



North Yorkshire

Safeguarding Children Partnership

North Yorkshire Safeguarding
Children Partnership, (NYSCP)
Annual Report
2023-2024

Enter

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Statutory Safeguarding Partner Statements

As a statutory partner of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, I am pleased to present our Annual Report for the year. This report reflects the collective efforts, dedication, and collaboration of all agencies involved in safeguarding children across North Yorkshire.

The past year has seen both challenges and opportunities in our shared mission to protect the most vulnerable members of our community. The ongoing impact of national issues, local challenges, and the continued recovery from the pandemic has required us to be adaptable, innovative, and resilient in our approach to safeguarding.

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.

This report highlights the progress we have made in achieving our strategic objectives, showcases key initiatives, and provides an overview of the challenges we face moving forward. 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 organizations, for their tireless efforts in ensuring the safety and well-being of children. Your dedication is the cornerstone of our success.

We look forward to continuing our work together for children in North Yorkshire.



Stuart Carlton
Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services, North Yorkshire Council



Michelle Carrington
Place Nurse Director, Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

This year has seen the NHS embedding and refining our arrangements as an Integrated Care Board (ICB). In line with statutory guidance, the Humber and North Yorkshire ICB has provided a clear directive to ensure retention of safeguarding expertise 'at place'. The Designated Professionals for North Yorkshire have continued to provide effective systems leadership to health care providers and ongoing active support to partnership working across North Yorkshire.

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 strengthen 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.

This report represents the huge commitment and dedication of people working across the North Yorkshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership. Keeping children safe, and feeling safe, is a major challenge with complex threats both in our communities and online. North Yorkshire Police recognises that we cannot face this challenge alone, and working in partnership is more important than ever; it is only together that we can understand and respond to the needs of children and young people and address underlying issues of vulnerability.

Doing this in an effective and sustainable way is vital, but a partnership of this kind is about more than necessity. As can be seen from this report, 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, and the outcomes recognised in this report give an important indication of how effective this has been.

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.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Clarke".

Catherine Clarke
Assistant Chief Constable,
North Yorkshire Police

Independent Scrutineer and Chair's Statement

This Annual Report covers the reporting period April 2023 to March 2024.

The role of independent scrutiny is outlined in the Children and Families Act 2017 and within the government guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children". Scrutiny involves the provision of assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases. The decision on how to deliver scrutiny at a local level is the responsibility of the three statutory safeguarding partners (Police, ICB and Local Authority).

In North Yorkshire this has included the development of an Independent Scrutineer position to act as a constructive critical friend, promote reflection and support the development of continuous improvement. The statutory partners determined that the role in North Yorkshire should be widened to include the Chairing of the Executive Group in support of the statutory partners, and scrutiny of arrangements, at strategic level.

As a result, the role I perform within North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) is one of Executive Chair and Independent Scrutineer. I have undertaken this role since January 2023 and this is the second Annual Report in this role, for North Yorkshire, that I have contributed to.

During 2023 the government updated the "Working Together to Safeguard Children" guidance and published the new updated document in December 2023. The new guidance requires some changes to be implemented to the partnership arrangements with publication of an updated Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangement (MASA) document by December 2024. The MASA document outlines how partnership arrangements deliver safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of all children in North Yorkshire.

Over the course of 2023/24 the NYSCP Business Team have co-ordinated a partnership review of current arrangements in North Yorkshire, and I have been involved in and overseen this workstream. The existing strong partnership arrangement in North Yorkshire has meant that much of the current way of working is already compliant with the new guidance. A key aspect of the review has looked at strengthening the role of education within the partnership. A series of development sessions have scrutinised the new guidance, identified areas to develop and strengthen partnership working to comply and this work is well underway and on track to be in place and published by December 2024.

In my role as Executive Chair, I have the opportunity to work with the three statutory partner leads who have the responsibility for strategic arrangements. The Executive meetings are held bi-monthly for 3-hourly sessions. The timing and length of these meetings ensure that the leads have the opportunity to meet regularly to provide oversight of arrangements and timely decision making. The meetings are well supported by the NYSCP Business Team. In addition to the regular Executive meeting, the statutory leads meet quarterly (as a group) to review and forward plan. The statutory leads also attend and present at the twice-yearly partnership development sessions with wider partner leads. In addition to this, I am aware that the leads have regular conversations outside of the formal structure in relation to emerging issues and concerns and where operational aspects require it. I am of the view that in North Yorkshire there exists strong and effective communication and relationships at strategic level that drive operational effectiveness and the discharging of their joint and equal duty.

This report sets out the work that has been undertaken by the partnership during the reporting period. It outlines the Being Young in North Yorkshire (BYINY) 2021-2024 strategy and the progress in relation to activity during 2023/24. The strategy was shaped by feedback from children and young people and focuses on four key themes - a safe

life, a happy life, a health life and achieving in life. The current strategy concludes in December 2024 and consultation is underway to develop the new strategy for the next 3 years. This is timely as it can also factor in any new national guidance requirements.

The report celebrates and recognises good practice across the partnership undertaken daily by Police, ICB and wider partners in delivering safeguarding of children and young people across North Yorkshire. It showcases particular examples of good work that were brought to the attention of the Executive group through the NYSCP Partnership Achievement Award pathway. I know that this is a small snapshot of some of the exceptional work delivered by practitioners, managers and organisations in North Yorkshire. For the first time, during 2023, an award was given to an exceptional young person - Tilly - who used her own experiences to develop an animated poem to be used to encourage and support other young people to come forward and report issues to the police.

In addition to identifying and recognising good work, the partnership also focuses attention on areas of practice that need to be strengthened and developed. This includes the identification of priority areas of work and plans to deliver activity, monitoring and analysing partnership information, but, also includes workstreams delivered through the work of the subgroups. An example of this being the effective work delivered through the Safeguarding Practice Review Group (SPRG) who oversee the identification of learning from specific cases and ensure that learning shapes new ways of working. A number of audits have been undertaken by the partnership over the course of the year that have highlighted recommendations that have been tracked and implemented through the subgroups. The Chairing and membership of these groups are important roles in ensuring effective and timely progress of work. This work is in addition to the demands of roles within their own organisations and I have observed strong Chairing, membership and activity undertaken throughout 2023/24. I would like to acknowledge the work of all those involved and thank them for the work delivered throughout the year.

The report outlines that this has been a year of increased demand for service support to children and families with increased contacts from Police (24%), Health Services (19%), Education Settings (19%) and

personal contact from individuals (15%). A total of 30,822 contacts (11% increase from the previous year). This has followed a pattern of increases over the last 3 years equating to a 47% increase over the three-year period. We know that increased demand for support and help is a national trend and that some of the difficulties are in relation to a legacy from the pandemic and ongoing hardship felt by the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. The report provides detail in relation to the scrutiny of information in relation to demand, but, importantly what services have done to understand why there is an increase and ensure that children and young people who need help and support receive it when they need it (examples within the report include evidence of more families accessing early help services - 11%, and, a focus on understanding why less young people are absent from school).

The report concludes with the agreed priorities for 2024/25:

- Criminal and Sexual Exploitation (including gender-based violence and discrimination)
- Strengthening the role of education in the Partnership
- Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Health
- Online Safety

I would like to conclude by:

- Recognising the achievements within the report and the continued drive and energy I witness in personal interactions with leaders, managers and practitioners across the partnership. There continues to be a high level of service and support delivered by individuals, teams and organisations in North Yorkshire, who despite increasing demand, work tirelessly to ensure that children and young people in North Yorkshire are safe and cared for.
- Additionally and importantly acknowledging and thanking all the children and young people who took time out to provide their feedback that is used by the partnership to shape how service is delivered.
- And finally, I would like to use my section of the report to thank the NYSCP Business Team who coordinate the work of the partnership so effectively.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heather Pearson'.

Heather Pearson
Independent Scrutineer
and Chair for NYSCP

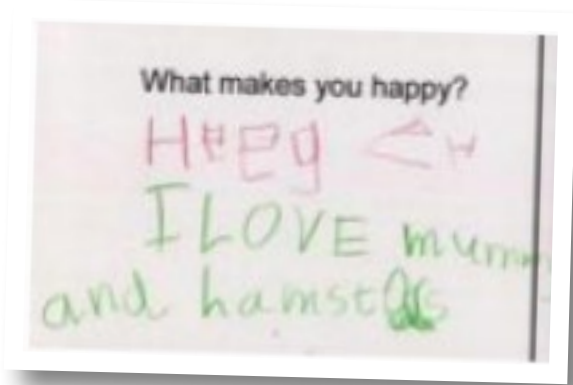
What is the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, (NYSCP)?

Everyone in North Yorkshire shares a commitment to and responsibility for the safeguarding of children. This document sets out the Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for North Yorkshire, established in accordance with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018). The 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).

The revised Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 guidance is currently being considered by the NYSCP. A strategic focus group, chaired by our Independent Scrutineer, is reviewing the required amendments from a strategic perspective with an operational task and finish group reviewing necessary changes at practitioner and manager level. In line with the new guidance, the changes will be published in our revised Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements document in December 2024.

Further information about the current Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements in North Yorkshire is available from [our website](#).

