

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Annual Report

2025-2026



Contents



NORTH YORKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP · ANNUAL REPORT 2025–2026

Foreword.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Independent Scrutineer.....	5
Our Year at a Glance.....	6
NYSCP Safeguarding Arrangements.....	7
Independent Scrutiny Arrangements.....	9
Relevant Agencies.....	10
How we work in North Yorkshire	10
National Updates	11
What Life Is Like for Children in North Yorkshire.....	13
Hearing Children in North Yorkshire	14
Hearing Parents / Carers and the Wider Network	18
NYSCP Key Safeguarding Data 2025–26	19
Our NYSCP Subgroup Structure	20
Working with Education Partners	29
Working with Wider Safeguarding Partners	33
Being Young in North Yorkshire	35
<i>Happy.....</i>	35
<i>Healthy.....</i>	39
<i>Safe.....</i>	43
<i>Achieving.....</i>	46
Beyond 2026: Continuing to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families.....	51
Assurance and Scrutiny.....	54
From Insight to Impact.....	56
Training and Learning	57
Website, Digital Communications and Social Media	59
Resources.....	61
Celebrating our Partners	62
Financial Position	64
Conclusion	65

Foreword

Statutory Partners Introduction

As the statutory safeguarding partners for North Yorkshire, we are pleased to introduce the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, (NYSCP), Annual Report for 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. This report reflects our shared commitment to working together so that children across North Yorkshire are safe, happy, healthy and able to achieve their full potential.

During 2025–2026, the partnership has continued to strengthen its collective safeguarding arrangements, building on established foundations while responding to national reforms, including Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 and the Families First programme. Throughout the year, partners have worked together to improve multi-agency collaboration, strengthen responses to exploitation and contextual safeguarding, embed learning from audits and reviews, and make better use of data, intelligence and practitioner insight.

This report demonstrates the breadth and impact of partnership activity across North Yorkshire, including Safeguarding Week, the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Summit, the Designated Safeguarding Lead Conference, practitioner forums, subgroup activity and partnership audits. It also shows how learning, assurance and the voices of children, families and practitioners continue to shape our priorities and drive improvement across the system.

We would like to thank all professionals, volunteers, community partners and organisations who contribute to safeguarding children across North Yorkshire. Their dedication, resilience and shared commitment remain central to the strength of our partnership. Together, we will continue to learn, improve and hold children at the heart of everything we do, ensuring that our safeguarding arrangements make a positive and lasting difference for children and families.



El Mayhew
Corporate Director of
Corporate Director of
Children and Young
People's Service
North Yorkshire Council



Catherine Clarke
Assistant Chief Constable
North Yorkshire
Police



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

Introduction

This annual report tells the story of children and families in North Yorkshire: what life is like for them, how services respond, and the difference the partnership is making to keep them safe, happy, healthy and achieving. It moves beyond describing activity to focus on impact; what has changed, what has improved, and what this means for children's lived experiences.

The report draws on a range of evidence, including audits, reviews, practitioner insight and data, to show how learning has been translated into practice and how partnership working is strengthening safeguarding across the system. Spotlight sections highlight key areas of innovation, learning and impact, bringing examples to life in a practical and accessible way.

It also reflects NYSCP's commitment to child-centred, trauma-informed language. The aim is to make the report clear, accessible and easy to navigate, avoiding jargon and unnecessary acronyms so that children's experiences remain central and partners can develop a shared understanding.

Partners, practitioners and leaders can use the report to understand progress, reflect on practice and identify opportunities for continued improvement as we move into 2026/27.

As always at NYSCP, we welcome comments or questions about the report via:

nyscp@northyorks.gov.uk



**“When children are seen, heard,
and believed, they are safer,
stronger, and more empowered to
shape their world.”**

Independent Scrutineer

As Independent Scrutineer and Chair of the Executive, my role is to provide constructive challenge, support transparency and ensure that the voices of children, young people and families remain central to the work of the partnership.

Effective scrutiny is about more than reviewing performance reports or attending meetings. It is about understanding whether safeguarding arrangements are making a tangible difference to the lives of children and families, identifying where improvement is needed, and ensuring that partners are held accountable for delivering on their commitments.

During 2025–2026, assurance and challenge have been drawn from a wide range of sources, including safeguarding practice reviews, multi-agency audits, Section 11 assurance activity, performance information, practitioner feedback, learning from inspections, engagement with children and direct scrutiny through the Executive and Delegated Safeguarding Partner arrangements. These processes have provided valuable insight into both the strengths of the partnership and the areas that require continued focus.

I have seen a partnership that is committed to learning and improvement. There is clear evidence that learning from safeguarding practice reviews is being translated into frontline practice through practitioner briefings, workforce development activity and strengthened guidance. The development of the Voice of the Child Toolkit, improvements in the partnership response to exploitation, and strengthened approaches to recognising children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right are all examples of challenge leading to meaningful change.



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

Heather Pearson
Independent Scrutineer
and Chair for NYSCP

The Section 11 audit provided important assurance regarding safeguarding governance across partner agencies while also highlighting opportunities to strengthen information sharing, partnership learning and workforce development. It was particularly encouraging to see partners responding positively to these findings and demonstrating a willingness to reflect honestly on practice and implement improvements.

The partnership has also continued to demonstrate strong engagement with practitioners, children, young people and families. The introduction of redesigned practitioner briefings, ongoing practitioner forum activity, youth voice engagement and the continued use of tools such as Mind of My Own provide valuable opportunities to understand safeguarding through the experiences of those who deliver and receive services.

There are, however, areas that require continued attention. Increasing complexity of need, rising demand across services, emotional wellbeing and mental health pressures, exploitation affecting younger children, and ensuring consistent information sharing across agencies remain important areas of focus. The partnership is aware of these challenges and has taken active steps to strengthen oversight, develop targeted responses and ensure that learning informs future priorities.

My overall assessment is that the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to collaboration, learning and improvement. Partners are increasingly focused not simply on what activity has taken place, but on the difference that activity is making for children and families. While there is more to do, there is clear evidence of a partnership that is willing to challenge itself, learn from practice and work collectively to improve outcomes for children and young people across North Yorkshire.

Our Year at a Glance

This report shows how partners across North Yorkshire have worked together during 2025 - 2026 to improve outcomes for children, learn from practice, strengthen safeguarding arrangements and respond to emerging risk.

WHY DO WE HAVE AN ANNUAL REPORT?

The annual report provides assurance that safeguarding arrangements are effective, highlights what has changed for children and families, and identifies priorities for future improvement.



Hear children's voices

We listen to children, young people and families so their experiences shape our decisions.



Understand impact

We use data, audits and learning to understand what is working and where we need to improve.



Hold partners to account

We hold each other to account for delivering strong, effective and timely safeguarding.



Drive improvement

We learn from practice and reviews to continually improve outcomes for children.

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



16,000+

Children and young people shared their views through GUNY and Mind of My Own



250,000+

Website page views



10,000+

Children's voices captured through Mind of My Own



186

Designated Safeguarding Leads attended the DSL Conference



11,400+

Views of NYSCP learning content on YouTube



1,801

Monthly bulletin subscribers

KEY MILESTONES OF THE YEAR



Voice of the Child Toolkit launched

Helping practitioners better hear, record and respond to children's lived experiences.



JTAI learning embedded

Strengthened understanding of domestic abuse, professional curiosity and children's lived experience.



Child Exploitation Summit

Partners strengthened approaches to contextual safeguarding and disruption activity.



Safeguarding Week

Brought professionals and communities together around key safeguarding themes.



Practitioner Briefings Redesigned

Learning from reviews made more visual, practical and accessible.



Families First Preparation

Partnership planning for national reforms and future safeguarding arrangements.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DID THIS MAKE? IMPACT FOR CHILDREN IN NORTH YORKSHIRE

“When children are seen, heard and believed, they are safer, stronger and more empowered to shape their world.”



SAFE

Earlier identification of exploitation, domestic abuse and safeguarding concerns through improved multi-agency working.



HAPPY

More children accessed emotional wellbeing support and trusted relationships.



HEALTHY

Improved support from infancy through adolescence and increased focus on reducing inequalities.



ACHIEVING

Greater inclusion, stronger transitions and support for vulnerable learners.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2026-2027



ONLINE HARMS

Strengthen our response to online risks and ensure children are supported to be safe in the digital world.



NEGLECT

Continue to improve our understanding of neglect and ensure earlier help for children and families.



CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Enhance prevention, disruption and support for children and strengthen multi-agency responses.



TRANSITIONAL SAFEGUARDING

Improve support for children during key transitions and life changes.



FAMILIES FIRST PROGRAMME

Prepare for national reforms and build family-focused, whole-system support.



OUR AMBITION

Every child in North Yorkshire is happy, healthy, safe and able to achieve



NYSCP Safeguarding Arrangements

NYSCP's multi-agency safeguarding arrangements set out how North Yorkshire Council, Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, North Yorkshire Police and wider relevant agencies work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. These arrangements support partners to respond to emerging safeguarding priorities, embed learning from reviews and audits, and improve how agencies work together to identify risk earlier and support children and families more effectively.

Children and families benefit from a more joined-up safeguarding system, where agencies share responsibility, work together earlier and use learning to improve practice and outcomes.

