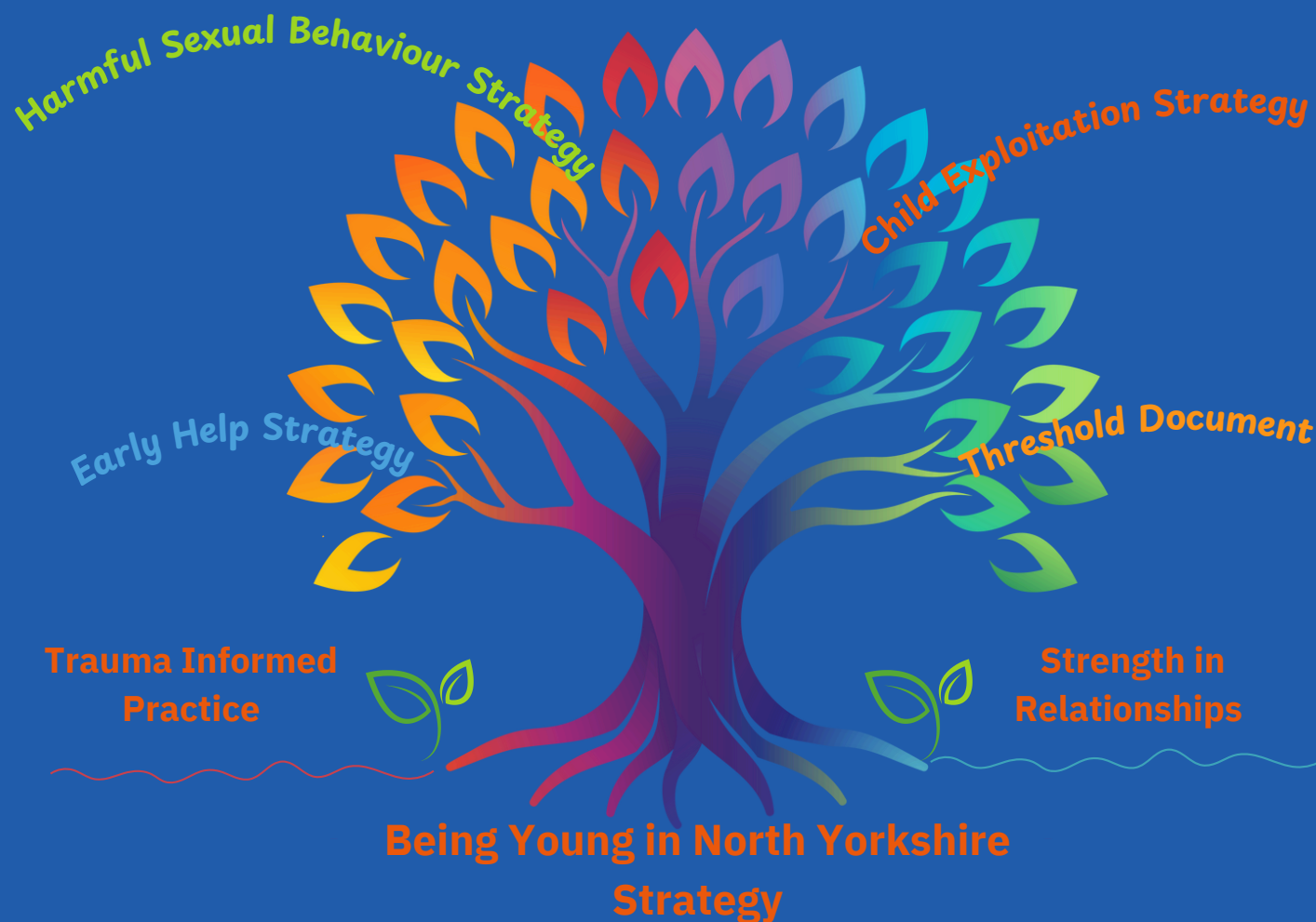


Being Young in North Yorkshire 2025-2028

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children
Partnership Strategy for children living in North
Yorkshire

Contents

<u>Foreword</u>	Page 3
<u>How We Work Together</u>	Page 4
<u>Education Systems in North Yorkshire</u>	Page 5
<u>Proud Moments</u>	Page 6
<u>Talking to Our Children</u>	Page 7
<u>Talking to Our Adults</u>	Page 7
<u>What Do We Know About Our Children?</u>	Page 8
<u>Talking to Our Practitioners</u>	Page 9
<u>Our Plan on a Page</u>	Page 10
<u>Our Measurables</u>	Page 11
<u>Happy</u>	Page 12
<u>Healthy</u>	Page 13
<u>Safe</u>	Page 14
<u>Achieving</u>	Page 15
<u>Training, Campaigns, and Governance</u>	Page 16
<u>Conclusion</u>	Page 17



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Foreword

Welcome to Being Young in North Yorkshire 2025-2028

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership are pleased to launch the new Being Young in North Yorkshire Strategy 2025 to 2028. We would like practitioners across the partnership to consider the strategic priorities in this document as the strong “roots” or foundations of all the work that takes place with children in North Yorkshire. These roots are fertilised by the way we work in partnership with each other, our practice model, legislation such as Working Together to Safeguard Children and our developing practice in our trauma-informed ways of working.