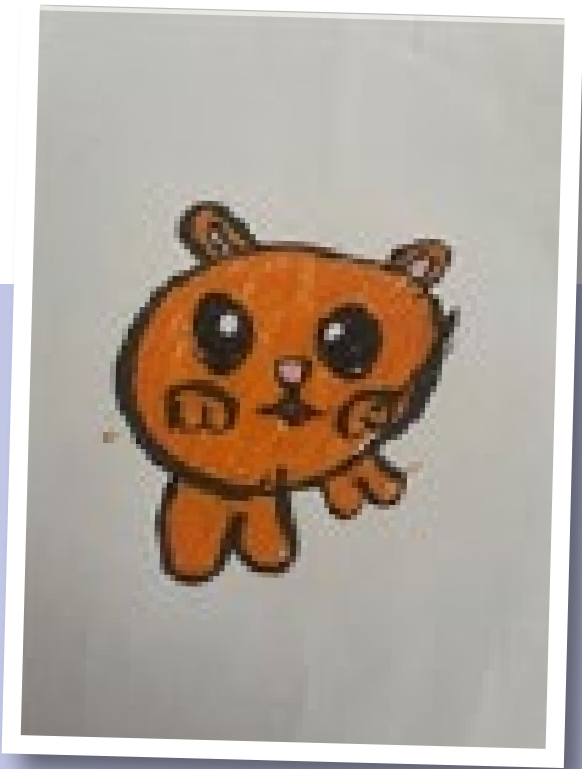




The COVID pandemic limited children's access to friends and family and disrupted their academic and social educational opportunities. As the country begins to rebuild following on from the devastation caused by global event we continue to see the impact of this on our children and young people. The word-cloud on page 6 is taken from a Healthy Schools event where children were asked "what makes your life good and happy?" Here we can see that so much of what contributes to a child's happiness, "spending time with friends," "being active" and "playing sports" was not accessible to them during national lockdowns so it is of little wonder that children continue to feel the impact of this national trauma on their emotional health and wellbeing and, while we are now coming out the other side, our young people and their families continue to live with the legacy of this.

In North Yorkshire we are privileged to serve the 151,000 children and young people aged under 25 residing in our county and despite significant challenges during the COVID pandemic, practitioners across the partnership continued to support children and their families, keeping them safe, building connections and empowering them to achieve. You will see snapshots of the success of this work throughout this annual report, through quotes from children and their carers, in the awards presented to practitioners and in the data which demonstrates how much work happens across the county on a daily basis to improve the lives of all our children in North Yorkshire.

"My support worker was professional and personable and very knowledgeable - she offered calm reassurance and helped me build my parenting skills. She gave Jacob someone to talk with and different outlets for his anger. Her support was invaluable to the whole family". **Chris**

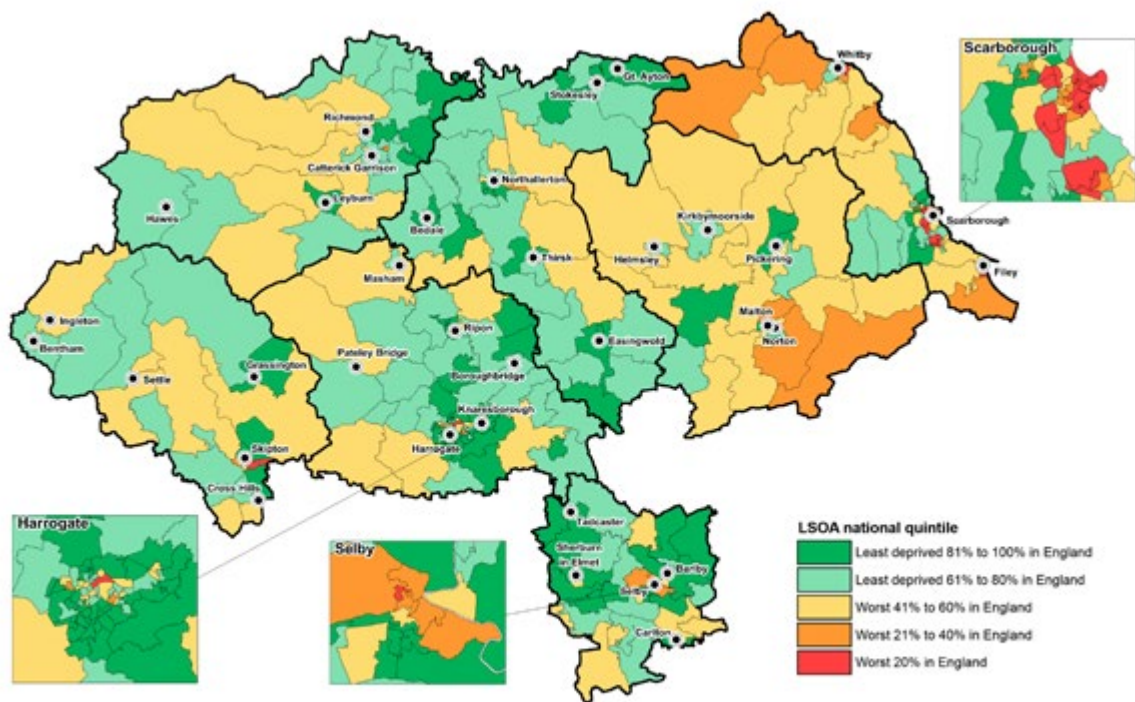


Here in North Yorkshire we are fortunate to have active Youth Councils and Youth Voice, as well as the Growing Up in North Yorkshire survey, (completed every two years, most recently in 2022 by over 17,000 young people) and the Youth Commission, allowing us to look at our local trends and areas of concern from a young person's point of view.

The North Yorkshire Youth Commission enables young people to support, challenge and inform the work of the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire "As young people, we believe we have the power, responsibility and empathy to keep each other safe."

North Yorkshire's main areas comprise of Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Selby and Scarborough. Much of the county is rural, with moderately sized towns and an extensive coastline. Whilst North Yorkshire overall has a relatively low level of child poverty, the picture is complicated with some areas of the region experiencing significant deprivation; for example, 19.4% of children in Scarborough are classed as living in poverty which has the potential to impact on outcome for children and their families in these areas.

Map of deprivation across North Yorkshire – LSOA by 2019 IMD Decile



- Notes
1. Source: Indices of Deprivation 2019, MHCLG
 2. Ordnance Survey Map Data: © Crown Copyright. 100017946. (2019)
 3. Compilation & Analysis; Strategy & Performance (HAS), NYCC

The county is the largest in England at **8,000** square kilometres (3090 square miles)

© Crown Copyright and Database Rights [2024] Ordnance Survey 100017946

615,400 people

- 24.5% aged 0-24 (England average = 29.2%)
- 50.5% aged 25-64 (England average = 52.4%)
- 25% aged 65+ (England average = 18.4%)

Being Young in North Yorkshire, (BYINY)

Being Young in North Yorkshire 2021-2024 is the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Strategy for children and young people living in North Yorkshire.

This 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 for 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.

The full strategy can be read [here](#).

Children's Voice

The right of a child or young person to be heard is included in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and reinforced by national legislation and guidance. For example, in England Working Together 2023 makes it clear that one of the core principles of effective safeguarding practice is a child centred approach which aims to understand children's lived experiences and seeks their views about their lives and circumstances (Department for Education, 2023).

Listening to and capturing the voice of the child is essential for effective safeguarding practice. It helps professionals to understand children's lived experiences, hear their views about their lives and circumstances, and take effective action to support or safeguard them.

Children and young people are able to offer a different perspective to that of the adults around them and the NYSCP recognises the importance of ensuring children are at the heart of the work we do and that they are given the opportunity to inform strategies, policies and practice guidance that relates to them.

Children and young people were consulted with on the priorities of the Being Young in North Yorkshire Strategy and this recording provides a summary of these conversations and their views. [Safeguarding Partnership Consultation-20230922_103822-Meeting Recording.mp4 \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

The North Yorkshire Youth Commission (NYYC)³

The NYYC gives young people across North Yorkshire a voice on issues of crime and policing and supports, challenges, and informs the work of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. A key part of NYYC's role is to gather the views of other young people across the county through peer-to-peer research in the form of a 'Big Conversation'. This peer-led research process provides a safe environment for young people to talk to their peers about relevant issues.

At the inaugural NYYC meeting, members reviewed their priority aims to ensure they remained up-to-date and relevant to young people. The aims helped to guide the project, providing a focus for the Big Conversation. The key priorities were:

1. Mental Health and Emotional Well-being
2. Gender Violence & Safer Streets
3. Discrimination
4. Online Safety
5. Relationships with Police & Authorities
6. Drugs Gangs & County Lines

"Being in the North Yorkshire Youth Commission offers an empowering platform for our young voices to advocate for change and address issues affecting our communities. It's an amazing experience where we collaborate, learn, and drive positive impact through our collective efforts. I have enjoyed being in the North Yorkshire Youth Commission."

³ NYYC-Final-Report-23-24.pdf (safeguardingchildren.co.uk)



In order to gather vital insights from those who are most affected by some of the priority topics, the NYYC put particular effort and energy into engaging with underrepresented and more marginalised groups of young people. NYYC carried out workshops and consultations with young carers, those with first-hand experience of the criminal justice system, young people from ethnic minority backgrounds, non-mainstream education settings, and young people identified as ‘at risk’, such as those taking part in the NYFRS intervention programmes. In total, we engaged in peer research with 1,704 young people across 57 consultation events.

Young people wanted police to better understand their mental health and how to avoid making situations worse. There was a belief that police can become desensitised to crisis situations and often forget that they can be intimidating to many young people.

“Important for police to know how to deal with mental health and to know how to get support for people who need it, as their job is to look after people.”

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy public consultation

As part of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy public consultation involved around 500 people across survey, online events, written feedback as well as library and community group conversations about “the one thing” which would sustain/improve their health & wellbeing:

- More support/activities/places to go needed for young people (the most important thing for the youth councils but also backed up by other parts of the consultation).
- Need for more affordable, low cost or free activities for parents with young children (eg parent and baby/toddler activities), particularly where children can play safely and parents socialise.
- Access to education and employment opportunities.
- Feedback on strategy aims.
- Importance of nutrition and food.