For full details of our partnership safeguarding arrangements please see our [Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangement document](#)



Richard Flinton,
Chief Executive,
North Yorkshire Council



Teresa Fenech
Chief Executive,
Humber and North
Yorkshire
Integrated Care Board
(ICB)



Tim Forber,
Chief Constable,
North Yorkshire Police



Lead Safeguarding Partners

The Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements, which is underpinned by equitable and proportionate funding. In North Yorkshire, the LSPs are:

The LSP for Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board performs this function across six local partnership areas including North Yorkshire and the LSP for North Yorkshire Police performs this function in two local partnership areas, (North Yorkshire and City of York). Each LSP is responsible for discharging their own statutory and legislative duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. As leaders of their organisations and the statutory safeguarding partners, it is for LSPs to assure themselves that their local safeguarding arrangements are effective and keep children safe. This includes systems of assurance and accountability within each of their organisations.

NYSCP Safeguarding Arrangements



**Humber and
North Yorkshire**
Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Delegated Safeguarding Partners

In accordance with Working Together 2026, each Lead Safeguarding Partner (LSP) should appoint a Delegated Safeguarding Partner (DSP) for its agency. DSPs should be senior enough to speak with authority, make decisions on behalf of the LSP and hold their sectors to account, while ultimate accountability remains with the LSP. In North Yorkshire, the DSPs are:



El Mayhew
Corporate Director of
Children and Young
People's Service
North Yorkshire Council



Catherine Clarke
Assistant Chief Constable
North Yorkshire
Police



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

Strong, joined-up leadership and clear accountability are critical to effective multi-agency safeguarding. In North Yorkshire, LSPs and DSPs are committed to a partnership model focused on continuous learning, improvement and a clear line of sight to frontline safeguarding practice. Lead Safeguarding Partners meet biannually with Delegated Safeguarding Partners to gain assurance that safeguarding systems are effective and working well.

The Delegated Safeguarding Partners meet as a Strategic Group to provide strategic leadership, oversight and assurance of multi-agency arrangements. In line with Working Together 2026, the group reviews priorities, monitors progress and ensures arrangements remain effective in protecting children and promoting their welfare.

During 2025–2026, the group strengthened partnership alignment and responded to emerging safeguarding challenges, including child exploitation, online safety, children not in school and increasing complexity in high-risk cases. Its work has focused on improving intelligence-sharing, coordinated multi-agency responses and whole-system planning for national reform, particularly the Families First programme.

The group has also strengthened governance and programme oversight through a partnership-wide approach to programme management, development of a strategic roadmap and establishment of a dedicated strategic committee to oversee reform delivery. It has maintained oversight of inspection learning, complex safeguarding cases and learning reviews, including implementation of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection action plan and support for the High-Risk Review Panel.

A full description of the joint functions of LSPs and DSPs can be found in [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026: Statutory Guidance](#).

NYSCP Safeguarding Arrangements

Escalation of issues to Lead Safeguarding Partners

To ensure Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSPs) maintain oversight of significant concerns affecting the effectiveness of partnership arrangements, matters may be escalated by the DSPs, Executive Chair and/or Scrutineer. Escalation will only occur where the issue has been fully considered by DSPs and remains unresolved. Relevant DSPs will be informed before escalation, enabling them to brief their respective LSPs as appropriate.

LSPs and DSPs will consider whether support from relevant local stakeholders may assist resolution. This may include the Scrutineer, Mayor, Lead Members or other independent persons. Where concerns remain unresolved between the safeguarding partners and local networks, escalation to the Secretary of State may be considered.



A full copy of the NYSCP Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements can be accessed by [clicking the image](#)

Independent Scrutiny Arrangements

Executive Chair

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

Independent Scrutiny

In line with Working Together 2026, North Yorkshire has locally determined its arrangements for independent scrutiny to support objective and rigorous analysis of safeguarding effectiveness. A Scrutineer has been appointed to provide strategic and operational support, challenge and assurance to safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, contributing to continuous improvement and ensuring arrangements add value for children, families and practitioners.

The role forms part of the wider assurance and accountability framework, alongside statutory partner activity, partnership quality assurance and inspection findings. The Scrutineer acts as a critical friend, supporting reflection on frontline practice and ensuring the voices of children and families inform partnership learning. Scrutiny activity is set out in the Business Plan, with additional activity undertaken at the request of DSPs, and the Scrutineer contributes to key partnership forums as required.

Relevant Agencies

Relevant agencies are vital to safeguarding because they bring diverse expertise and perspectives enabling a holistic understanding of children's needs. Their active involvement in partnership arrangements strengthens decision-making, improves information sharing, and ensures coordinated, timely and effective responses that better protect and support children and families.



Key partner and relevant agencies in North Yorkshire

'Although not a statutory partner we feel we are integral to keeping the children of North Yorkshire safe' We aren't just in the room, we are valued. listened to and appreciated.'

VCSE representative at the Practice and Learning Subgroup

How we work in North Yorkshire

Everything we do is underpinned by a shared commitment to keeping children at the centre of safeguarding practice. Across North Yorkshire, partners work within the [Strength in Relationships Practice Model](#), recognising that positive, trusting relationships are the foundation for understanding children's experiences, identifying concerns early and providing effective support.

Our approach is shaped by the North Yorkshire Council [values and behaviours](#) of working together, acting with integrity, embracing diversity and always striving to improve, creating a culture where challenge, learning and collaboration are encouraged. Partners are also committed to becoming increasingly trauma-informed, recognising the impact that adversity, trauma and life experiences can have on children, young people and families, and ensuring services respond with compassion, curiosity and understanding.

Central to this approach is a commitment to listening to children and families, understanding their lived experiences, and using these experiences to shape decisions, services and support.

By combining relationship-based, trauma-informed and child-centred practice, partners are working together to ensure that children receive the right help, in the right way, at the right time.



National Updates

The national context for safeguarding and children's social care has continued to evolve significantly during 2025–2026, with a strong emphasis on impact, early intervention and multi agency collaboration. The publication of [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026](#) and the updated [Children's Social Care National Framework](#) has reinforced a shared vision and clearer expectations for how partners work together to improve outcomes for children and families.

Alongside this, the implementation of the [Families First Partnership Programme](#) is driving a shift towards a more integrated, family-focused system that prioritises earlier support and coordinated responses.

National learning from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel continues to highlight the complexity of harm and the need for strong, joined-up practice, while updates to the Ofsted ILACS framework place greater emphasis on the quality and impact of partnership working.

For ease and clarity for partners in North Yorkshire, information in relation to National documents and reports are collated on the [NYSCP webpage](#), over the year this information has been viewed over **500** times. Key messages are also relayed to partners through our e-bulletin and through training and learning events.

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026](#)

The publication of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 in March 2026 has strengthened expectations for multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, with a clearer focus on outcomes, impact and accountability. It reinforces the importance of shared responsibility, effective information sharing, and inclusive, anti-discriminatory practice across all partners.

For partnerships, this represents a shift from activity to impact, requiring stronger evidence of how joint working improves outcomes for children and families. It also places greater emphasis on early help, family networks, and coordinated responses to complex and emerging harms, requiring continued adaptation of local arrangements and practice.

A short summary video has been made available to partners in North Yorkshire [Working Together 2026 NYSCP Updates - YouTube](#) (which has had 87 views since its launch) with updates to this and other National Documents relayed to partners via the NYSCP webpage: NYSCP

A task and finish group has been established and continues to work into the 2026/27 year to ensure the changes made in Working Together are understood and implemented by partners.



Click on the image to access the 'summary of changes' recording.



National Updates

Families First Reform

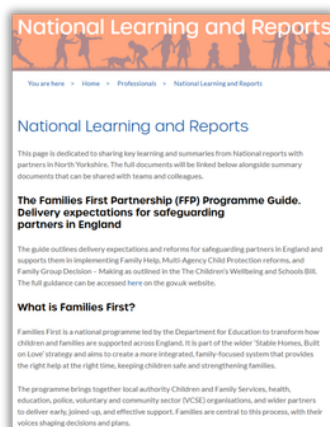
The Families First Partnership Programme (FFP) is a national reform programme designed to improve outcomes for children and families through earlier intervention, stronger multi-agency working and a more integrated whole-family approach. The programme will bring services together through Family Help and Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs) to ensure that children and families receive the right support at the right time.



In North Yorkshire, Families First builds on existing strengths in partnership working. During 2025–26, partners have developed a local implementation plan, established governance arrangements, undertaken service reviews and started design work for future Family Help and Multi Agency Child Protection Team (MACPT) models.



Partners are kept up to date on key developments and updates via the NYSCP [Learning and National Reports Page](#).



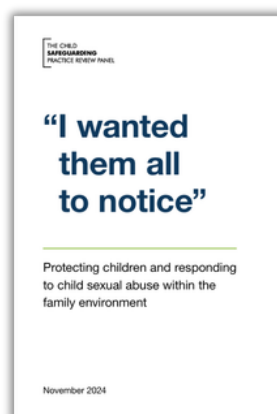
Aligning National Learning on Child Sexual Abuse with Local Safeguarding Improvement

National learning from the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel report [“I Wanted Them All to Notice”](#) has informed the NYSCP’s response to child sexual abuse (CSA), alongside learning from the local learning review of [Child AB](#).

Both the national report and local review highlighted the importance of effective strategy meetings, professional curiosity, hearing children's voices beyond parental accounts, and ensuring children can access timely specialist assessment and support. In response, the partnership has progressed actions through the Practice and Learning Subgroup, including the development of a clearer CSA medical assessment pathway, review of strategy meeting guidance, updates to Voice of the Child resources and continued promotion of Professional Curiosity guidance.