We are so proud of everything that has been achieved over the last four years and would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of the practitioners, managers and volunteers who tirelessly dedicate their time to promoting children’s safety and wellbeing, none of this work could happen without you and we hope that you are as excited as we are to see what the next four years have in store.

During the tenure of Being Young in North Yorkshire Strategy 2021-2024, the world became a different place; COVID disrupted our children’s education and limited their access to friends and family. Frontline practitioners across the partnership continued to support children and their families through the uncertainty brought on by this unprecedented global event, and, while we are now coming out the other side, our children continue to live with the legacy of this. The new Being Young in North Yorkshire Strategy is written within the context of this change in the social construct. This document will show the journey the partnership has been on over the last four years, and even more importantly, will show what we want to achieve for our children in the future.

The four strategic priorities remain the same, we want children to be **Happy**, **Healthy**, **Safe**, and **Achieving**, however, these priorities should each be considered on a continuum, with an understanding that we will all experience adversity and will at times need help, either for ourselves or for our children. For 2025–2028, we have agreed that under these four priorities, there are eight key areas of focus which are:

Happy

- Children’s Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
- Right Support at the Right Time: Our Early Help System

Healthy

- Children Start Well and Live Well
- Reduce Health Inequalities

Safe

- Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding
- Protect Children at Risk of Harm

Achieving

- Education and Inclusion
- Transitions

Working Together to Safeguard Children legislation sets out how partners should work together, recognising that safeguarding is everybody’s responsibility. Our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements outline how partners in North Yorkshire will implement their responsibilities and the aim of this strategy is to provide practitioners with a framework to support children and their families when they experience life’s challenges. The Being Young in North Yorkshire Strategy is the strong trunk from which other important partnership documents, such as the Early Help Strategy, Harmful Sexual Behaviour Strategy and Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Strategy can grow. You will see consistent language across our key strategies, with consistent priorities and targets, although each strategy will have its own specific areas of focus.

A shared responsibility, is set out in the Children's Social Care National Framework, and 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.

In North Yorkshire, we are fortunate to collaborate with 151,000 children and young people under the age of 25 who live in our geographically diverse county. The wishes and feelings of children, along with their best interests, are central to the decision-making process of the partnership and the way professionals work together.

The Growing Up in North Yorkshire Survey is an example of this, and gathers views from pupils across multiple year groups on various issues, including health, education, home life, and risk-taking behaviour, this data is then used to inform the partnership's strategic objectives.



Professionals in North Yorkshire 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. Our children live in towns and villages, we have one city, we have an extensive coastline and a large number of farming communities. Our relationship-based, “Strength in Relationships” practice model is embedded across our workforce and we recognise the need to provide the right support at the right time for children and families. We know that successful outcomes for children depend on strong partnership working with children, their parents and carers, practitioners and senior leaders.

A word cloud with answers from over 2000 children 7 - 11 years at a Healthy Schools Event

Education Systems in North Yorkshire

In a snapshot of a typical Primary School classroom in North Yorkshire:

15



would be girls

15



would be boys

4 would be from a black and minority ethnic background



5 would have Special Educational Needs (SEND)



75.6% of Reception age children would be a healthy weight



85,823 children attend North Yorkshire schools (including school nurseries)

80% of children thrive most of the time



EHCP assessment performance:

44.9%

of EHCPs issued within 20 weeks (up to end March 2024)

1294

Electively Home Educated Children

at the end of 2023/24



2 year old funding take up: 97.8%



921

Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) requests for Assessment



Figures relate to children and young people aged 0 - 25 years

By year 10:

10% of children report having experienced bullying online



Boys: 82%

Girls: 69%

sometimes do outdoor activities in their own time



21% have tried smoking



9% have taken Cannabis, down from 12% in 2018



30% would have had an alcoholic drink the last 7 days



32%

of year 6 pupils said they spent time reading a book for pleasure



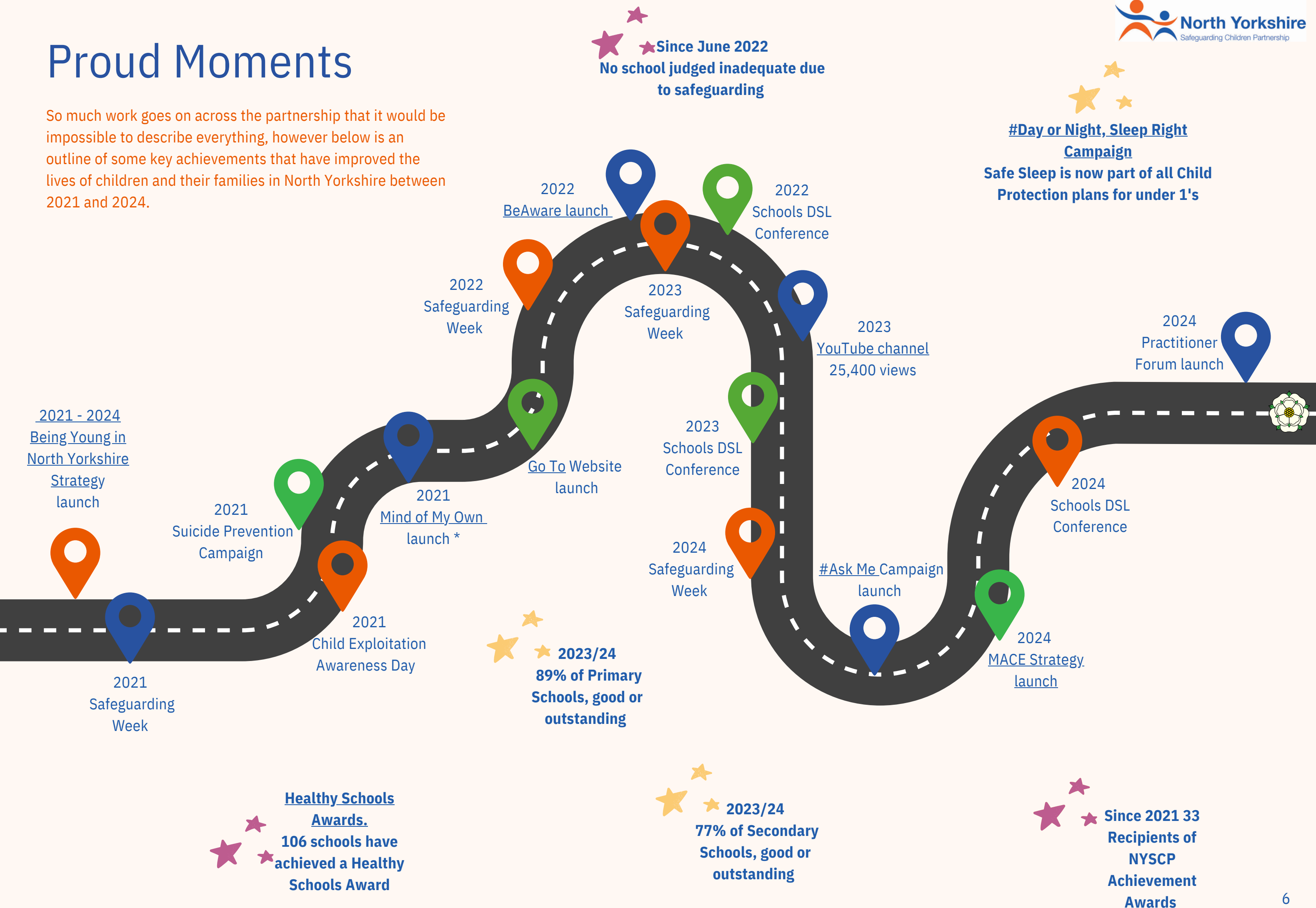
39% of year 6 pupils responded that they 'quite' or 'very' often worry about moving on to secondary school

83% of boys and 85% of girls feel "the school prepares me for when I leave this school"

48% of pupils responded that if at first they don't succeed, they 'usually' or 'always' keep on trying until they do

Proud Moments

So much work goes on across the partnership that it would be impossible to describe everything, however below is an outline of some key achievements that have improved the lives of children and their families in North Yorkshire between 2021 and 2024.



Talking to our Children

The wishes and feelings of children and what is in their best interest remain central to the decision-making of the partnership and the way in which professionals work together. These decisions are rooted in child development, are age appropriate and are sensitive to the impact of adversity and trauma.

Fundamentally our vision is designed for and shaped by children. We have asked children about their hopes for the future, for themselves and their friends, and the partnership recognises the importance of seeking creative and meaningful ways to work with children to capture their “voice,” including for those children who are not able to communicate with us verbally. We will support practitioners to recognise the range of ways in which children communicate their thoughts and feelings, and we will use their views to shape the strategies, policies, practice guidance and one-minute guides we develop.

The North Yorkshire Youth Voice Executive are a “relevant agency”, (as defined in “Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2023,”) and represent a number of youth voice groups in the county such as The Young People’s Council (Children in Care Council), Flying High (Special Educational Needs Youth Voice Group), The Young Carers, the LGBT Youth Forum, Harrogate District Foundation Trust Youth Forum and Military Kids Club Heroes.