“I think that gender violence is an issue that is not talked about enough. We need more awareness around this topic. Jokes to women like ‘go to the kitchen’ are normalised.”

“Social media has a massive impact. Pretty models make people feel bad about themselves.”

“Instagram creates overestimated beauty standards and only shows the highlights of people’s lives.”

“Come into schools and teach students more about it and explain the reasons why not to get involved. Not just ‘don’t do it’.”

Parents and Carer's Voice

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 aims to ensure all parents and carers are aware of what support is available and that people know how to access the right support at the right time when they need it. Work is ongoing to update the Parent's and Carer's page on the NYSCP website [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://www.nyscp.org.uk) with consultation taking place with an Experts by Experience parents and carers group who have been helpful in providing guidance regarding the content of this webpage.

Parents and carers across North Yorkshire are able to access North Yorkshire's Early Help Service [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://www.nyscp.org.uk) via self-referral and are also able to access online parents courses on a variety of topics which has received excellent feedback from parents who have accessed this.

"Thank you for putting this course together, it will be a tremendous help in me supporting and helping my children grow and understand them a little bit more."

Solihull Parenting⁴

The Solihull Parenting programme is a suite of online courses dedicated to improving emotional health and wellbeing in parents, children, teenagers, adults and grandparents.

Brene Brown, "Offering help is courageous and compassionate, but so is asking for help."

"Very informative. Made me smile thinking it's not that bad after all! I reckon I can now be a bit more understanding."

North Yorkshire Council has funded a Multi User Licence for the Solihull courses since May 2021, the on-going feedback demonstrates the positive difference the courses and modules continue to make to the parents, carers, grandparents and professionals who have accessed them.

"I thought this was incredibly interesting and helped me to understand my teenager much better."

"As head of the reunification team I have never had a more powerful resource for the team to use as we have now in our MUL with Solihull. It's a tool all families can access and supports the plans in place through statutory services'. " Shared by Dr Rebecca Johnson from an email received (Solihull, January 2024)



⁴ inourplace by Solihull Approach – Online courses



The NYSCP is continuing to look for opportunities to consult with parents with an area of success being our [#AskMe...Have the conversation](#) campaign. The campaign was borne out of learning from a thematic review that considered three similar cases of non-accidental 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 with 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.

[#AskMe...Have the conversation](#) is a campaign aimed at professionals across North Yorkshire to encourage them to have conversations with new and expectant parents about how they are feeling about a number of aspects of having and caring for a baby. The key messages are derived from a series of common things that are often a concern to new parents.

The campaign is based around the consolidation of key resources for partners that are easily accessible on one page on the NYSCP website, alongside a series of conversation prompts (#AskMe's) to build confidence and raise awareness of the need to ask parents about how they are feeling around aspects of caring for their baby in those crucial first few months of life. The resources and conversation starters cover such topics as:

- Safe sleep
- Safe feeding
- ICON (Babies cry you can cope)
- Parental mental health

The campaign was launched with a social media presence throughout March and April with a post reach of over 3500 and a masterclass delivered by the two designated safeguarding nurses, highlighting learning from recent thematic reviews that have led to the production of the campaign. The session was attended by 100 partners with positive feedback of the value of the campaign received.



The NYSCP Partnership Achievement 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 this year's 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 also all other practitioners who work, day in day out to keep children safe and to help them to achieve their full potential.

The Partnership Achievement Awards are given to individuals or groups working or volunteering with children and young people. Awards have been presented to the following professionals and teams over 2023/2024:

Emergency Duty Team at North Yorkshire Council were recognised for identifying opportunities to improve the standards of practice and improve integration between day and night services.



Laura Hadgett, Clinical Psychologist in Scarborough who worked with a young person to build trust and shared information in a collaborative and thoughtful way and ensured the young person was safe and well-cared for.



Sophie Buch, National Referral Mechanism Co-ordinator for the setup, implementation and running of the Home office pilot across North Yorkshire and City of York.



Roboodles Wraparound Club at Rocliffe Primary School were nominated by a parent for ensuring the club is caring, safe and nurturing and sought the expertise of a Nutritionist to support in developing a healthy menu.



Mary Devanney, Children and Families Worker who shows such dedication and commitment to the families she works with in Selby.



Karen Rawlinson, Family Network Co-ordinator in Harrogate for her outstanding work in supporting and encouraging young people to be empowered who were deemed at risk of criminal exploitation.



Jess Fanning, Children and Families Worker from Scarborough who recognised a critically unwell child and got them the immediate medical care required and supported the family through this period.



Katie Hoggarth, Children and Young People's Worker at SELFA who has gone above and beyond whilst working with complex issues and has worked in partnership with health and social care colleagues to ensure a positive outcome for the young people involved.



Children in Care Team from Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust who have worked with multi-agency partners to improve performance around statutory health assessments and worked collaboratively with Local Authority colleagues to establish a new system for bespoke Initial Health Assessment provision for Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers.



Helen Williams, CEO for Moorlands Learning Trust who goes beyond her role to contribute and make a substantial difference to the wider education system across the County who continues to be an ambassador for a collaborative education system within North Yorkshire.



Bethany Stanley from Aiskew Church of England Primary School, Val Clayden from Bedale High School and Clare Walmsley from Outwood Academy Ripon who were all involved in a partnership learning themed audit looking at suspensions and exclusions from school. It was evident they all aim to achieve the best outcome for the children they work with, demonstrate relationship based approaches and put in place restorative work when needed. It was felt in all of the cases looked at involving these schools that suspension was the last resort used.



Special Recognition Awards

The inaugural Life Time Achievement award (also known as the Kelaine Award!) was this year presented to **Karen Hedgley** and **Elaine Wyllie** for their tireless work and dedication to the safeguarding of children and young people. Karen and Elaine spent their careers working in the NHS and latterly were a key part of the ICB representation on the NYSCP Executive Board. Karen and Elaine made the decision to retire in April 2024 and while they will be sadly missed by the partnership, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for all the work they have done over the years and to wish them both joy and happiness for the future.



The NYSCP have, for the first time this year, presented an award to one of our outstanding young people. Tilly has produced an animated poem in conjunction with North Yorkshire Police that she would like to be used as a training aid to encourage officers to become detectives. The video demonstrates the courage Tilly had when she took the first step in reporting a serious sexual assault that she experienced during the COVID pandemic. The video, alongside an interview with Tilly and her family was played on BBC Look North. The NYSCP felt it important to recognise Tilly's bravery in the face of adversity and her drive and determination to help other young people who may feel worried about coming forward to report a crime.

The NYSCP is looking for nominations for future achievement awards. More information about how you can nominate individuals, teams or services can be found at www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/partnership-award.



Theme One

A safe life

1

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

The MAST (Multi-Agency Screening Team) received a total of 30,822 of contacts over 2023/24, an increase of 11% on the previous year.

We saw an increase in contacts from all 4 major contact sources:

- Police (+24%, 2682 additional contacts)
- Health services (+19%, 973 additional contacts)
- Schools (+19%, 598 additional contacts)
- Individuals (+15%, 299 additional contacts)

We have seen consistent year on year growth in the overall number of contacts received over the last 3 years, rising from 20,931 contacts in 2020/21 to 30,822 in 2023/24. This represents a 47% increase in reports of safeguarding concerns about children in this period.

More families have received support from our Early Help services with an 11% increase in new cases this year (4,512).

This report has highlighted the continued difficulties being experienced by children and their families across the country and county in relation to the legacy of the COVID pandemic and the impact of the cost of living crisis. All services are seeing an increase in demand as families previously not known to services begin to feel the effects of the challenges being experienced nationally. The NYSCP

have, over the last year, raised the profile of the support available to families as is seen through the increase of support being provided by early help services across the county.

The re-referral rate has steadily climbed throughout 2023/24 and stood at 19.7% for the full year. This is 3% higher than in 2022/23, although is still statistically significantly lower than the national rate (21.5%).

We saw an increase in the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan this year, rising to 419 at the end of 2023/24, an increase of 44 (+12%) compared to last year.

Only 4% of new Child Protection Plans were within a year of a previous Child Protection Plan.

The rate of repeat referrals across 2022/23 was 17.0%, which remains statistically significantly lower than the national average of 22.4%.

Our relationship based practice model⁵ is embedded across our children and family workforce and our data tells us more families are needing help and those that have previously required help need more now than in previous years. Our data also shows that the work our social workers do improves the lives of children. Our repeat referrals rates are statistically significantly lower than the national average demonstrating that we provide the right service at the right time by the right person.

⁵ NYSCP (safeguardingchildren.co.uk)



60% of pupils who go online say they know how to keep themselves safe on the Internet⁶. Nonetheless, 21% say they have friends online that they don't know in "real life".

21% of year six pupils told us that they had been bullied at or near school in the last 12 months.

The NYSCP recognises that children's online and offline worlds are no longer separate in the way it was for previous generations and this means the support that is provided to them in order to help keep them safe needs to be different too. Work is ongoing across the partnership to provide children with the tools to access their online lives in as safe a way as possible.

The number of children in care at the end of 2023/24 was 500, which is higher than the same period last year (454) but recognises that Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) cared for by the Local Authority has risen.

The number of UASC children has more than doubled over the last two years totalling 53 at the end of 2023/24 and is likely to increase further. This increase reflects the national picture and the local authorities.

The Minority Inclusion Support Team (MIST) and Children and Families Intervention Team (FIT) provide support to UASC young people, helping them settle into their accommodation, supporting young people to attend education and other social activities.