This work has been supported through engagement with the Centre of Expertise on [Child Sexual Abuse \(CSA Centre\)](#), including training and workshops focused on implementing the six national partnership recommendations.

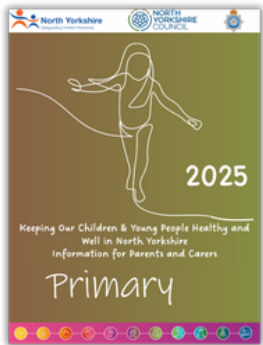
A significant achievement has been the agreement of an interim CSA pathway with commissioners and the Integrated Care Board, with longer-term commissioning arrangements under development. This responds directly to learning from Child AB and provides greater clarity for practitioners when concerns relating to sexual abuse are known or suspected.



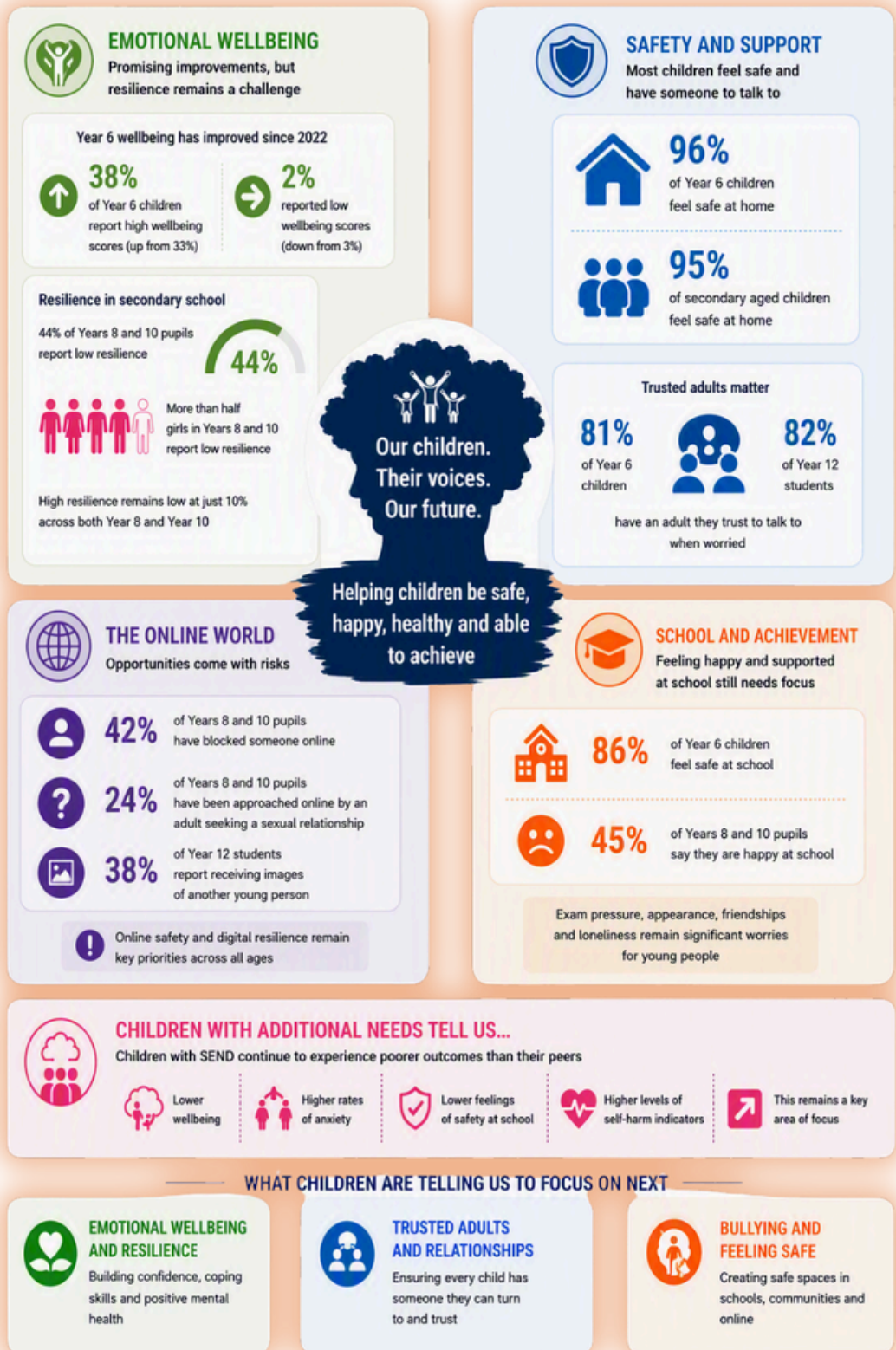
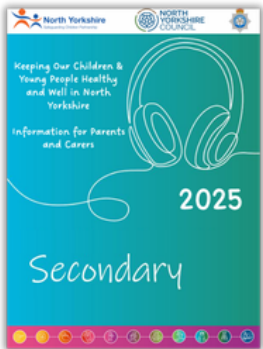
What life is like for children in North Yorkshire

What the children in North Yorkshire told us...

More than 16,000 children and young people shared their views through the Growing Up in North Yorkshire (GUNY) Survey and the Mind of My Own app, helping to shape partnership priorities and inform decision-making throughout 2025–2026.



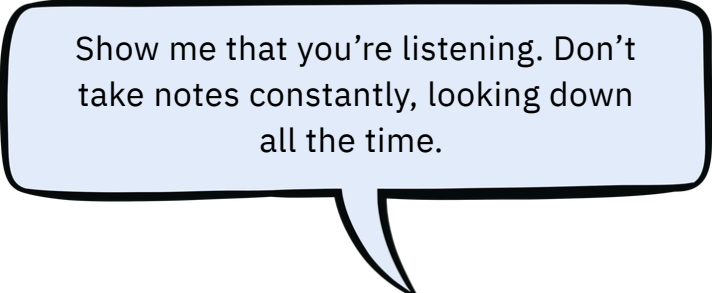
Click on the images to access Primary & Secondary summaries of the GUNY reports



Hearing Children in North Yorkshire

Hearing the voice of the child is central to effective safeguarding. It is essential that children and families are not only listened to, but that their views meaningfully shape assessment, decision making and service design. Across North Yorkshire, partners have continued to strengthen how children's lived experiences are understood, ensuring practice is informed by what life feels like for the child, not just what is recorded about them.

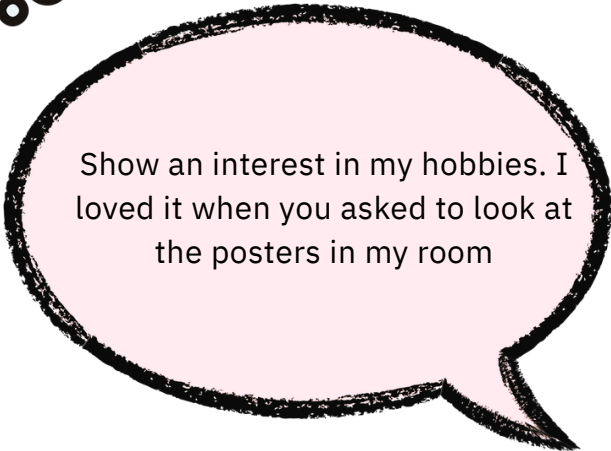
The work of the [Youth Voice & Creative Engagement Team](#) demonstrates the impact of this approach. Through over 280 youth voice groups this year, children have been supported to share their views on issues that matter to them, influencing services and strategic decision-making. For example, our care experienced children have chosen projects that are important to them and worked hard to make changes to the care system they are a part of. Practitioners report that when children are genuinely heard, it positively impacts confidence, belonging and engagement, with one foster carer sharing that a child *"really feels like she has a voice now and that people are taking notice."*



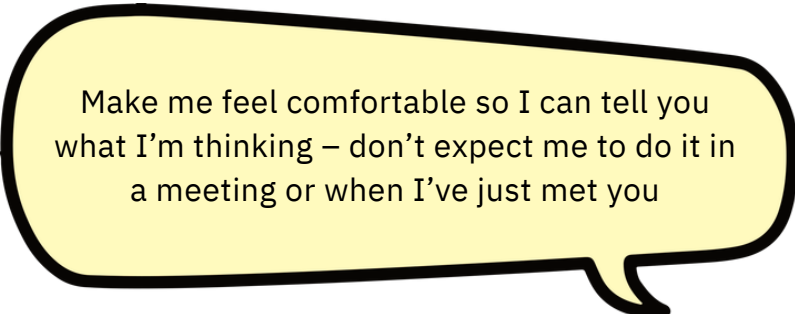
Show me that you're listening. Don't take notes constantly, looking down all the time.



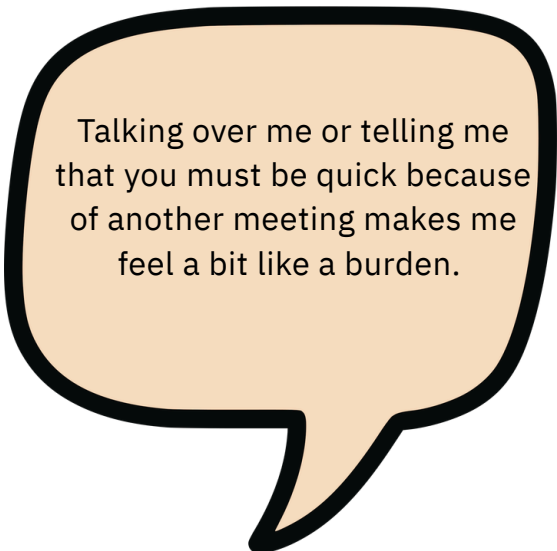
Talk to me, not my parents/carers all the time. I have something to say too



Show an interest in my hobbies. I loved it when you asked to look at the posters in my room



Make me feel comfortable so I can tell you what I'm thinking – don't expect me to do it in a meeting or when I've just met you



Talking over me or telling me that you must be quick because of another meeting makes me feel a bit like a burden.