Since it’s inception in 2006 the, “Growing up in North Yorkshire” survey has obtained the views, experiences and opinions of pupils in national curriculum years 2, 6, 8, 10 and 12 regarding a broad range of issues from health and education to home life and activities, including risk-taking behaviour. Over 17,000 children have participated in the 2024 survey in which children have shared their perceptions and lived experiences of life in North Yorkshire. This invaluable insight into their lives is used by an array of professionals to focus support where it is needed the most. In order to maximise the health and wellbeing of our children in North Yorkshire this data forms the basis of our key priorities and shapes our work with children and their families.

We now have over a decade’s worth of data on what really matters to the children and young people in our county and it is more important than ever that they know we are listening to them, that we believe them and that we will take their opinions, experiences and needs into account when working with them.

Talking to our Adults

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.

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 page on the partnership’s website has been 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. We will continue to work in partnership with the group to ensure the website remains up to date and relevant for all our parents and carers across the county.



What do we know about our children?

The below graphic outlines some key data from 2023/24 related to what life for a child in North Yorkshire looks like:



Talking to our Practitioners

In the summer of 2024 over 100 colleagues from across the partnership gave their time to participate in consultation events for the development of the Being Young in North Yorkshire strategy. With wide representation from across the partnership, including the Children and Families Service, North Yorkshire Police, Harrogate District Foundation Trust, Primary Care, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust and colleagues from the Education and Voluntary sectors. The sessions were an opportunity to better understand how the current strategies feed into daily practice and partners were also able to share their own experiences and ideas for how they would like the strategies to influence future practice.

Here is a snapshot of some of the insightful discussions that took place during the consultation and you will see throughout this document that these discussions have shaped the way in which this strategy has been developed.

“We feel like the Being Young in North Yorkshire strategy is designed to be clear and easy to understand, helping organisations know where they fit within”

“Not everyone is happy all of the time... it’s about the support available in those difficult times”

“It’s an opportunity to network and hear from others who are dealing with similar issues”

“It’s about keeping up to date with information, and knowing we are not alone”



Practitioner Forum:

Following the success of the above consultation events, North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership now has a practitioner’s forum as part of the formal Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements. Meeting on a 6-weekly basis, the group provides a platform for frontline practitioners to link directly with the strategic work of the partnership. So far over 40 colleagues have joined the group, exploring topics such as what the ‘partnership’ is and how it supports practice, the usability and value of the partnership website, and how learning should be shared across the partnership. The agenda and areas of focus for each meeting is driven by our frontline practitioners, with actions and updates shared regularly with the Practice and Learning Subgroup.



“Some recent work that showed strong partnership working was the #AskMe campaign and training – people were saying what a difference that makes to their practice – within a day – people were saying it was a really valuable experience of when it hasn’t gone right and chance for positive change.”

Our Plan on a Page

Being Young in North Yorkshire Strategy 2025-2028

Our Areas of Focus:

Children’s Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

 Right Support at the Right Time: Our Early Help System

Children Start well and Live Well

 Reduce Health Inequalities

Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

 Protect Children at Risk of Harm

Education and inclusion

 Transitions



Our Signs of Success:

Children will say they understand their feelings and know what support is available when they need it

Children will have the best start in life, living healthier lives for longer than the previous generation

Children will report they are safe in their families and in their communities

Children will know they can achieve their goals and are supported to dream big

Our Foundations:

Our Strengths in Relationships practice model -[NYSCP](#) underpins all our interactions with children and their families. Families know what support is available and how they can access this support when it’s needed.

Our Principles:

- We listen to and believe what our children tell us and use their views to shape our work
- We see parents and carers as safeguarding stakeholders
- We work inclusively with our communities
- We promote positive and respectful relationships
- We provide responsive support when and where it’s needed
- We are strengths based and always seek to work in partnership

Our Measurables

How will we know we have achieved our goals?

- Progress tracked through our Growing up in North Yorkshire Survey
- Learning through our NYSCP Quality Assurance and Training
- Monitoring and oversight of our multi-agency data
- Delivery of our key strategies such as: Early Help, Autism and Social Emotional Mental Health Strategy

Happy

- Continued promotion and evaluation of our [#AskMe](#), [Sudden and Unexplained Death in Infancy](#), [Infant Crying](#), [\(ICON\)](#) and other campaign work
- Develop a multi-agency Children's Mental Health Policy
- Work with our Public Health colleagues to ensure a consistent strategic approach to addressing health inequalities

Healthy

- Delivery of our NYSCP strategies including [MACE](#) and [Contextual Safeguarding](#), [Harmful Sexual Behaviour](#) and [Early Help strategy](#).
- Learning through our NYSCP Quality Assurance and Training
- Monitoring our NYSCP data
- Continued focus on key areas such as Online Safety, Neglect, Sexual Abuse and Children who are victims of Domestic Abuse

Safe

- Continue to develop strong partnerships and enable more effective collaboration with education and inclusion providers
- Ensure all children across North Yorkshire are supported to access quality education opportunities that meets their needs and help them to achieve their ambitions.
- Enable young people have access to the right support so that they can transition into adulthood and live well within our communities

Achieving

How will we know we have made a difference?