⁶ NYork2022summary (healthyschoolsnorthyorks.org)

Theme Two

A happy family life

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

The [Growing up in North Yorkshire Survey](#) was undertaken to seek a detailed understanding of what daily life is like for children across the age ranges within North Yorkshire.

We have feedback from children about what things make them happy:



Friends



Family



Pets



Technology



School



Nature and countryside



Hobbies



Activities



Games



Books



Teachers

The SEMH i-Thrive model identified 80% of North Yorkshire's young people are thriving most of the time.

Our Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) system is multi-agency with a shared language and co-owned vision. We have SEMH Teams working with primary schools across the county to provide training, advice and support to children. The work has focused on preventing exclusions, increasing attendance and has co-produced guidance materials with parents and carers.



Attachment and trauma aware schools project

The Virtual School (for Children in Care) has employed an educational psychologist to train schools in attachment and trauma, recognising the importance of adverse childhood experiences on the entire life course.

They rolled out the 'Attachment Aware Schools Project: Developing Trauma Responsive Practice.'

The aim is to work with schools to embed trauma-informed best practice at an individual and system level when working with vulnerable pupils.

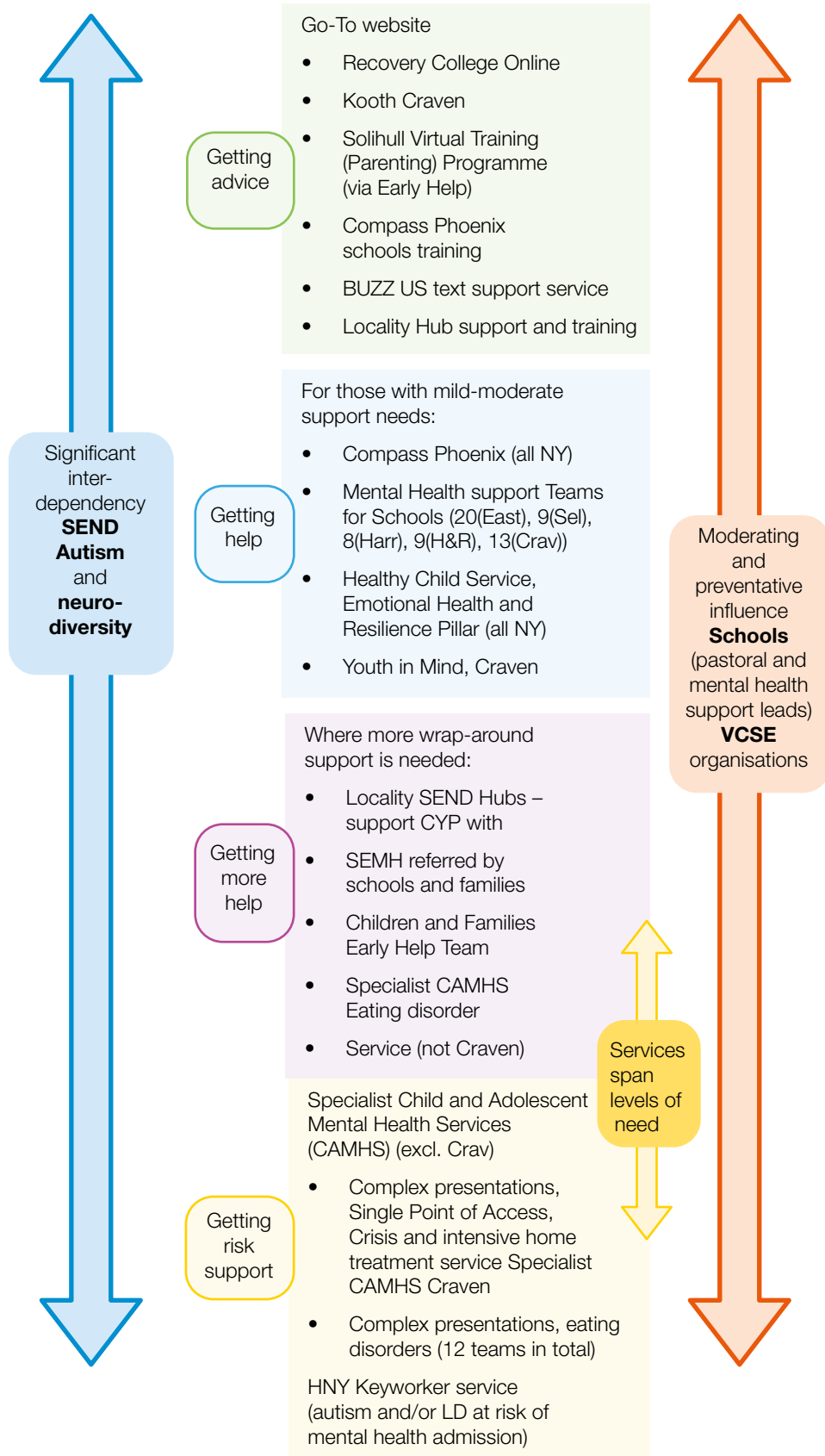
The project is available to primary, secondary and special schools where at least one Looked After Child is on the school roll. Currently we have 112 schools involved across North Yorkshire.



- 41% of pupils reported that they think their school deals with bullying well.
- 58% of pupils responded that they found school lessons about keeping safe online 'quite' or 'very' useful.
- 57% of pupils responded that they are asked for their opinions about what they learn in school; 41% said their opinions make a difference.
- 45% of pupils found their lessons about emotional health and wellbeing 'quite' or 'very' useful.
- Two-year-old funding take up that supports families on the lowest incomes remains higher than the national average of 74% in North Yorkshire with 97.8% in 2023.

The partnership is working towards embedding trauma informed practice approaches to working with children, young people and their families using the arc framework⁷ with training being rolled out from senior manager level to practitioners and business support staff.

Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) is an approach to care and service provision based on an awareness of the high prevalence of trauma in the lives of people accessing mental health services, the effects of trauma experiences, and the potential for trauma or re-traumatization to occur in the context of care. (Harris and Fallot, 2013)*



The diagram above shows what support is available for children and young people across the partnership to support their mental and emotional health and wellbeing.

7 What is ARC? - ARC Framework

Theme Three

A healthy life

3

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

The journey towards a healthy life begins at conception with the health of the mother having a significant impact on the healthy growth and development of the baby. In North Yorkshire 78% of antenatal contacts take place within the recommended 10 weeks which is higher than the regional rate of 72%. Once born new parents have access to five mandated contacts between baby's birth and 2.5 years. Parents also have access to the HDFT Children's Health Services App, the Ask the Midwife service and the DadPad App.

- Over the year, there has been 28,309 attendances at Accident & Emergency Departments for children as a result of injury. This has been 6% higher than the previous year, however, may be influenced by an increasing confidence in attendance following the post COVID recovery.
- However, fewer young people have required inpatient admission as a result of injury, with 966 admissions, 17% fewer than in 21/22.
- Similarly, fewer children have required admission as a result of substance misuse. For 22/23 there were 148 admission which was 93 fewer than 2021/22.
- 69% of young people aged 10/11 responded that they had found school lessons about healthy eating 'quite' or 'very' useful'.
- 85% of 10–11 year-olds said they felt they knew enough about how their body changes as they get older.
- Face to face attendance at Yor-Sexual-Health clinics have seen a reduction this year, however there has been an increased online support offer making it easier for young people to access at any day/time www.yorsexualhealth.org.uk.



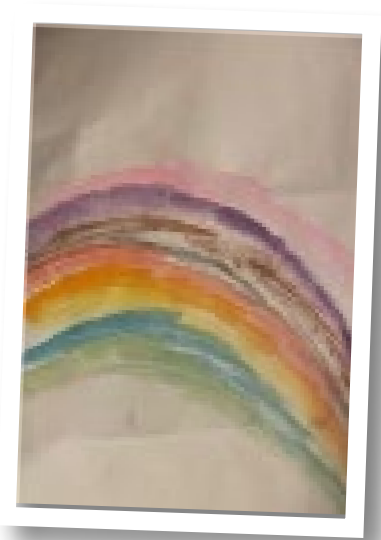
- Year eight and year 10 pupils who do five or more hours of physical activity in a typical week in school (9% in 2020 vs. 15% in 2022) or out of school (35% in 2020 vs. 45% in 2022) has increased.
- There has been an increase in children visiting a dentist with 53% of children in 2022 having been to a dentist in the last year compared to 42% in 2020.

For older children there are several programmes and services in place across the county to support children's physical wellbeing such as flexibly commissioned dental practices, oral health training for professionals and support around healthy eating.

The Healthy Schools Award Programme started in September 2019 with an aim to encourage healthy behaviours within schools. To date, 294 North Yorkshire schools have signed up (81% of schools in the county). 106 have so far achieved an award.

The HDFT Children's Health Services App was developed by and for the North Yorkshire 0-19 Healthy Child Team as a useful resource for staff, parents and families. It covers multiple key topics, including infant feeding, advice on being a dad, etc.

The Facebook page is used to promote the app, drop-in clinics and campaigns. Over 28 days, the site can achieve a reach of over 8,000.



Ask a Midwife

The award-winning Ask a Midwife service is delivered through the social media platforms Facebook and Instagram and via email. It is staffed by experienced midwives answering frequently asked questions as well as responding to private message queries.

It facilitates questions and cascades important public health advice. In 2022, the service answered 8,500 queries with 94% answered immediately. It made 508 referrals.

DadPad App

The DadPad App is an easy-to-use, free, downloadable resource for new dads and dads-to-be, filled with useful information and details on local support groups and service providers. It aims to provide new fathers with guidance on how to develop the mindset, confidence and practical skills needed to meet their babies' physical and emotional needs.