Hearing Children in North Yorkshire

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The work of the [Youth Voice & Creative Engagement Team](#) demonstrates the impact of this approach. Through over 280 youth voice groups this year, children have been supported to share their views on issues that matter to them, influencing services and strategic decision-making. For example, our care experienced children have chosen projects that are important to them and worked hard to make changes to the care system they are a part of. Practitioners report that when children are genuinely heard, it positively impacts confidence, belonging and engagement, with one foster carer sharing that a child *"really feels like she has a voice now and that people are taking notice."*

Recent inspection findings from [His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services \(HMICFRS\)](#) highlighted positive practice within North Yorkshire Police, finding that in 14 of the 16 records reviewed, officers had clearly recorded the voice of the child within safeguarding referrals, ensuring that children's experiences, wishes and needs informed safeguarding decisions.



Voice of the child
'quick guide' - part
of the NYSCP [Voice
of the child toolkit](#)

North Yorkshire
Safeguarding Children Partnership

Things to consider - quick guide

Be child-centred & Developmentally attuned Tailor communication to the child's age, understanding, and preferred ways of expressing themselves.	Offer choice and control Let them choose how to share (e.g., "Would you like to draw or talk?"). Respect their "no," consent is key, even at a young age.	Create safe, trusting relationships Children are more likely to share when they feel emotionally safe and respected.	Use a range of communication methods Consider drawing, play, storytelling, visual tools, and observation, especially for babies, non-verbal children, or those with SEND.	Consider context Think about the places and spaces where a child may or may not want to share their voice.
Be curious & reflective, not interrogative Explore what a child's behaviour, silence, or play might be communicating. Avoid assumptions or adult interpretations.	Respect identity and difference Consider how culture, disability, gender, and lived experience shape how a child communicates and is heard.	Act on what is heard Demonstrate that the child's voice influences decisions and outcomes. Feedback loops build trust and credibility.	Reflect and Validate Mirror their language and emotions: "It sounds like that made you feel sad." Praise their effort to share, not just the content.	Challenge barriers and biases Be aware of unconscious bias, power dynamics, and systemic inequalities that may silence or distort the child's voice.
Be aware and curious about what a child is not saying or doing The voice of a child can also be demonstrated through the absence of something as well as the presence of something.	Create safe, predictable spaces Use routines and familiar settings to reduce anxiety. Give clear, simple explanations about what's happening and why.	Be creative Use play and creativity to think about the best way to communicate with and hear the voice of the child. Explore resources and use of technology.	Use open-ended questions Tell me about your day," or "What was the best part of your week?" Avoid leading questions or pressure to get the information you feel you need. Listen to what the child wants to tell you.	Be patient and understanding There may be times when a child does not want to speak to you. Acknowledge and understand that, reflect and be curious why this may be.

**VOICE
OF THE CHILD
TOOLKIT**

All children have the right to be heard and taken seriously in matters which affect them.
— Article 12, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

If the behaviour could talk, what would it say?

Only those who truly care can hear you even when you're quiet.

Hearing Children in North Yorkshire

Partners from Harrogate District Foundation Trust shared how feedback is routinely collected to support ongoing evaluation of the 0–19 Service. Using a star-rating system and online surveys, parents and service users can provide quick and accessible feedback on the quality, accessibility, and overall effectiveness of the care they receive. This simple rating approach enables consistent data collection and allows the service to monitor trends in satisfaction over time, identify areas of good practice, and highlight opportunities for improvement. The feedback gathered supports a responsive, evidence-based approach to service development and ensures that the voices of children and families remain central to shaping high-quality, person-centred care across the 0–19 pathway. The service currently holds a star rating of 4.57 out of a 5. From April 2025 – January 2026, there were 1150 responses from parents, 84% of these provided a good or very good overall rating of the service.

The digital tool, [Mind of My Own](#), has strengthened how children can communicate their wishes, feelings and views. This platform enables children to share their experiences directly with practitioners, independently or alongside conversations in practice, supporting more honest and accessible communication. The system has now reached a significant milestone of 10,000 voices heard across North Yorkshire, reinforcing the scale and consistency of engagement with children.

The [Growing Up in North Yorkshire \(GUNY\)](#) survey is a key source of system-wide insight into children's lived experiences. Although the most recent data was collected in 2024, it remained highly relevant during 2025–2026, informing partnership priorities, service development and safeguarding practice. The next survey is scheduled for later in 2026.

The 2024 survey captured the views of over 15,000 children and young people across North Yorkshire. Key themes included emotional wellbeing and resilience, trusted relationships, online safety, healthy relationships, and feeling safe in school and the community.

This evidence has strengthened the partnership's focus on mental health and wellbeing, exploitation, online harm, trusted adults and relationship-based practice. It also supports the identification of positive trends, areas for improvement and differences in outcomes for specific groups of children.

Wider engagement, including the [Youth Commission](#) and local consultation, has further informed understanding of children's priorities and experiences. Through the [Big Conversation](#), young people identified community safety, relationships, online harm and trust in services as key issues.

These findings have supported partners to challenge assumptions, reflect on practice and ensure children's views inform service design, communication and decision-making. The Youth Commission model also enables young people to contribute actively to safeguarding improvement.

Learning from practitioners and partners also identified the need for greater consistency in how children's voices are captured, evidenced and used in decision-making, particularly for younger children, non-verbal children and children with additional needs.

This led to the development of the Voice of the Child Toolkit, which supports practitioners to listen to, understand and evidence children's lived experiences in a meaningful and consistent way.

Hearing Children in North Yorkshire

The Voice of the Child work has been a significant area of partnership impact during 2025–2026, strengthening child-centred safeguarding practice across North Yorkshire and attracting national attention. NYSCP launched a practical [Voice of the Child toolkit](#) to support professionals to better hear, record and respond to children’s lived experiences, with a particular focus on meaningful engagement, open and reflective questioning, non-verbal communication, observation, professional curiosity and relationship-based practice.



Hearing Parents / Carers and the Wider Network

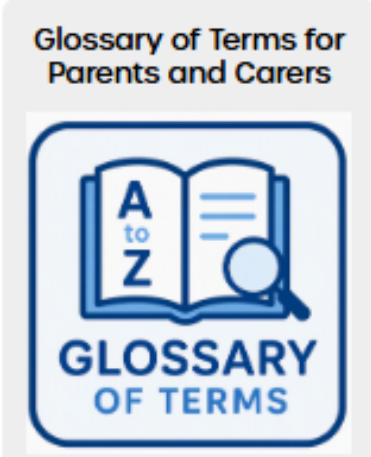
Hearing from parents, carers and the wider network around children is critical to effective safeguarding. Families are often best placed to understand children’s experiences, strengths and risks, and their insight is essential in developing meaningful plans that keep children safe and supported. Across North Yorkshire, there has been a continued focus on strengthening how families are involved in assessment, decision-making and support, particularly through approaches that emphasise relationship-based practice and working alongside family networks.

The partnership has also strengthened how information and support is provided directly to parents and carers. The dedicated [parents and carers section of the NYSCP website](#) has received over 7,000 views during the reporting period, demonstrating increasing engagement and accessibility of safeguarding information. This ensures families are better informed about risks, support available, and how to raise concerns, contributing to earlier help and more proactive safeguarding.

Learning from national and local partners has also shaped practice. The Ivison Trust report, [From Excluded to Included](#), shared with the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) Operational Group, highlighted the experiences of families navigating exploitation and the importance of listening to parents as partners in safeguarding. This has strengthened professional understanding of the barriers families face and the need for improved communication, trust and coordinated support.



Our dedicated page for parents and carers on the NYSCP website can be accessed [here](#):



Following feedback from parents and carer consultation groups a [partnership glossary of terms](#) was developed

NYSCP Key Safeguarding Data 2025 - 26

Data helps us identify patterns and ask better questions, but it does not tell the whole story. We use it alongside the voices and lived experiences of children and families, practitioner insight and wider learning to deepen our understanding and remain curious about what may sit behind the numbers.