The most important way that we will understand what difference our work is making is by talking to children and their adults, by genuinely listening to them and by including their views in the design of systems that seek to support them. Along side this we will:

- continue to strengthen our multi-agency collaboration across the partnership
- continue to work collaboratively with other boards and partnerships
- evidence effective information sharing
- maintain transparent governance and accountability processes
- provide evidence of effective safeguarding practice through multi-agency quality assurance processes
- support practitioners in their work through effective safeguarding policies, procedures and training
- evidence the impact of the work we do, demonstrating positive outcomes for children and their families
- continue to creatively engage with children and their families, genuinely using their feedback to shape our approaches

Priorities and Areas of Focus

• Delivery of our NYSCP strategies including MACE and Contextual Safeguarding, Harmful Sexual Behaviour and Early Help

The next chapter will consider each priority in more detail and will highlight areas of focus for the partnership over the coming four years. You will see in this chapter how we are using the data from children's views in the Growing Up In North Yorkshire survey to shape our areas of focus and progress on each area will be reported on each year in the partnership's [Annual Report](#). It should be noted that some of the data is based on children's perceptions of how the world around them looks and we know that this will be different for each child. We also know that while the data we gather is important, we must view this in context, acknowledging that it is part of a much bigger picture of a child's life.



Happy



Our children recognise that happiness is a complex and multifaceted emotion that encompasses a range of feelings that can mean different things for different people, or indeed different things at different points in time for the same person. Children have shared the things that can make them happy, including getting involved with communities and groups, being physically active, being kind to people and being out in nature.

Area of Focus 1: Children's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

As a partnership we recognise that children need to understand their feelings, good and bad, and know what support is available to them when they need it. Children tell us they would like to reduce stigma and have easy access to support based on individual needs. .

In the Growing Up in North Yorkshire survey, children in Years 2, 6, 8, 10 and 12 were asked how often they worry about, "at least one issue on most days," and if they have a trusted adult they can talk to?

For our children in Year 6 it is positive that there has been an increase in children reporting having a trusted adult to talk to and that the proportion of children worrying most days is 5% lower than in 2022. For children in Years 8 & 10 they too are worrying less than in 2022, however less children in this age group report having a trusted adult to talk to. We know that children's brains are working overtime during their mid-teenage years which can see children pushing boundaries, taking risks and (hopefully) learning from their mistakes. By this stage our children understand that others may have different perspectives to them, however they often firmly believe their own perception to be the most true or valid and it may be that this prevents them from seeking out adults to confide in.

We recognise the value of trusted 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.

Overall, our data is positive as it shows us that children are worrying less than in 2022, however there is still work to do in this area to improve children's emotional and mental health and wellbeing.

Commitments:

We will continue to promote and teach techniques to improve children's wellbeing and ensure children have a trusted adult in whom they can confide.

Alongside public health, we will build a system that creates a common language that everyone understands and ensures services developed are needs led and are co-produced in partnership with children and their families.



Area of Focus 2: Right Support at the Right Time: Our Early Help System

We recognise that preventing issues before they arise helps in creating a safer, healthier, and more supportive environment for children and their families. In North Yorkshire we know that early help is not one service but a system of interconnecting people, services and support networks.

We want families to be empowered to find their own solutions where possible, with networks such as schools, support organisations and the voluntary and community sector to understand and help address issues so that people can access appropriate support when they need it.

When a child's needs 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.

The multi-agency Early Help Strategy aims to help children, their families and friends understand what support is available throughout their lives.



Commitments:

We will ensure families know what support is available to them in their local areas and we will assist families to draw on their own strengths, in their relationships and in their communities.

When required we will continue to offer targeted support families in difficulty to ensure they receive help at the earliest opportunity and we will seek feedback from children and their families so we can understand the impact services are having on helping children thrive.

Healthy

We want everyone in North Yorkshire to live long, healthy and active lives. To make sure this is the case for children, we must work with families and partners to encourage, promote and facilitate healthy choices through the provision of information to help people stay healthy. The children we consulted with recognise that being healthy incorporates both their physical and mental health. They shared that, similarly to ‘happy’, no one can be perfectly healthy all the time and that their health can be a bit of a ‘rollercoaster.’

The Integrated Care Board’s priority is reflected in this Being Young in North Yorkshire strategy, in that we want children to have the healthiest start in life with access to healthy choices which should ensure each generation of children become healthy adults, living longer and more healthy lives than the generation before.