The app also provides dads with guidance on how to support and seek help for their partners and themselves as they adjust to their new roles, and cope with the physical and emotional strains that this can place on individuals and relationships.

[DadPad](#) | [About Us](#) | [Who We Are and What We Do \(thedadpad.co.uk\)](#)

Theme Four

Achieving in Life

4

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

We know that “achieving” looks different for each child and is dependent on their age and cognitive development. We have 17,469 2-4 year olds in North Yorkshire with 88% achieving the expected level of development when assessed between the ages of 2-21/2. Children are able to access government funded nursery places from the age of 2 with take up in North Yorkshire being above the national average.

For children with Special Educational Needs they have better development in North Yorkshire than their national peers, with 20% achieving expected levels at age 4-5 years.



Dingley's Promise aims to increase the early identification of children in Early Years with SEN through training Early Years Practitioners.

It is a Comic Relief Early Years Inclusion project.

All courses are online with a mixture of workbook, video and activities to be completed at the Practitioner's own pace. Individuals are certified and settings/childminders can receive the kitemark at different levels on completion.

There are currently 394 practitioners signed up, which represents 8% of North Yorkshire's early years workforce. 95% of those who gave feedback said they would do something different following completion of the training.

"This has been one of the best courses I have undertaken. The fact that it can be done at your own pace is great. The content is so thorough, and suggested strategies invaluable. I found all the links to YouTube, and further reading and information incredibly helpful in better understanding this area."





The most recent school census data from January 2023 recorded that there were 82,866 children attending a school in North Yorkshire and at the end of the following year in March 2024, 95.1% of 16 and 17 year olds were in education, employment or training. On the 29th February 2024, the Ofsted data recorded that 87% of North Yorkshire primary schools are graded as Good or Outstanding compared to 91% nationally. 76% of secondary schools in North Yorkshire are Good or Outstanding with 83% being the national average.

- We know during the COVID lockdown that there was an increase in children Electively Home Educated (EHE), as part of the post lockdown recovery we have continued to see a number of children EHE. At the end of the 2023/24 Spring term there were 1,130 children in EHE, which is an increase of 227 (25%) on the previous year.
- We also know that for some young people, returning to school has been challenging. Over the Autumn and Spring terms of the 2023/24 academic year 2,073 children were excluded from secondary schools for a total of 5,850 fixed term suspensions and 56 children were permanently excluded from their school. Fixed term suspensions of children in primary schools has also increased.
- 60% of pupils said they are happy being at school 'most of the time' since COVID and lockdown, while 13% said they aren't happy.
- 86% of pupils think it is important to go to school regularly.
- 33% of boys and 43% of girls in Year 10 said they want to continue in full-time education at the end of their course.

- 66% of Year 10 pupils did homework on the evening before the survey. 20% reported they did more than an hour.
- Continued development of our innovative offer to care leavers in North Yorkshire to ensure they have someone to turn to if they need any help or advice or simply to tell someone what they have achieved at any age, even when they are no longer receiving regular support. Over 22/23, we received over 100 requests for this service both individuals asking for advice and sharing achievements throughout the year.

Understanding the story behind the data for children in school is important as is understanding what support is being provided across the partnership. This report now contains a section detailing the work underway with schools across the partnership (see page 31 for more information.)

The NYSCP Sub-Groups

Child 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. The group meets responsively when a referral is made to the SPRG and meets routinely four times per year to ensure there is progress against the recommendations and learning gathered from reviews.

SPRG Data 2023/2024

Number of notifications made to the CSPRP in 2023/24	2
Number of Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR) awaiting publication (due to ongoing Police investigations)	3
Number of Serious Case Reviews (SCR) Outstanding from the Local Safeguarding Children Board (due to ongoing investigations)	1
Number of cases notified to North Yorkshire Safeguarding Practice Review Group (SPRG) in 2023/2024 by partners for consideration	4
Of the cases notified to SPRG 2023/2024 for consideration, which have been reviewed locally for learning	4

Thematic Review

During the period between April and December 2022 the Partnership undertook Rapid Reviews for three separate children where there was found to be non-accidental injuries to non-mobile babies. The NYSCP Executive recognised that three similar incidents within a short time period was unusual for the Partnership and as such it was felt appropriate to commission a thematic review in order to understand the commonalities and identify learning for safeguarding practice development. The review focussed on how health professionals explore with parents the impact of a newborn on their mental health, the coordination of the post-natal support on infant feeding, how they understood any potential vulnerabilities in their family and supported them with those and how messages of infant crying through ICON were shared with families and how they were supported to cope with this. Similarly, the partnership were keen to identify areas of good practice within these three cases and how we can support practitioners to adopt these more widely. The four key areas identified from the review were focused on:

- Developing professional skills
- Management of the 'unsettled infant'
- Pathways to support parents with mental health difficulties
- Sharing good practice

The review was then shared with the National Panel and the action plan overseen by the NYSCP Practice Development and Learning Subgroup. An executive summary of the review can be viewed on our [website](#).

Practitioner Event

The NYSCP have also undertaken some focussed practitioner events to our multi-agency learning. This year, following an unexpected death of a 4 month old baby who had been open to services at the time of their very sad death, a practitioner learning event was held with frontline practitioners and their managers to explore the issue of how safe sleep messages are given to parents. The event provided a reflective space for practitioners to review their practice collectively and consider how NYSCP could continue to develop practice in this area. The learning event received some positive feedback from attendees with regards to how we learn together from such tragic events, recognise good practice and work collaboratively to develop future practice.

“The event has been useful and supportive. I was worried /nervous due to the sadness around the situation and the fact the family and baby were doing so well and baby was so happy and smiley. I agree that we worked well as a multiagency and this is a very sad case.”

“The event has been useful in helping to reflect on the case, bringing all the involved practitioners together to share their experiences and learning. We feel that we now have some reassurance that there was evidence of good practice from services.”

The learning from this event supported the development of our recent #AskMe campaign which is detailed in this report. The SPRG have also agreed to include practitioner events in the terms of reference for the group to further develop this area of practice in line with the priority regarding working in a trauma informed way which is also described further below in the report.

Practice Development Subgroup

This group seeks to support the effective safeguarding and welfare of children and young people across North Yorkshire by developing safeguarding children practice in line with National and the current NYSCP business plan priorities.

Achievements 2023/24

- Progressed work regarding the Home Environment Assessment Tool⁸ (training on the tool has been delivered across the partnership via a masterclass. The tool is available online at www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/forms-and-tools/)
- Raised awareness of the whole family approach to support those who experience and perpetrate domestic abuse.
- Developed joint protocol with City of York regarding children missing from home and care.
- Developed practice guidance for safeguarding unborn babies.
- Worked with North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adult's Board to develop a Preparing for Adulthood pathway.
- Commissioned the NSPCC to develop North Yorkshire's approach to Harmful Sexual Behaviour.

Learning Improvement Subgroup

The NYSCP Learning and Improvement Subgroup seeks to identify, report and act upon any appropriate examples of local, regional and national learning through the Learning and Improvement Framework. An overview of learning from our audits over this period can be [found here NYSCP Masterclass June 2023 Learning from Audits - YouTube](#).

Achievements in 2023/2024

- Undertaken multi-agency audits
- Considered multi-agency data
- Shared learning from reviews
- Delivered Learning Events (available to access at [NYSCP - YouTube](#))

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 Learning Improvement and Practice and Learning 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 through the Being Young in North Yorkshire Strategy and embed learning from reviews across the workforce. The first meeting took place in April 2024 and future annual reports will provide the detail of the work undertaken by the subgroup.

⁸ NYSCP (safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

Multi-agency Learning Themed Audits

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

- The effectiveness of front-line practice in protecting children and young people;
- How well the lessons of Case Reviews and other reviews of practice have been learnt; and
- What the impact of locally delivered training has been.

Importantly, it allows us to identify good practice and ask questions about whether things could be done differently to improve the safeguarding system.

The partnership undertake three learning themed audits per year. Learning from each audit is shared across the partnership via various networks and masterclass training sessions.

During 2023/2024, we have undertaken three Learning Themed Audits covering:

1. Multi-Agency Responses to Domestic Abuse
2. Multi-Agency Responses to Children Excluded/Suspended from School
3. Multi-Agency Responses to Unborn Babies

Findings from the Domestic Abuse Audit

(Our 7 point briefing is available here: [91252-7-Point-Briefing-Domestic-Abuse.pdf \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk/91252-7-Point-Briefing-Domestic-Abuse.pdf))

We know that children and young people are often the unheard victims of domestic abuse. Many abusers directly target children through emotional abuse, violence, or sexual abuse. However, even where children are not directly or deliberately targeted, living in families where abuse is happening can have a huge impact on children's relationships with others and on their behaviour, with some becoming aggressive and others withdrawn. The NYSCP learning themed

audit identified a number of areas of good practice such as practitioners taking a whole family approach when seeking to understand the impact domestic abuse and partner support such as IDAS.

IDAS⁹ is a commissioned service in North Yorkshire that offers support to children and their families who have experienced domestic abuse. As well as supporting children and young people who live in our refuges, IDAS support young people and children across North Yorkshire via the Respect Young People's Programme and through the DAWFA (Domestic Abuse Whole Family Approach). Both programmes help the whole family including those families where young people are being abusive to their parents or siblings. Through the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service IDAS can support young people aged 14+ in their own right and in some areas are able to provide services that specifically support younger people including the innovative Respect and Whole Family Programmes which are delivered across North Yorkshire.

IDAS community teams across North Yorkshire can also support young people under the age of 16 years who have been abused or sexually assaulted in their relationship.