636

Missing episodes



missing episodes in 2025/26
58 fewer (-8%) than in 2024/25

144

Exploitation



children at risk at end of 2025/26
49 CSE • 95 CCE
2 fewer than 2024/25

2,230

Violent crime



crimes reported in 2025/26
76 fewer (-3%) than in 2024/25

775

Sexual offences



crimes reported in 2025/26
18 fewer (-2%) than in 2024/25

34,592

Contacts received by MAST



contacts in 2025/26
2,834 more (+9%) than in
2024/25

4,935

Referrals to Children's Social Care



referrals in 2025/26
779 fewer (-14%) than in
2024/25

19.5%

Repeat referrals



rate across 2025/26

3,992

New Early Help cases



new family cases in 2025/26
440 fewer (-10%) than in
2024/25

608

Child Protection Plans



children subject to a CPP
at the end of 2025/26
30 fewer (-5%) than end of 2024/25

22.4%

Second/subsequent CPP



rate across 2025/26
2.6 percentage points lower than 2024/25

613

Children looked after

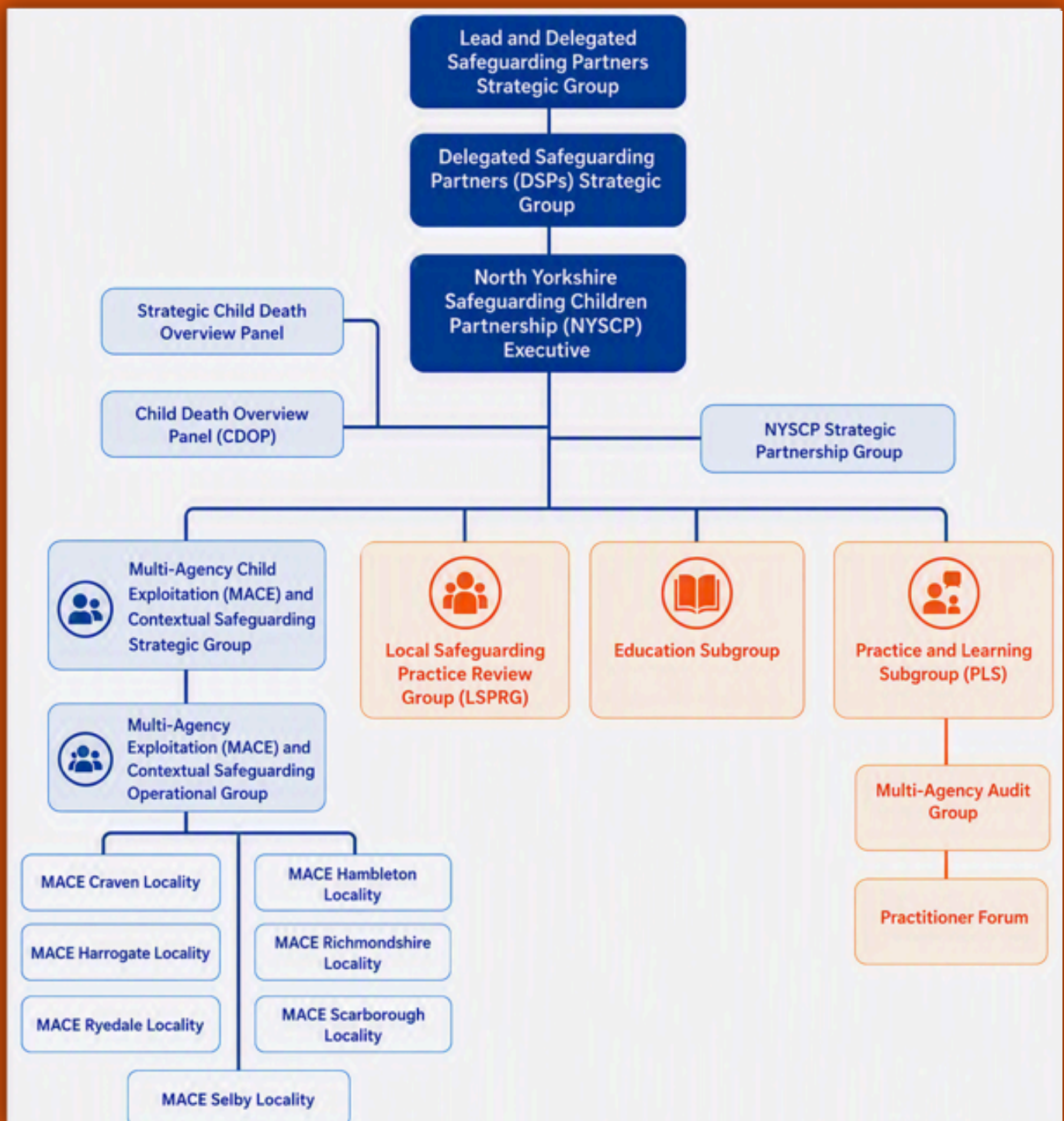


by the local authority
children in care at end of 2025/26

Our NYSCP Subgroup Structure

Our NYSCP operates under a subgroup structure, ensuring strong leadership, effective partnership working and clear oversight of safeguarding across North Yorkshire. Groups focus on key priorities, share learning and drive improvement to help keep children happy, healthy, safe and achieving in North Yorkshire.

Further work and achievements from each of the groups are highlighted next in the report.



Our NYSCP Subgroup Structure

Executive Group

The NYSCP Executive provides strategic leadership, scrutiny and assurance for the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in North Yorkshire. It oversees delivery of partnership priorities, considers evidence of impact and risk, and holds partners to account for improving outcomes for children and families

Across this reporting period, the Executive has provided robust oversight of safeguarding practice through scrutiny of rapid reviews and local learning reviews, including complex cases such as fabricated or induced illness and serious harm to infants. Assurance activity has been strengthened through multi-agency audits, performance data (including improvements in missing children practice), and partner reports highlighting emerging risks such as online harm and increasing demand in sexual offending and exploitation. The Executive has played a key role in ensuring that learning leads to change. This has included oversight of safeguarding practice reviews, scrutiny of audit findings and driving improvements in areas such as multi-agency decision-making, Child Protection planning and consistency of thresholds.

KIT

The NYSCP Strategic Partnership Group, known locally as the partnership weekly Keep in Touch (KIT) meetings, provide a critical mechanism for strengthening strategic safeguarding oversight and responsiveness across partners. By bringing together senior leads from the three statutory agencies on a weekly basis, KIT enables timely sharing of

intelligence, emerging risks, and practice issues, ensuring concerns are identified and escalated early. This model adds value by creating a consistent, trusted space for multi-agency dialogue, supporting coordinated responses to complex cases and maintaining momentum on agreed actions through regular review. It also strengthens system leadership by ensuring that strategic challenge, learning, and escalation are aligned across the partnership.

Ultimately, KIT enhances the partnership's ability to respond quickly to safeguarding concerns, improves the quality of decision-making, and ensures that risks to children are addressed in a timely and coordinated way.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The death of a child is one of the most devastating events any family, community, or professional network can experience. At the centre of this work is a recognition that, while nothing can undo such a loss, there remains a responsibility to learn with care and purpose, often described as “the last, best thing we can do for a child.”

The Child Death Review process brings partners together to understand how and why children die, ensuring that every child's life is honoured through learning and reflection. It is a statutory, multi-agency process, underpinned by Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, which focuses on identifying modifiable factors and opportunities to reduce the risk of future deaths.



Our NYSCP Subgroup Structure

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), continued...

During 2025–2026, the CDOP has continued to strengthen its impact through robust analysis, partnership working and a commitment to compassionate, trauma-informed practice. Reviews are undertaken with a clear focus on learning, recognising the complexity of families’ lives and the wider context in which children’s deaths occur.

CDOP learning informed prevention activity across safe sleep, parental health, road safety and early identification of risk. Campaign work included preparation for the Ready for Parenthood launch, alongside continued promotion of Who’s in Charge/Who’s Sober and Be Bright, Be Seen, Be Safe messages to reduce preventable harm. Details of this year’s CDOP annual report can be accessed here: [NYSCP](#).

Safeguarding Practice Review Group (SPRG)

The Safeguarding Practice Review Group (SPRG) provides oversight of the partnership’s arrangements for identifying, reviewing and learning from serious safeguarding incidents. Its purpose is to ensure that Rapid Reviews, Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and other local learning activity are undertaken in a timely, proportionate and robust way, and that learning is used to improve safeguarding practice across the system. Learning from serious safeguarding incidents is essential because it helps partners understand what happened to a child, why it happened, and whether there are wider issues in practice, systems or multi-agency working that need to change. This supports a culture of openness, reflection and professional challenge, ensuring that learning leads to action and reduces the risk of similar harm occurring in the future.

Safeguarding Practice Review Group: Learning from Rapid Reviews and Local Reviews 2025–2026

During April 2025 to March 2026, SPRG continued to ensure that Rapid Reviews, Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and other local learning activity were undertaken in a timely, proportionate and robust way. The focus throughout the year has been on understanding what happened for children, why it happened, and what needs to change across the partnership so that learning leads to improved safeguarding practice.

Work undertaken during the year

SPRG considered a range of serious and complex safeguarding circumstances during the year, including reviews relating to fabricated or induced illness, non-accidental injury in babies and young children, chronic neglect, parental mental health, private law proceedings, cumulative risk, and complex family dynamics. Reviews included both notifiable incidents considered through the Rapid Review process and locally reviewed cases where the circumstances did not require a full Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review, but where multi-agency learning was identified.