Area of Focus 3: Children Start Well and Live Well

This strategy is designed for all children from conception through to adulthood and as such the partnership feel the areas of focus in relation to health must give due consideration to children’s earliest years of life. While we do not have data directly from very young children we know there is overwhelming evidence that children’s life chances can be significantly impacted on by their experiences in the first 1001 days of life. During this critical developmental period, we want all children to have the opportunities they need to develop healthy bodies and minds which will lay the foundations for lifelong health and well-being.

The benefits of exercise on children and adult’s physical and mental health are well researched and we know that children in the most deprived areas are more likely to be overweight than their peers. As such, physical exercise should be promoted in order for children to develop healthy minds and bodies. Our data shows that, for children in Year 2, 74% of boys and 64% of girls enjoy taking part in sports or physical activities. However, once children reach Years 8 & 10 this reduces to 59% of boys and only 31% of girls with only 18% of girls reporting feeling confident in taking part in physical activity. We want everyone in North Yorkshire to live long, healthy and active lives. To make sure this is the case for children, we must work with families and partners to encourage, promote and facilitate healthy choices.

Commitments

We will work hard address the wider social, economic and environmental determinants which influence health inequalities and compromise the health, well-being and life chances of children, such as child poverty, home and road safety.

We will continue to work in partnership with practitioners who work with our youngest children, and early years colleagues, to design and embed campaigns and we will promote healthy behaviours including good sleep routines, oral health, nutrition (including positive body image) physical activity and healthy relationships.



Area of Focus 4: Reduce Health Inequalities

The health of our children is influenced by where they live. This can be seen across education outcomes, housing quality, employment opportunities and environmental conditions. To make a positive, lifelong impact on the health and wellbeing of children we must address socio-economic inequality, material deprivation and child poverty. To do this we must develop stronger communities and system-wide solutions that create the right structural conditions to give all children a healthy start to life.

For our youngest children, our Health Visiting teams undertake the Home Environment Assessment Tool which examines the quality and suitability of a child’s living environment. The completion of this assessment opens up a space for wider conversations with parents of young children about their general support needs.

When considering the health of our older children, 54% of children in Year 2 report eating fruit most days. Once children are in Year 6, only 24% of boys and 25% of girls in responded that they ate at least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables on the day before the survey. It is positive that 85% of pupils said their household has been able to get enough food for everyone in their family 'every day' in the last 12 months, however, we know that access to healthy and nutritious food can be a challenge for some families with the use of foodbanks continuing to rise nationally.

Commitments

We will work in partnership with statutory and relevant agencies, such as the Voluntary and Community Sector, Housing and Leisure services to ensure there is a joined-up approach to reducing inequalities for children.

We will work with our “Health” colleagues from across the sector, including dentists, pharmacists and GPs to ensure consistent messages are circulated to all families living in the county.

Safe

We want everyone to feel and be safe, with individuals, organisations and communities all playing a part in preventing, identifying, and reporting neglect or abuse. We know that in North Yorkshire there is a considerable amount of support available to children and their families through the early help systems that exist across the county. We also know that when children require intervention from statutory safeguarding services, they receive this in a timely manner from practitioners who work respectfully and transparently in order to keep children safe.

We know that childhood is all about growing, physically and mentally, and to do this, children need the space to explore their own limits and boundaries. Our children told us they need to be given the time to try new things in order to learn what is safe and what is not, and they asked that adults support this exploration with open minds and helpful advice rather than just saying, “no.”

Area of Focus 5: Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

Child Exploitation is a form of child abuse that impacts on the lives of children, their families and the communities of North Yorkshire. We know from the work we do with children and families that the impact of this form of abuse can be long lasting and destructive to children achieving a happy, healthy, safe childhood that enables them to achieve in life. The partnership has a comprehensive [Multi-Agency Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding Strategy](#) because we recognise the importance of safeguarding children against the risks of exploitation and coercion.

When it comes to feeling safe at school and in their communities, for children who have reported being bullied at or near school in the last 12 months, only 7% said they did not tell an adult. For children in years 8 & 10, 12% responded that they have been the victim of violence or aggression in the area where they live in the last 12 months which reduces to 7% of children in Year 12. While the numbers of children involved in violence in their communities is comparatively low, it is vitally important that we identify and protect children who are at risk.