There were a number of areas for development identified from the audit, such as ensuring appropriate information sharing takes place between professionals and further developing practitioners' skills in working in a professionally curious way. As a result of the audit the information sharing agreement between agencies has been updated, as has the professional curiosity practice guidance [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk/nyscp-practice-model) which now reflects the NYSCP practice model of relational based working.

9 Copy of IDAS Impact Report 2022 (29.7 x 21 cm)

Findings from the Exclusions Audit

The NYSCP regularly monitors the data around school exclusions and noted an increase in the number of fixed term exclusions within both primary and secondary schools, thus commissioned an audit to understand the impact of the multi-agency working in this area.

The children subject to the audit had all been impacted by COVID 19. For many children, they could not access education in school for a large part of the year. When children returned to the classroom, restrictions in place meant week by week children were unsure whether they would be attending school in person or not and children were frequently sent home due to Covid outbreaks in their school population. The Covid 19 pandemic is behind us, however, the legacy of this disrupted access to education remains.

Having schools attend the audit meetings was invaluable as they were able to provide insights into a variety of approaches used to support their most vulnerable pupils. It was clear throughout the process that each school went over and above to keep children in school and that exclusion/suspension was used only as a final course of action when there were safety concerns for the child or their peers.

The audit identified a number of recommendations that will be managed through the newly formed Practice and Learning Sub-Group, the outcome of which will be reported on in the NYSCP annual report 2024/2025.

Findings from the Unborn Baby Audit

The purpose of this report is to provide the NYSCP with assurance as to the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements regarding unborn babies.

The National Child Safeguarding Review Panel commented in their annual report 2022 – 23¹⁰ that: “Babies under the age of 12 months old remain the single largest age group within rapid reviews (36%) and in their paper, “Pre-Birth Assessment and Infant Removal at Birth”¹¹ the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory in

2019 stated, “without effective, timely assessment and support during pregnancy, intervention at birth is likely to be poorly planned and can result in instability for the new baby and huge distress for family members.”

The NYSCP has developed practice guidance for multi-agency practitioners working with pregnant women and their partners, [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk.\)](https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk/) The audit group has sought to explore how potential safeguarding concerns are identified and assessed prior to birth, how male care givers have been involved in the assessment and planning and how, as a multi-agency, partners have contributed to the safety and wellbeing of unborn children across North Yorkshire.

There was evidence of good practice across a number of areas such as early recognition of safeguarding concerns and information sharing between agencies. With regard to areas of development it was found that further work was required regarding understanding parents’ experiences of being parented and how this may impact on their own parenting styles and further work was agreed on gaining the voice of non-verbal children to ensure their “voice” is represented in multi-agency planning.

Audit Priorities for 2024-2025

The NYSCP have agreed that in 2024 – 2025 learning themed audits will consider:

- Children Missing from Home and Care
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour
- Parental Substance Use and Mental Health

The first two topics have previously been audited by the NYSCP in 2020 and it has been agreed that a benchmarking exercise would now be useful to understand how practice has developed in order to demonstrate improved outcomes for children and young people in this area. Parental Substance Misuse and Mental Health is a new topic for the partnership and it was felt important to consider this area in light of findings from local rapid reviews and child deaths where parental substance use and mental health have been present.

¹⁰ The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Annual Report 2022-23 (publishing.service.gov.uk)

¹¹ Pre-birth assessment and infant removal at birth: experiences and challenges - Nuffield Family Justice Observatory (nuffieldfjo.org.uk)

Working with Education

The NYSCP Executive recognise the importance of working alongside education colleagues in order to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people. In 2022/2023 the NYSCP made it a priority to strengthen the relationships already established at strategic level.



School Safeguarding Audit

Between December 2022 and March 2023, the NYSCP completed its mandatory bi-annual audit of the safeguarding arrangements across all schools in North Yorkshire (including maintained, academies, free and independent). The audit supports the NYSCP to fulfil its statutory functions of assessing the effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements within schools as well as enabling governing Boards, Trustee(s) and Proprietor(s) a tool to test, challenge and be assured that the arrangements they have in place are in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education and Working Together to Safeguard Children.



Part of the audit this year also included undertaking a series of safeguarding audit panel sessions where NYSCP representatives from Police, Health and the Local Authority met with a representative sample of 3% of our schools to explore their safeguarding audit responses and action plans. The panel sessions were a useful way of identifying good practice in safeguarding within our schools and in helping the NYSCP's understanding of how schools were approaching some of the challenges in this area. The panel sessions provided a useful collaborative and engaging space to have conversations about safeguarding practice, governance and assurance.

The results of the Safeguarding Schools Audit were presented to the NYSCP Executive and the Practice and Learning Subgroup, as well as being presented to the Designed Safeguarding Lead Network. The audit resulted in the identification of 12 recommendations that will form an action plan to be overseen by the Practice and Learning Subgroup.

Designated Safeguarding Leads Conference

In October 2023, the NYSCP delivered a conference for Designated Safeguarding Leads across North Yorkshire which was attended by over 157 delegates from schools across North Yorkshire. The day began with a presentation from Dr Gill Kelly, Consultant in Public Health regarding supporting children with adverse childhood experiences and mental fragility and ended with a session presented by Professor Simon Hackett regarding how to identify, prevent and support children who have experience of harmful sexual behaviours. Alongside this, a series of workshops were delivered on:

- Child Protection Conferences through the lens of relational based practice
- CAMHS and children's mental health
- The role of DSLs in schools
- Developments in multi-agency child exploitation
- Young people, gaming and gambling
- Thresholds and Early Help

Alongside keynote speakers and workshops, the conference provided DSLs with the opportunity to network with colleagues via a “marketplace” with eighteen stallholders from a broad range of partners such as Inspire Youth¹², JustB¹³, The Children’s Society¹⁴ and The Humber and North Yorkshire Cyber Crime Unit¹⁵

Attendees fed back they felt the day had exceeded their expectations and valued the opportunity to learn new developments in the world of safeguarding while also enhancing their understanding of the role of the NYSCP. The NYSCP Executive have agreed to making the conference an annual event which this year will have a focus on children’s online safety as we consider the developments in artificial intelligence in the world of safeguarding children.

Working Together with Education Focus Group

In September 2023 an operational “Working Together with Education” focus group was established. This group is chaired by the Head of Virtual School from the Children and Young People’s Service and has brought together school staff from a range of multi-agency academy trusts, independent and maintained schools from early years, primary and secondary schools. The group facilitates the collaboration of the partnership and education, serving to ensure operational education staff have a voice in the development of strategies and practice guidance.

DSL Network and Early Years

Alongside delivering masterclasses to a range of professionals the NYSCP offer specific sessions to DSLs and Early Years providers throughout the year. These sessions are an opportunity for education staff to be appraised of updates within the partnership and a space where learning from national and local reviews is shared.

12 [Youth Support Harrogate & District | Inspire Youth](#)

13 [Just B](#)

14 [The Children's Society | UK children's charity \(childrenssociety.org.uk\)](#)

15 [Regional Organised Crime Units \(rocu.police.uk\)](#)

SPOTLIGHT:

SELFA and Brathay Pathfinders Collaboration

There are several projects underway across the partnership with a view to supporting children’s education. One of those projects is the SELFA and Brathay Pathfinders Collaboration which is detailed below:

SELFA and Brathay embarked on a collaborative effort to address the needs of children and young people aged 11-15 in the Airedale, Wharfedale, and Craven areas experiencing school anxiety, refusal, or exclusion. The jointly developed program aimed to support these individuals in overcoming their challenges and successfully reintegrating into mainstream education. This report outlines the key components of the project, its implementation, and its impact.

As a result of delivering the Pathfinder programme:

- We have successfully supported families to submit Education Health Care Plans to get further educational support and are in the process of referring them to Early Help for intervention around parenting strategies which were identified.
- A young person who was home schooled due to anxiety around travelling to school on public transport has enrolled at a new school, ready to begin in the new term, having built independence and confidence to travel by themselves. “I’ve been bored at home and want routine and structure to my week. It’s taken doing Pathfinders for me to realise this. It’s helped to think clearer and come out of my shell.” With her parent adding “It’s so good to see her smiling again and making friends.”
- 72% of children and young people we were able to collect data from have returned to their on-roll school with improved attendance or enrolled in a new school after attending the programme.
- 88% of children and young people showed a significant increase in positive relationships with other young people and their wider community, with an increased sense of belonging.



- 68% said it made them feel more able to deal with challenges and tricky situations.
- 64% said it helped them have more goals and dreams for their future, this increase in aspirations for the future is through learning new life-skills which support greater independence.
- 84% of children and young people showed an increase in their confidence to speak out about issues in their community that matter to them, by co-designing and delivering social action projects.
- For most individuals, the programme was the boost they needed to improve their wellbeing and allow them to see sight of their hopes and aspirations. We have included two case studies with this report to evidence this.

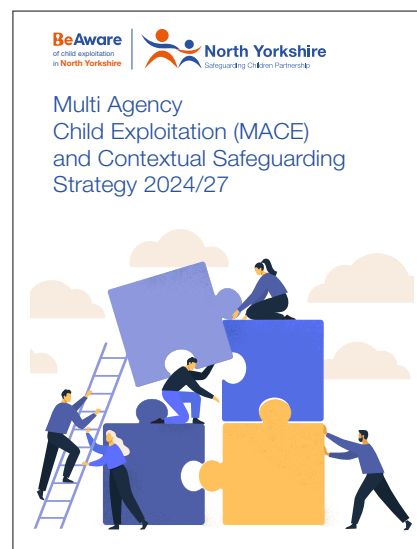
Multi-Agency Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

In March 2024 the partnership saw the launch of the new [Multi-Agency Child Exploitation \(MACE\)](#) and [Contextual Safeguarding strategy 2024/27](#). This strategy builds upon the work of the previous strategy and outlines the continued commitment to a coordinated partnership approach to tackle all forms of child exploitation in North Yorkshire and ensure that the right resources are well trained, skilled and in place to drive the activity outlined within this strategy.