Practitioner Briefing Documents Related to SPRG Reviews

- [Child AH — Non-Accidental Injury in a Non-Mobile Infant](#)
- [Child AJ — Parental Mental Health, Private Law and Risk Visibility](#)
- [Child AG — Fabricated or Induced Illness](#)



Our NYSCP Subgroup Structure

Safeguarding Practice Review Group (SPRG): Learning Summary

Area of SPRG activity	What the reviews highlighted	What has been done in response
Fabricated or induced illness and medical complexity	Reviews highlighted the importance of professional curiosity, triangulating parental accounts with medical evidence, and maintaining clear multi-agency oversight where children have complex presentations or repeated contact with health services.	Learning has been translated into practitioner briefings, reflection questions and links to guidance so practitioners can recognise patterns of concern, challenge assumptions and seek timely multi-agency discussion.
Non-accidental injury in non-mobile infants and very young children	Reviews reinforced the particular vulnerability of babies and non-mobile infants, the importance of understanding family stressors and caregiver relationships, and the need to ensure that information is shared before decisions are made about supervision or safety arrangements.	Briefings and workforce development have reinforced messages about child protection medical assessments, follow-up strategy meetings, safe escalation and the need to keep the baby's lived experience central to decision-making.
Neglect and cumulative harm	Several reviews identified that risk can become normalised when concerns are viewed as separate incidents rather than as part of a cumulative pattern over time.	Learning has informed work to strengthen the partnership's approach to neglect, including development of a Neglect Toolkit and plans for further audit activity. Practitioners have been reminded of the importance of chronologies, cumulative risk analysis and clear case summaries.
Parental mental health, private law and conditional threats	Reviews highlighted the need to keep risk visible where concerns are historical, conditional, non-immediate or linked to changing family circumstances, including private law proceedings and adult mental health needs.	SPRG learning has informed partnership activity on maternal filicide risk awareness, professional curiosity, risk escalation and the management of "important but not urgent" safeguarding concerns.
Multi-agency communication and information sharing	Reviews consistently identified that children are safer when relevant information reaches the right professionals in a timely, accessible and meaningful way. Assumptions that information has been shared can create gaps in safeguarding oversight.	Learning has been shared through themed briefings, training resources, reflective questions and links to NYSCP guidance on information sharing, professional curiosity, challenge and resolution.

Our NYSCP Subgroup Structure

Safeguarding Practice Review Group (SPRG), continued...

How learning has been shared and embedded

A key area of progress during 2025–2026 has been ensuring learning from SPRG does not remain at strategic level. Learning has been translated into accessible practitioner briefings, workforce development activity, updated practice guidance, reflection questions and links to key resources. This supports frontline practitioners and teams to apply learning in day-to-day safeguarding practice and strengthens professional curiosity, information sharing, child-centred decision-making and effective multi-agency challenge.

Practitioner briefing documents have been redesigned in response to feedback from the Practitioner Forum so that learning is clearer, more visual and easier to use. Each briefing summarises the context, areas of strength, areas for development and questions for reflection. This helps practitioners and teams move from awareness of learning to active reflection about how learning applies to their own work. Safeguarding practice review learning is also available through the NYSCP Learning for Professionals webpage, providing a central place for practitioners to access summaries, thematic messages, practice tools and related guidance.



Our NYSCP Subgroup Structure

Practice and Learning Subgroup (PLS)

The Practice and Learning Subgroup (PLS) is the partnership forum responsible for ensuring that learning from reviews, audits, data, practitioner feedback and safeguarding intelligence is translated into meaningful improvement across North Yorkshire. Bringing together statutory and non-statutory partners, the subgroup oversees practice development, workforce learning, policy and guidance, and provides assurance that partnership learning is leading to improvements in safeguarding practice and outcomes for children and young people.

During 2025–2026, PLS maintained oversight of learning arising from safeguarding practice reviews, multi-agency audits, Child Death Overview Panel themes, national developments and partner assurance activity. This learning informed partnership priorities, workforce development, practice guidance and improvement activity across the safeguarding system.

Strengthening Assurance and Improvement

PLS uses audit findings, review learning, partner updates and safeguarding intelligence to identify emerging themes, monitor progress and provide challenge where further assurance is required. A structured programme of assurance reports and recurring partner updates supports oversight of key priorities and enables the partnership to respond to new and emerging risks.

The subgroup has also overseen the development of practical tools and resources to support frontline practice, including the [Voice of the Child Toolkit](#), practitioner briefings and thematic guidance. Learning from all safeguarding practice reviews is incorporated into the PLS workplan and monitored through partnership governance arrangements to ensure recommendations lead to tangible action. The PLS workplan has been modified this year, with an increased focus on impact and outcomes of actions.

Practitioner Forum

The Practitioner Forum has continued to provide a strong and effective mechanism for capturing frontline insight and strengthening the connection between practice and strategic decision making. The network currently includes over 70 practitioners from across education, health, social care and the voluntary sector, with typical attendance ranging between 10–25 practitioners per session.

The forum offers an open, practitioner-led space to share emerging themes, reflect on practice, and influence partnership priorities. It promotes learning across agencies, supports dissemination of key messages, and strengthens professional networks. Practitioners consistently describe the forum as valuable for both learning and connection, with feedback including: *“I’ve developed relationships outside of this meeting as a result of coming”* and *“it reminds me that the partnership is here.”* The forum also supports reflective practice, with practitioners noting *“you don’t know what you don’t know... I now ask new questions.”*

A key area of impact has been the forum’s direct contribution to the development of partnership resources. Practitioners have shaped the Voice of the Child Toolkit, contributed to the [Harmful Sexual Behaviour Toolkit](#), and influenced the development of practitioner briefing documents; ensuring resources and key elements of learning are practical, accessible, and grounded in real practice. This includes feedback to make documents more visual, concise and usable in day-to-day work.

Importantly, practitioners report that the forum provides a meaningful platform for influence: *“it’s nice to know you are having an influence, and you have a voice.”* This ensures that partnership development is informed by lived practice, resulting in more relevant tools, stronger engagement, and improved safeguarding responses across the system.

Our NYSCP Subgroup Structure

Multi – Agency Child Exploitation & Contextual Safeguarding (MACE)

Child exploitation is complex and often hidden, rarely occurring in isolation. It can involve harm from individuals, peer groups, organised crime networks and online environments, and is frequently linked to wider vulnerabilities such as missing episodes, exclusion from education, trauma, and unmet needs. Children may not always recognise or disclose harm, and risks can change quickly, requiring a coordinated and multi-agency response.

In North Yorkshire, the partnership response is guided by the [MACE and Contextual Safeguarding Strategy](#), which sets out a whole-system approach to preventing harm, protecting children, disrupting perpetrators and preparing children and communities to reduce risk. This reflects a shift from viewing risk solely within the home to recognising the wider contexts in which children live their lives, including schools, communities and online spaces.

MACE Strategic Group

The MACE Strategic Group provides leadership and oversight of the partnership response to child exploitation, ensuring a coordinated approach to prevention, disruption and support.

During 2025–2026, the group has driven significant progress in strengthening both early intervention and system coordination. Additional investment in prevention services, including work with schools and community-based programmes, has supported earlier identification of children at risk, particularly those vulnerable to exclusion or disengagement from education.

A key achievement has been the development and embedding of practical tools and resources, including the [disruption toolkit](#). This provides clear guidance for frontline practitioners on how to disrupt exploitation, improving consistency and confidence across agencies. Learning events and intelligence-sharing sessions have further strengthened information sharing and professional understanding of emerging risks.

The Strategic Group has also strengthened the partnership's use of data and intelligence, identifying emerging themes such as younger children being identified at risk, online recruitment through social media, and links between exploitation and issues such as school exclusion and substance misuse. This has led to a stronger focus on data development, audit activity and understanding the impact of multi-agency disruption plans.

Alongside this, the group has improved multi-agency coordination and system oversight, including aligning exploitation work with Families First and Risk Outside the Home developments, strengthening joint working between services and ensuring a more integrated response to complex safeguarding risks.

MACE Operational Group

The MACE Operational Group plays a key role in translating strategic priorities into frontline practice, bringing partners together to share intelligence, respond to emerging risks and drive coordinated multi-agency action.

During 2025–2026, the group has responded to increasing demand and complexity in child exploitation, with partners reporting high levels of risk, younger children being identified and increasing multi-faceted exploitation involving both online and community contexts. In response, the group has strengthened its focus on early identification, workforce development and practical tools to support frontline practice.

A key achievement has been the development and dissemination of a range of accessible resources for practitioners, including the [MACE quick guide](#) and the monthly MACE Bulletin. These provide clear, practical information on processes, thresholds, emerging themes and good practice, ensuring that learning from across the partnership is shared consistently and in a format that supports day-to-day decision making.

Our NYSCP Subgroup Structure

Multi – Agency Child Exploitation Group, continued...

The group has also significantly strengthened training and workforce development. This includes multi-agency training sessions, specialist social worker workshops, and targeted input to schools and services, with partners reporting increased confidence in recognising exploitation, understanding grooming and applying disruption approaches.

There has been a strong focus on prevention and engagement, particularly through partnership work with schools and communities. This includes coordinated delivery of awareness sessions, parent engagement and youth-focused interventions, supporting children and families to better understand exploitation and seek help early.

The Operational Group has also driven improvements in intelligence sharing and disruption activity, including the promotion of learning events, development of disruption planning resources and strengthening links with policing and community safety partners. Work has focused on improving how disruption activity is understood, coordinated and evaluated across agencies.

In March 2026, the partnership marked Child Exploitation Awareness Day through coordinated multi-agency activity, including online learning and awareness-raising for professionals and the public. This built on ongoing work to ensure consistent messaging, improve understanding of exploitation and promote opportunities for intervention at the earliest stage.

A key priority has also been ensuring that learning and resources are accessible beyond formal meetings. The continued promotion of the [BeAware knowledge hub](#) has provided a central, publicly accessible platform for guidance, learning and support. Over the reporting period, the hub has received nearly 10,000 views, demonstrating strong engagement across partners and the wider community. The hub supports practitioners, families and communities to better understand exploitation, recognise risk and access support at the earliest opportunity.

National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Panel

The North Yorkshire and City of York National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Panel provides multi agency oversight of children who may be victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. Through robust information sharing and evidence-based decision making, the panel helps ensure that children experiencing exploitation receive timely safeguarding support and that risks are clearly identified and understood.

