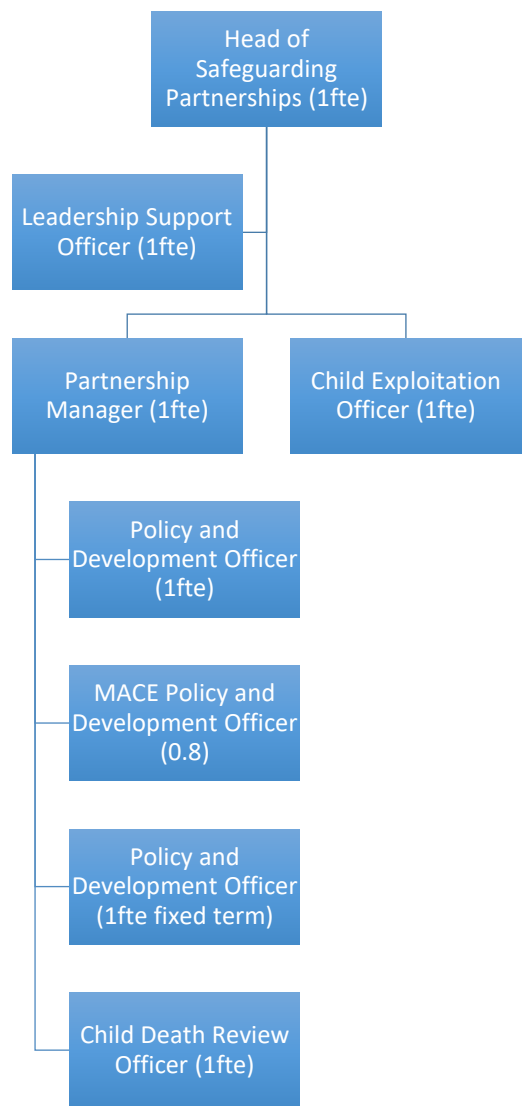
**Wider Partnership
Engagement
Groups**

Faith Groups
NYC Children’s Champion
NYC Lead Member for Children and Young People’s Service
NYC Lead Member for Schools Youth Voice Executive

Appendix 2

Business Unit

The NYSCP Business Unit consists of seven posts as outlined below:





NYSCP Website: www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk



NYSCP X: x.com/NYSCP1



NYSCP Facebook: facebook.com/nyscp1



NYSCP YouTube: youtube.com/@nyscp



Instagram

NYSCP Instagram: instagram.com/nyscp



Podcast: <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/north-yorkshire-safeguarding-children-partnership>

Arrangements for North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

If you have safeguarding concerns about a child, please click here to view our worried about a child page [NYSCP](#).

Contact us:

W: www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk E: nyscp@northyorks.gov.uk

T: 03001331 2 131 (Monday to Friday 8.00am – 5.30pm closed weekends and bank holidays).

You can request this information in another language or format at

www.northyorks.gov.uk/accessibility