It focusses on:

- Child Sexual exploitation (CSE)
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) including County Lines, financial exploitation and organised crime groups)
- Children missing from home (MFH)
- Harmful sexual behaviour
- Modern day slavery and human trafficking (MSHT)
- Online Child exploitation
- Peer on peer exploitation/teenage relationship abuse Radicalisation and extremism

The MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Strategy has identified four key priorities across the partnership. These four priorities will be underpinned by a detailed action plan that holds partners to account for their plans to fulfil the actions set out across our priority areas.



Prepare	Prevent	Protect	Pursue
Prepare the partnership and wider community in understanding scope and complexity of child exploitation and risk outside the home.	Commit to a whole partnership and wider community approach to prevention, contextual safeguarding and keeping children safe from exploitation.	To protect and support children at risk of or experiencing exploitation that does not label or blame them for the abuse they are experiencing.	Actively pursue, disrupt and respond to perpetrators of exploitation, and work collectively as a partnership to disrupt the exploitation of children in the contextual spaces they are spending their time.

Achievements in 2023/2024

Resources

- Continued development of the [Be Aware Knowledge Hub](#). Following the relaunch of the site in June 2022 the page is regularly updated with key updates in relation to child exploitation so partners know they can access relevant and up to date resources quickly and easily. These include specific resources-based on emerging trends of exploitation such as financial exploitation and sexually coerced extortion.
- Development of a support guide for the submission of partner intelligence via the Police Community Partnership Intelligence Portal [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](#) and continued reinforcement of the message to partners in the vital role intelligence submission plays in the disruption of exploitation.

Training

- Training has been delivered across the partnership to further develop the knowledge and skills of partners to understand and tackle exploitation. This has included regular updates at the Local Safeguarding Partnership meetings. Training sessions delivered to Health practitioners and education through the DSL conference as well as PSHE network meetings and headteacher briefings.
- In March 2024 to promote the launch of the new MACE strategy and to promote the National Child Exploitation Awareness Day an online programme of learning was made available for partners. 10 free online sessions were delivered covering topics such as:
 - Girls in Gangs – Delivered by St Giles Trust SOS+ programme
 - Early Intervention and Prevention in schools – Delivered by North Yorkshire Police
 - Child exploitation and the experiences of parents and carers – delivered by Ivison Trust
 - Sexually Coerced extortion and financial exploitation – delivered by the Children's Society
- The sessions were accessed by nearly 300 partners.

- With overwhelming positive feedback highlighting the value of the sessions. Many more have accessed the course recordings and materials which can be accessed here: [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](#)
- A social media campaign was also promoted over social media which reached over 2500 people via the NYSCP.
- Training delivered to over 100 school staff in Scarborough.

"Thank you so much for the fantastic training you provided on 8/1/23. There were approximately 100 staff in the hall and the feedback has been very positive with staff commenting the training was very detailed, engaging and that they have all come away with a stronger knowledge and understanding of contextual safeguarding and exploitation."



Partnership working:

- In June 2023 a series of 5 face-to-face MACE development sessions were delivered across the County. The sessions provided partners with the opportunity to meet, develop partnership links and have an open space to discuss locality-based themes linked to exploitation. The sessions were also used to liaise directly with MACE partners around

the development of the strategy and what they felt ongoing areas of focus needed to be. The sessions were attended by nearly 150 partners with positive feedback gathered as to the value of meetings and spending time back together face to face. The sessions will now be repeated yearly with upcoming sessions in June 2024.

- Following feedback from the development sessions, MACE partners now have access to a monthly secure MACE bulletin. The bulletin highlights good practice and creative disruption planning as well as shining a spotlight on partner roles and sharing key information in relation to emerging themes and trends and upcoming training. A MACE secure partnership directory has also been produced so MACE partners have easily accessible access to partner details in local areas to support with multi agency disruption planning.
- The national [Multi-Agency Practice Principles](#) for responding to child exploitation and extra familial harm are designed to support effective partnership working across local contexts to better respond to child exploitation. The eight evidence informed principles were reflected upon as an operational group, and discussion around this was used to shape the strategic priorities.
- The National Working Group completed observations sessions of Multi Agency Child Exploitation Level 2 meetings and provided feedback of the strong processes in place, the excellence of information sharing, strong partnership working that provided a “safe space for people to share ideas and think outside the box”. They also shared that in the meetings a “very positive commitment to children really shines through.”
- Ongoing use of the cross-partnership MACE data set, which is presented to strategic and operational groups quarterly, with key headlines also shared with MACE partners via the secure bulletin. This is used to further develop understanding of what exploitation looks like in North Yorkshire, horizon scan for emerging themes and trends and coordinate multi agency action planning to tackle key areas of vulnerability.

Working with young people and parents/carers

- Increased promotion of the use of the ‘Mind of My own’ app. The App is used by Children and Families Service and is a tool to capture the voices and experiences of children and young people.
- Continued engagement with the North Yorkshire Youth Commission and the work of the “big conversation”, linking their priorities following consultation with young people aged 10-25 to the MACE strategic priorities. Members of the youth commission were consulted in the development of the MACE strategy and shared lots of positive feedback.
- An engagement exercise was also completed with Scarborough Youth Council Group, who were consulted on the strategy and have been working on an additional document aimed at what the strategy means for young people.
- An ongoing strategic focus on the support for victims of exploitation as they move through periods of transition, particularly as they approach adulthood and turn 18 and may still be vulnerable to exploitation, work is ongoing with the Safeguarding Adult Team and the preparing for adulthood.

Child’s voice

“Everyone in North Yorkshire who is being exploited, feels unsafe and put in dangerous situations can have someone safe and trustworthy to talk to, who will listen to them and not blame them and who will work with everyone they need to, to help keep young people safe and to stop the exploiters”

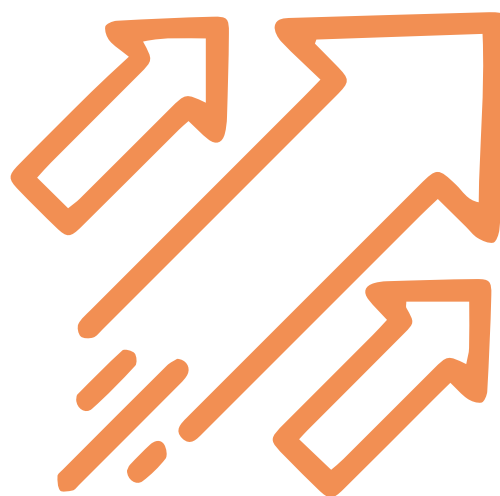
Multi-agency Training and Learning

Our Masterclasses are recorded and can be viewed via our NYSCP YouTube Channel available from www.youtube.com/@nyscp. 858 people booked on the NYSCP Masterclasses for 2023-2024, with 793 delegates in attendance. Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 these recordings received over 678 views. Our masterclasses can all be viewed through our [website](#), which we have found is an effective and flexible way of reaching wider partners.

Growing up in North Yorkshire	Counter Terrorism Update	Learning from Audits
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	Making a Good Referral	Reducing Parental Conflict
Early Years Masterclass (Evening) (May)	Drink Drive	Modern Slavery
Learning from LADO Cases	Launch of new Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Strategy	Early Years Masterclass (Evening) (October)

We have gained an additional 74 subscribers via our YouTube channel and received 7.2K views of channel content, accounting for 646 hours of watch time. Our most watched YouTube videos for 2023-2024 were:

1. NYSCP Threshold Document with 1,932 views
2. Contextual Safeguarding 1 with 415 views
3. Sexting and Revenge Porn with 210 views
4. Contextual Safeguarding Keynote with 310 views
5. Signs of Safety Terminology with 220 views



Safeguarding Week 2023

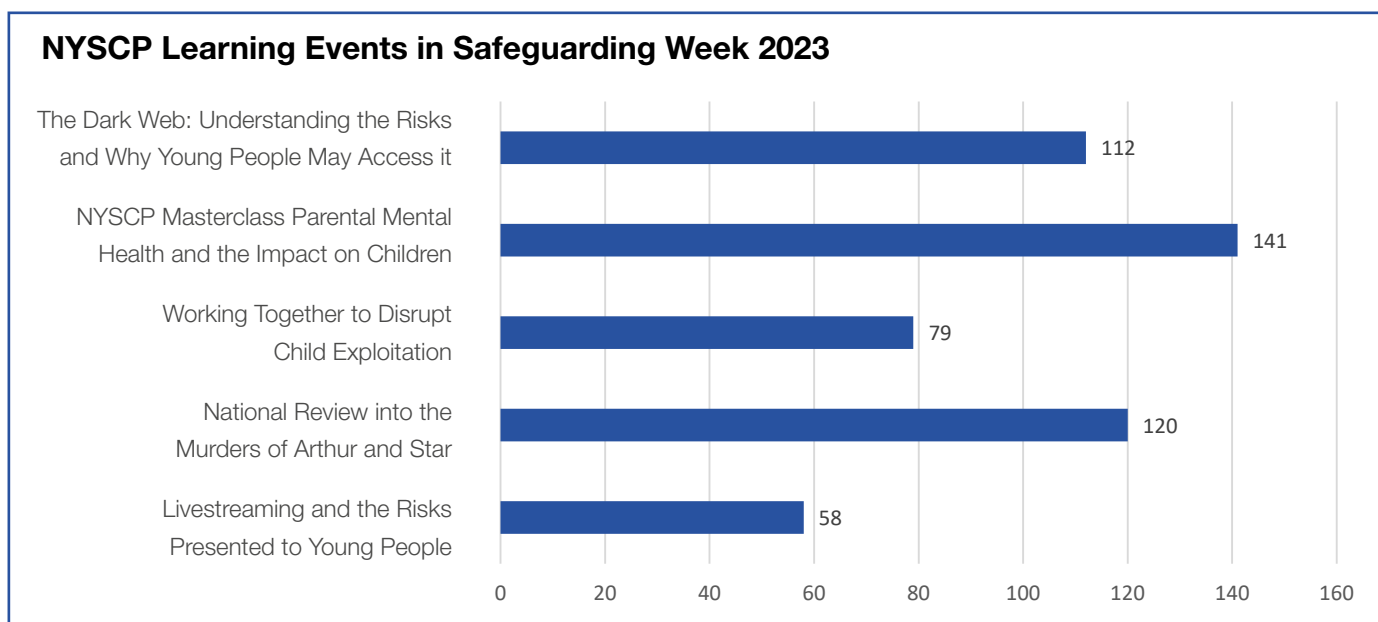
Partners from Safeguarding Adults Boards, Children's Safeguarding Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships across North Yorkshire, the City of York and East Riding and Hull came together and developed an extensive programme of learning events, seminars and interactive sessions which all underpinned this year's theme – 'Safeguarding is everybody's business'.