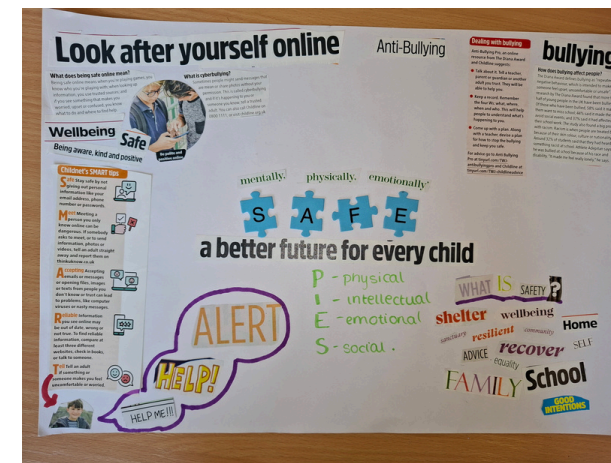
Every child has the right to be free from exploitation and coercive or exploitative behaviours. It is important that the work we do has a strong focus on preventing harm and that we listen to children, families and communities about how we can equip them with the knowledge of the early signs of all forms of child exploitation; how to seek help; what support is available and what we can do to keep children safe. It is equally important that those who perpetrate abuse are quickly identified and dealt with and that those who seek to abuse and cause harm to children understand the impact of their actions.

Commitments

We will commit to a partnership and wider community approach to prevention, contextual safeguarding and keeping children safe from exploitation, including continued development of our [BeAware](#) knowledge hub and the [community partnership intelligence portal](#).

We will continue to protect and support children at risk of or experiencing exploitation, using appropriate [language](#) to describe children’s experiences that does not label or blame them for the abuse.

We will actively pursue and respond to perpetrators of exploitation, and will work collectively to disrupt the exploitation of children in the physical and online places and spaces children spend their time.



Area of Focus 6: Protect Children at Risk of Harm

We know that where it is safe to do so, the best place for a child to be is with their family, this is fundamental to our ways of working and is reflected in the Strengths in Relationships Practice Model. The majority of children who live in North Yorkshire do enjoy safe and happy childhoods living with their parents or family members. It is positive that 96% of pupils in Year 6 said they ‘always’ or ‘mostly’ feel safe at home and 86% said they ‘always’ or ‘mostly’ feel safe at school. 96% of pupils in this age group also said they have had school lessons about how to keep themselves safe.

However, it is important that all children are protected from harm, both at home and in their communities and as a partnership we understand that sometimes children are exposed to unsafe situations within their families, often exacerbated by periods of stress. When this happens, the response from practitioners needs to be proportionate to the risk and managed by working alongside the family as far as is possible. We also know that during these challenging times we must listen to and believe what our children are telling us, capturing their voices in creative and meaningful ways, so they are able to influence what their future plans look like.



Commitments

We will work with our multi-agency partners to ensure we are able to identify risk and take appropriate action to keep children safe in our communities. Where it is unsafe for a child to remain at home, we will provide safe, stable and secure permanence arrangements.

We will broaden our understanding of what constitutes the “voice” of children by capturing non-verbal cues and we will consult with children in creative ways in order to ensure they have a meaningful input in their assessments, plans and the strategic design of services, #nothingaboutuswithoutus.

Achieving



As a partnership we see achievement as, “something done with effort, skill or courage.” We understand that in certain circumstances, children need to be able to point to tangible achievements, but they also need to “feel” they are achieving. As a partnership we understand that, for children, taking part in activities they enjoy, learning they can do hard things and surpassing their own expectations all promotes a sense of self-belief which carries through into adulthood. Achieving and achievements will look different for each child but as a partnership we want practitioners to support children to be the best versions of themselves, encouraging them to build on their strengths, learn from their mistakes and have fun trying!

Children told us they agree that ‘achieving’ is different for everyone and asked that professionals listen to them and support them in their own goals. They understand that educational achievement is important but also asked that practitioners acknowledge other ways in which children can achieve such as in sports, drama and the arts.

Area of Focus 7: Education and Inclusion

We want all our children to be “school ready” when they start their formal education and for them to be educated in good or outstanding schools. We know that education is our children’s biggest liberator and we want to support our school leaders so they can champion education and social achievements in inclusive provisions.

In order to raise achievement levels we must also not lose sight of our most vulnerable children, those who have special educational needs and those who are home educated. For these children we will need to work even harder to ensure they too have access to high quality education and social activities.

Data from the Growing Up in North Yorkshire survey found. Most children enjoy school most of the time and 83% of children in Year 6 value their education and think it is important to go to school regularly. We know however, that for some children, their attendance at school has not returned to pre-covid levels and as such it is important that we work with school leaders to improve children’s school attendance and to reduce the use of fixed term and permanent exclusions.

Commitments:

We will work in partnership with our school leaders to ensure children are educated in good or outstanding schools where they feel safe and have access to all opportunities available to them so they can achieve their full potential.

We will strengthen early identification and needs led support provided to children with special education needs and/or other vulnerabilities that could negatively impact on their achievement levels, working hard to close the disadvantage gap for our most vulnerable children.

We will work with communities and partners in the voluntary sector to develop fair access to enriching activities for children and their families, promoting that broad sense of achievement which is so important for our children.