Between April 2025 and March 2026, 41 children were referred into the North Yorkshire element of the pilot, reflecting the continued need for coordinated responses to increasingly complex forms of exploitation. The panel has identified a growing number of cases involving multiple and overlapping vulnerabilities, requiring more detailed multi-agency assessment and planning.



Our NYSCP Subgroup Structure

Spotlight: The Child Exploitation Summit

The MACE Summit brought together professionals from across North Yorkshire to build a shared understanding of child exploitation, contextual safeguarding, intelligence sharing and disruption activity. Through expert speakers, interactive workshops and a partnership marketplace, delegates strengthened connections, exchanged knowledge and explored how we can work together to keep children safe.



NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILD EXPLOITATION SUMMIT 2025

18th June 2025
Harrogate Convention Centre

WWW.SAFEGUARDINGCHILDREN.CO.UK/BEAWARE

160

Professionals attended on the day.

200

Places made available across North Yorkshire partners.

Sold Out

Places were fully booked within three weeks of promotion.

100%

Positive satisfaction response from delegates completing the NYES evaluation.

WHAT DID PARTNERS LEARN?

The summit included expert speakers from Public Health, Community Safety, NYSCP, National Working Group, St Giles Services, Counter Terrorism Police, North Yorkshire Police (Serious and Organised Crime) and Children and Families Service.

Key learning themes included:

- Importance of intelligence sharing
- Understanding organised criminal exploitation
- Contextual safeguarding and harm outside the home
- Multi-agency disruption activity
- Professional curiosity
- Working alongside parents as safeguarding partners

Partners gained greater awareness of commissioned services, disruption tactics, Youth MAPS, the National Referral Mechanism and how intelligence – even small pieces – can make a real difference.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DID THIS MAKE?

Partners told us they would:

- Share more intelligence
- Attend MACE meetings
- Strengthen multi-agency working
- Promote professional curiosity
- Apply disruption approaches in practice
- Share learning with safeguarding teams and DSLs

IMPACT

“There was a strong theme of positive feedback in relation to the sharing of intelligence and highlighting the importance of intelligence and how it can make a difference.”

PARTNER FEEDBACK

“I learnt so much... everyone was buzzing as they left.”

Dr Gill Kelly

“The attendance was so strong and the mix of disciplines was great – I learnt loads from conversations had at our table.”

DCI Fi McEwan

“It was an excellent conference... great work going off in the County.”

Steve Baguley, National Working Group

“Very insightful with thought provoking questions raised throughout the day.”

Public Health Delegate

“Great day – well organised, relevant and engaging.”

Community Safety Delegate

MARKETPLACE

A marketplace was available throughout the day, giving partners the opportunity to connect with a range of services across North Yorkshire.

Stalls included:

- NYSCP
- Papyrus
- St Giles Trust
- Ivison Trust
- LADO
- School Police Liaison Officers
- Christina Gabbittas – No More Knives
- Community Safety Partnership

Delegates reported an increased understanding and knowledge of these services through valuable conversations.

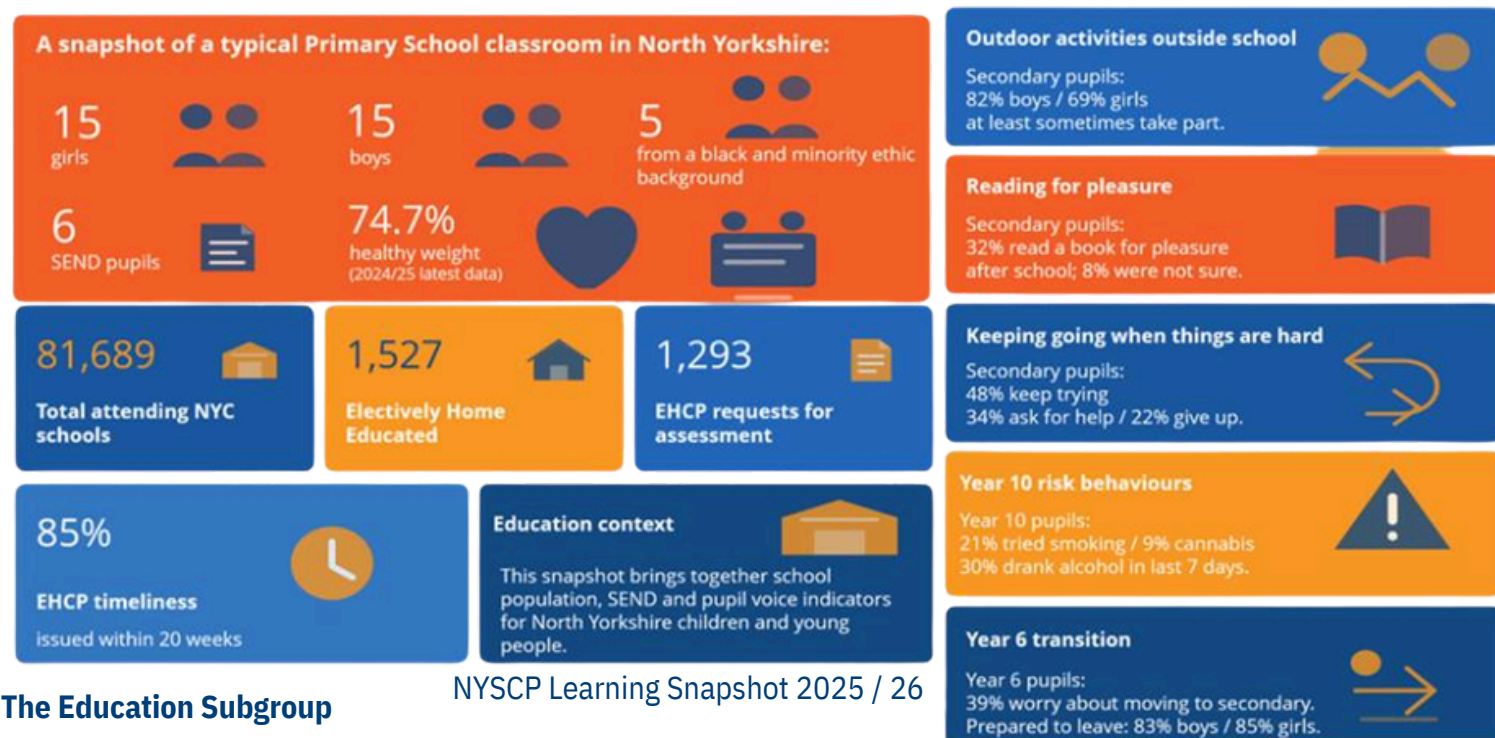
AFTERNOON WORKSHOP

The day concluded with an interactive workshop led by Children and Families Service, looking at partnership roles in disruption.

Using a case study of “Bobby”, partners explored how risk escalates from low to high over time and considered our roles in disruption at every level.

Feedback highlighted the need to focus more on disruption in places and spaces and on perpetrators, as well as working in partnership with families.

Working with Education Partners



The Education Subgroup

The Education Subgroup has continued to strengthen its role as a strategic community of practice, bringing together partners across education and safeguarding to shape and influence multi-agency arrangements. The group provides a dedicated forum to ensure education settings are fully engaged in safeguarding, with a clear focus on promoting welfare, sharing learning, and influencing partnership priorities.

Over the year, there has been a deliberate focus on strengthening representation, ensuring a broader education voice across the partnership. Membership has expanded to include early years, further education, and a wider range of settings, with proactive work to address gaps in engagement and ensure all sectors are represented.

The subgroup has demonstrated clear impact through influencing policy and practice, including contributing to safeguarding audit development, shaping partnership workplans, and supporting changes to guidance such as restrictive physical intervention; evidencing a clear line from discussion to system change.

Education subgroup representation at the Strategic Development Day further strengthened this influence, providing a direct platform to share the realities of safeguarding within schools. Partners were able to articulate pressures linked to inclusion and highlight the complexities of safeguarding in education, ensuring senior leaders and commissioners had a clear understanding of barriers to keeping children safe. This has strengthened system-wide understanding and informed future commissioning and decision-making.

Partners describe the subgroup as a space where information is “gathered in and shared out”, supporting stronger communication and reducing siloed working. The group enables open challenge “discussions are held, warts and all” and fosters connectivity, with one partner noting it has “allowed me to build relationships and strengthen links with children’s services”. It has contributed to “a shift in culture”, where education is consistently considered in decision making, and supports “full circle learning”, ensuring learning is embedded and revisited across the system.

Email banner for members of the Education Subgroup



Working with Education Partners

DSL Conference

The 2025 Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Conference continued to strengthen safeguarding practice across education, bringing together 186 delegates and 63 partner organisations. Responding directly to partner feedback, the event focused on health-related safeguarding issues, including mental health, neurodiversity, trauma-informed practice, suicide prevention and the links between education and health services.

The conference had a clear impact on practice. Overall, 89% of delegates rated the event as good or excellent, with many identifying immediate actions to take back into their settings, including reviewing policies, strengthening mental health support and embedding whole-school safeguarding approaches. Delegates described the day as “[inspirational – so many practical ideas to bring back to school](#)” and valued the opportunity to “[collaborate with colleagues and discuss shared experiences](#).”

The keynote session, [Thriving on Disorder: Reshaping ADHD in an Education Setting](#), delivered by James Koppert, was particularly influential, with many of the delegates identifying it as the most valuable part of the day. Feedback described the session as “[outstanding, really engaging and lots to take away](#)”, leading to further training being delivered in schools across North Yorkshire.