Sessions held throughout the week were available for professionals as part of their personal development and members of the public for awareness and introduction to key topics. Based on these sessions:

- 44 virtual sessions held over 5 days
- 1112 delegates attended events
- 117 took part in feedback survey for sessions held by North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board, Community Safeguarding Partnership and Safeguarding Children Partnership. Of these:
 - 61% of delegates stated they attended for professional interests with 39% personal and professional
 - 76% attended more than 2 sessions
 - 34% attended 2 sessions
 - 12% attended one session
 - 100% found the session informative
 - 100% found the session engaging
 - 99% thought that Safeguarding Week 2023 provided a good learning opportunity

Five learning events were delivered by the NYSCP as follows:





Local Safeguarding Partnerships

Local Safeguarding Partnerships (LSPs) are local safeguarding meetings where partners come together. Professionals are based in Children, Adult and Community Safety services and aim to raise awareness of safeguarding in the local area and respond to local need. The groups identify learning needs, share good practice and deliver the local priorities within the Board and Partnership's business plans. We have four groups across the County in Harrogate/Craven, Hambleton and Richmondshire, Selby and Scarborough and Ryedale. It is recognised that the LSPs play a vital role responding to issues in the locality and over the coming year work will be completed to strengthen the role they play in communities.

Local Safeguarding Partnerships, (LSPs)

The Local Safeguarding Partnership (LSP) Groups were engaged with Safeguarding Week 2023, with this being raised in each LSP meeting and there was some local delivery of safeguarding initiatives, including market stalls in public locations and other cooperative events.

The NYSCP Website

Throughout the year, usage of the NYSCP website has continued to increase however, due to changes in the analytics system, only website usage between 18 June 2023 and 31 March 2024 is available. In this time there were:

- 239,915 pages of the website viewed
- 122K users of the website

The most visited pages of the website were:

1. [Homepage](#) with 24,217 views
2. [Be Aware Harmful Sexual Behaviours](#) with 19,632 views
3. [Worried about a child](#) with 18,615 views
4. [Resource Library](#) with 5330 views
5. [Procedures, Practice Guidance and One Minute Guides](#) with 5115 views

Social Media

Social media is a constantly changing environment as platforms come and go and sites vary in popularity and reach. The NYSCP recognises the need to be adaptable and to share our messages on the most appropriate platforms. Following changes in Twitter to the X platform, there were a number of reports of people leaving the platform in favour of other alternatives. The NYSCP has continued to utilise the [X platform](#) as one of its primary methods of communication to raise awareness of safeguarding issues.

To improve direct access to a professional focused audience, the NYSCP has diversified into using [LinkedIn](#). This new social media stream is now open for professionals to follow and will be one of our primary communication routes to raise awareness and provide information.

The NYSCP has also continued to support [Facebook](#) throughout the year as an alternative platform of communications. While X has historically been focused more on professionals and Facebook more on parents and family communication, there has been a merger of parents and professionals access content from both sites. As a result many of the messages sent across both platforms have been harmonised.

During the year the NYSCP Business Unit has also developed a social media plan which looks to bring together our different media streams with evergreen messages. It allows the planning of key local campaigns and support for national and international events such as Safer Internet Day, Safeguarding Week, #AskMe and more.



The NYSCP E-bulletin

Our monthly free e-bulletin continues to grow with 1848 people subscribed, a decrease from 2022-2023 due to a data cleanse of subscribers. The e-bulletin has covered a wide range of topics including:

- Keeping children safe online
- Safer internet day
- Child Exploitation
- Changes to referrals into social care
- Anti-bullying
- Supporting victims, gender and exploitation
- Suicide Prevention
- ICON
- Water Safety
- Alcohol Awareness
- Child Sexual Abuse Inquiry
- The Go-To for Health Minds in North Yorkshire

Sign up by visiting: [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

Child Death Review Process

Child Death Review partners, the Local Authorities and Integrated Care Boards (ICB) for North Yorkshire and City of York hold responsibility for the delivery of the Child Death Review Process as set out in the Children Act 2004, as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 details how individual professionals and organisations across all sectors involved in the Child Death Review should contribute to guided standardised practice nationally and enable thematic learning to prevent future child deaths. The process is undertaken locally for all children who are normally resident within North Yorkshire and City of York.

The death of a child is something no parent, carer or professional ever wants to experience, however, sadly children do occasionally die and when they do it is the right thing that all available opportunities are taken in order to learn from that child's death in the hope that this will prevent the deaths of other children in the future. Thankfully less children die in North Yorkshire and York than in other areas and due to this it was agreed to combine the child death overview processes of North Yorkshire and York. As part of the ongoing work in the partnership in respect of becoming trauma informed, policies and procedures regarding children's deaths are being reviewed in order to better support parents, carers and professionals if they experience the death of a child.

The NYSCP are committed to learning from the circumstances and factors present in each death, and to;

- Identify any change that can be made or actions which can be taken that might help to prevent similar deaths in the future;
- Share learning with colleagues locally, regionally, and nationally so that the findings will have a greater impact;
- Analyse trends and targeted interventions that can be delivered in response to findings, for example, through an extensive multi-agency campaign of training and awareness raising.

For further information about these processes and to access our annual reports on children's deaths please visit [NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

'Day or Night, Sleep Right'

Between 2017 and 2022, North Yorkshire Council (NYC) and City of York Council (COY) have had 10 babies who have died with a recorded cause of death as SUDI. In March 2021 a paper was presented to NYSCP Executives highlighting the need for a partnership response to reducing the risks of SUDI, with a particular focus on supporting families with additional vulnerabilities. This paper was in response to findings from a report published by the Safeguarding Children Practice Review Panel in July 2020 and learning arising from a number of North Yorkshire and York cases where there had been the unexpected death of an infant in families with existing safeguarding vulnerabilities.

The partnerships agreed to adopt a "Prevent and Protect Model" of SUDI Risk Minimisation. This model was subsequently named the 'Day or Night, Sleep Right' campaign and aimed to look at SUDI risk minimisation through a safeguarding lens, focusing on supporting professionals from all relevant agencies to feel competent and confident to work with families to promote safe sleep practice. In addition to an extensive program of single agency training, multi-agency training is available to practitioners. A multiagency masterclass developed which has now had **446** views on the NYSCP YouTube channel and SUDI podcast has been listened to **76** times.

The Day or Night, Sleep Right work is ongoing with the aim of establishing safe sleep as a fundamental aspect of multiagency work with families with additional vulnerabilities.

The campaign has been recognised by researchers at Durham University (Durham Infancy and Sleep Centre) as one of very few multiagency SUDI risk minimisation programmes across the Country'.
[NYSCP \(safeguardingchildren.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk)

Financial Position

The NYSCP budget is agreed annually, and contributions made by several partners outlined below.

Organisation	Contribution (£)	Percentage of Budget
North Yorkshire Council	178,295	49%
Integrated Care Board	92,511	30%
North Yorkshire Police	71,328	15%
City of York Partnership (Child Death Contribution)	20,193	5%
HM Prison and Probation Service	2,727	1%



Priorities for 2024 – 2025

In line with the voices of children and young people as identified through the work with the North Yorkshire Youth Commission, the NYSCP have agreed that the priorities for the coming year continue to be:

Criminal and Sexual Exploitation (including gender based violence and discrimination)

Strengthening the Role of Education in the Partnership

The NYSCP Executive recognises the important role education plays in the lives of children and young people. When considering potential changes to Working Together Legislation [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 - consultation document \(education.gov.uk\)](#) it is felt important for the Partnership to consider how the role of education can be strengthened in partnership working.

Children and Young People’s Emotional and Mental Health

While considerable work has been undertaken by partners in this area, children and young people continue to report this as an area of concern so a focus will continue, to ensure children have access to the right support at the right time in respect of their emotional and mental wellbeing.

The NYSCP will also be working on the new iterations of the Early Help Strategy, Threshold Guidance and the Being Young in North Yorkshire Strategy. Consultation events have been organised to ensure there is a collaborative approach to refreshing the strategies which includes frontline practitioner and children and young people’s views.

Online Safety

With artificial intelligence capabilities moving at pace the partnership recognises the importance of coming together to consider how technological assisted harm can be perpetrated against children and young people and to understand what can be done to prevent children experiencing harm in this area.

Original artwork by a selection of talented young Yorkshire artists!



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