Area of Focus 8: Transitions

Formal and informal changes occur throughout a child’s life from the very early stages of development through to when they reach adulthood (and beyond.) As a partnership we know that support during periods of change is important and that at different ages and stages our children will need different things. Transition points happen in a linear way as children move through their school aged years, but they also happen in more oblique ways such as through changes in friendships and family dynamics.

We recognise that, at different points throughout their lives, children and their families will require different types of support and it is important that they know what support is available to them and where they can go to access this. Some children will require mental health support, some will need additional help to reach their full potential in education, others may need help to stay safe and some children will require dynamic support that continues into adulthood. Whatever the reason, the partnership recognises the importance of support to help throughout all key transitional points in a child’s life.

Commitments:

We will support inclusion and achievement through the promotion of social activities, sports and leisure, drama and the arts, vocational learning, apprenticeships, training, work placements and further education, promoting high aspirations and life long learning.

We will work together as a responsive partnership to ensure support is visible and accessible throughout a child’s life, particularly around key transitional periods.

We will work closely with our Health and Adult Service colleagues, following the [Preparation for Adulthood Pathway](#), for those children who require support throughout and following their teenage years.

Training and Campaigns

We have a large and diverse workforce who display great dedication and professionalism in the work they do every day. We will support our workforce to do the job that they love through valuing, respecting and investing in them so that they are confident, competent and have the skills, abilities, knowledge and motivation to provide the very best outcomes.

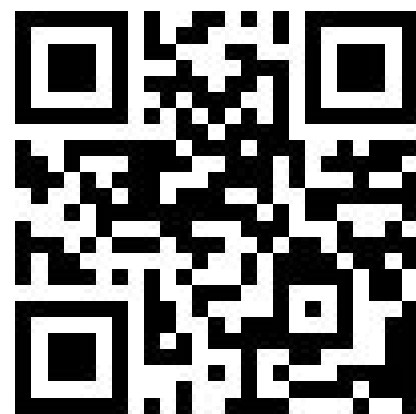
The partnership recognises that one of the most effective ways to safeguard children is to ensure frontline practitioners are effectively supported in their roles.

Our four strategic priorities of, Happy, Healthy, Safe and Achieving, alongside learning from national and local reviews, and legislative updates are used to shape the training offer for practitioners and volunteers. Our complex geography and the sheer numbers of practitioners mean it is not viable to have one dedicated training officer, instead the partnership recognises the need to have a flexible approach to training, sharing key messages and training delivery in a multitude of ways.

The partnership's [website](#) has a [National Learning Page](#) with full reports and summaries of key documents. This page also links to the local Learning for Professionals' page to ensure there is join up between what is being shared nationally and local training delivery. [Learning Events](#), (formally Masterclasses,) are delivered monthly and are a collaboration between partners, covering a range of topics from national and legislative changes to specific safeguarding areas. Over the last four years 100s of practitioners have accessed our multi-agency training over a variety of platforms. The majority of the monthly Learning Events are recorded and uploaded on the partnership's [YouTube channel](#) and the annual calendar of events is shared on the partnership's website and NYES website for easy access.



QR code for the NYSCP Training Page



QR code for NYES

Governance

This strategy is overseen by the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership Executive Board, and the impact of the strategy will be assessed using a range of quantitative and qualitative measures alongside robust data and performance monitoring systems which enable the partnership to track progress, identify trends, and evaluate the impact of safeguarding initiatives. An action plan is being developed alongside this strategy which will be monitored through the Practice and Learning Sub-Group. The action plan sets out how the strategy will be implemented, how progress will be captured and the measures we will use. The action plan will be regularly reviewed and refreshed to ensure that progress is being made and most importantly that North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership remains attuned to the changing needs of children and their families. This progress will be reported on annually via the partnership's annual report.



Conclusion

By focusing on the four strategic priorities of children being **happy**, **healthy**, **safe**, and **achieving**, the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership aims to create an environment where all children can thrive.

We hope you can also see how much the partnership values the importance of collaboration, respect, and inclusivity in safeguarding and supporting the well-being of children. The ethos of listening to children and their families, valuing their input, and ensuring that their voices shape services is a golden thread running through all of our work and is of the upmost priority. The partnership's commitment to early intervention, emotional well-being, reducing health inequalities, preventing exploitation, and supporting transitions is also evident throughout the strategy and more importantly is seen through the dedication and professionalism of practitioners, managers, and volunteers across the county.

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership has been described as a strong partnership with mature and respectful relationships whose partners share a common goal to work together to ensure children in North Yorkshire thrive. We know that our practitioners work tirelessly in a variety of roles and as we look to the future we remain dedicated to adapting and evolving to meet the changing needs of

children and their families. By continuing to work together, we can ensure that North Yorkshire is a place where all children are **Happy**, **Healthy**, **Safe**, and **Achieving**.



Pictures designed by a selection of talented young North Yorkshire artists

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