The conference also strengthened multi-agency relationships through engagement with 33 partner organisations in the marketplace, helping schools access support and build ongoing safeguarding networks. Feedback has directly shaped planning for future events, including more practice-focused workshops, clearer session information and refined networking opportunities.



[Our DSL conference resource pack](#)



[James Koppert delivers a keynote to DSL partners at the 2025 DSL conference](#)

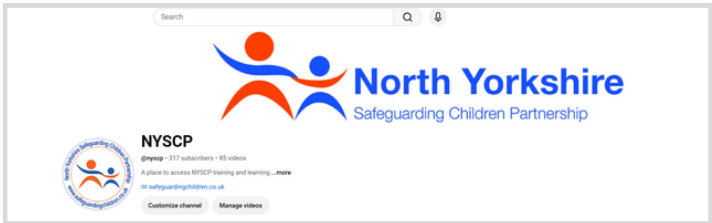
Working with Education Partners

DSL Network Meetings

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Network remains an important route for the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) to engage directly with school safeguarding leads. Delivered through termly online sessions, the network provides timely updates on safeguarding priorities, learning from reviews and audits, policy developments, and partner resources.

During 2025–26, the network has shared learning from safeguarding practice reviews, thematic audits, alongside contributions from partners including YGAM, Ivison Trust, Public Health and the Police School Liaison Team. Key topics have included harmful sexual behaviour, Prevent, poverty proofing, the Growing Up in North Yorkshire survey and CPOMS.

Impact is enhanced through the accessibility of the sessions, which are recorded and shared via the [NYSCP YouTube channel](#), extending learning beyond live attendees and supporting wider dissemination across schools and academy trusts.



Purpose

- Engage DSLs across North Yorkshire
- Share safeguarding updates, learning & resources
- Key education route for NYSCP learning dissemination



What We Shared

- Learning from **case reviews** and **audits**
- New **guidance** and safeguarding tools
- Local and national updates
- Input from partners: YGAM, Ivison Trust, Police, Public Health



Partners: YGAM | Prevent | Poverty | GUNY | Ivison Trust | CPOMS

How Learning Is Shared

- Online sessions accessible to all schools
- Sessions recorded and shared on YouTube
- Supports DSLs to cascade learning in schools



"Really helpful for DSLs"

Impact

- Stronger consistency of safeguarding messages
- Increased awareness of emerging risks
- Improved access to practical tools & guidance
- Stronger links between education & safeguarding partners



Alongside the DSL Networks, the partnership continues to engage with the wider education sector through regular Headteacher Briefings and Governor Updates, providing safeguarding updates, sharing learning from reviews and inspections, and ensuring that key safeguarding messages reach strategic leaders and governing bodies across North Yorkshire. This helps strengthen safeguarding culture, accountability and oversight across education settings.

Working with Education Partners

Early Years Education

Early years providers play a critical role in safeguarding, with strong relationships, daily contact with children and a deep understanding of family contexts enabling early identification of need and timely support.

In North Yorkshire, there are over 600 early years providers, the partnership continues to prioritise engagement with early years settings, recognising their unique contribution to safeguarding children at the earliest stage of life.

A key area of development has been the delivery of termly Early Years safeguarding twilight sessions, designed specifically to meet the needs of the workforce. Delivered in the evening to accommodate working patterns, these online sessions are consistently attended by 100–150 practitioners, ensuring wide reach across the sector.

The sessions provide timely updates on safeguarding practice, emerging themes, policy changes and learning from local and national reviews. They also create space for shared learning, reflection and strengthening professional networks across education, health and safeguarding partners.

SPOTLIGHT

Partnership Learning, Early Years Twilight Events

Early Years twilight sessions are a key strength of the NYSCP training and learning offer. Delivered outside core working hours, these sessions are consistently well attended and provide:

- Updates on legislation and statutory guidance
- Insight into local and national safeguarding themes
- Opportunities for practitioners to reflect on and strengthen practice

2 sessions per year

160+ consistently attended by over 160 early years practitioners

"The best 'masterclass' I have attended. Thank you so much for putting it on."

"Very interesting and informative course, which I believe I can use in my daily role as an Early Years Practitioner and within my setting."

“ In terms of impact, we are seeing clear benefits across practice including an increased confidence in recognising and responding to concerns as well as more reflective practice. The opportunity for teams to learn together is also supporting more cohesive approaches to implementation and continuous improvement **”**

Helen Smith
Head of Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency

This model of delivery has supported increased accessibility, enabling practitioners to engage in high-quality safeguarding learning without impacting on service delivery, and contributing to improved confidence in recognising and responding to safeguarding concerns.

Working with Wider Safeguarding Partners

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector

The Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector remains a vital safeguarding partner across North Yorkshire, with over 7,000 organisations supported by 67,000 volunteers and 15,000 paid staff. During 2025–26, the partnership strengthened engagement with VCSE organisations, recognising their unique ability to build trusted relationships, provide early intervention and reach children and families who may be less likely to engage with statutory services.

VCSE organisations have continued to provide mentoring, therapeutic support and positive activities, helping children build confidence, resilience and a sense of belonging. Through regular community-based contact, VCSE partners have played an important role in identifying concerns earlier, particularly around emotional wellbeing, family stress, exploitation and isolation. This has supported increased early help engagement, improved referral quality and greater continuity of support for families awaiting specialist services.

Work with Community First Yorkshire has strengthened safeguarding practice across the sector, increasing confidence in recognising and responding to concerns, improving recording and decision-making, and promoting earlier advice-seeking. This reflects a shift towards more preventative safeguarding approaches and a stronger safeguarding culture across community organisations.

Partnership working with VCSE organisations has also enhanced multi-agency responses. Increased involvement in safeguarding discussions has improved information sharing, strengthened understanding of children's lived experiences and supported more holistic assessments of risk, including the impact of poverty and rural isolation.

The partnership has continued to promote accessible safeguarding resources co-produced with VCSE partners, including the Key Safeguarding Messages webpage, which received over 100 views during the reporting period, supporting communities to recognise concerns and seek help earlier.

Working with Safer North Yorkshire

The NYSCP continues to work closely with [Safer North Yorkshire](#) to strengthen the links between safeguarding and community safety. This joint approach helps partners share intelligence, identify emerging risks and intervene earlier where children may be affected by exploitation, domestic abuse, contextual safeguarding or other vulnerabilities.

During 2025–2026, partners collaborated on joint guidance, awareness campaigns, workforce development and Safeguarding Week, supporting consistent messages across professional networks and communities.

A key development has been the introduction of Children and Young People Multi-Agency Problem Solving meetings within Community Safety Hubs, bringing together police, children's services, schools, mental health and community partners to coordinate earlier support for children at risk of exploitation, anti-social behaviour or other safeguarding concerns.

Links between safeguarding and domestic abuse responses have also been strengthened through joint commissioning, education, prevention activity and improved MARAC arrangements. This supports earlier, trauma-informed help for children affected by domestic abuse, recognising them as victims in their own right.

The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board continues to support the NYSCP's ambition that children in North Yorkshire are safe, supported and able to thrive, with ongoing alignment between safeguarding, community safety and health partnerships remaining critical.

Working with Wider Safeguarding Partners

Working with North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board



Effective safeguarding does not stop when a young person reaches adulthood. Many of the issues affecting children and young people—such as exploitation, domestic abuse, mental health, neglect, self-neglect, substance misuse and vulnerability to harm—continue into adulthood. For this reason, the NYSCP works closely with the [North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board \(NYSAB\)](#) to ensure a joined-up approach to safeguarding across children's and adults' services.

During 2025–2026, we collaborated with NYSAB in Safeguarding Week, delivering shared learning on themes that affect both children and adults, including exploitation,

domestic abuse, trauma-informed practice and professional curiosity. This helped promote a consistent safeguarding culture across the workforce and strengthened understanding of complex risks that span traditional service boundaries.

Partnership working has also supported the development and promotion of joint guidance and learning resources, helping professionals respond more effectively to complex family circumstances and ensuring greater consistency in safeguarding practice across organisations.

A key area of collaboration has been transitional safeguarding; working together to strengthen understanding

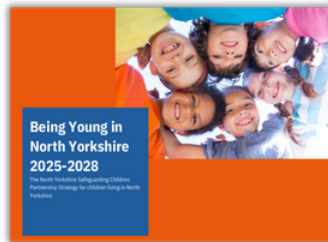
of vulnerability beyond the age of 18 and improve how agencies plan and coordinate support for young people moving into adulthood.

The Boards have also worked together on [Section 11](#) and safeguarding assurance activity, identifying shared themes around governance, information sharing and workforce development. This has strengthened partnership oversight and supported continuous improvement across the safeguarding system.



Being Young in North Yorkshire

The strategy launched in early 2025 and over the year there has been continual impact and improvement focused on the 4 key priority areas.



Click the image to access the full strategy



Our Priorities

Happy

Children's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Partners have worked together to prioritise children's mental health and emotional wellbeing, recognising its central role in safeguarding and long-term outcomes. Collaboration between health, education and early help services has supported a more integrated approach, with increased focus on early identification and intervention. The partnership has continued to promote awareness, reduce stigma and ensure that children and young people are able to access appropriate support.

What children in North Yorkshire told us

Emotional wellbeing amongst primary-aged children has improved since 2022, with more children reporting high wellbeing and fewer reporting low wellbeing. However, resilience remains a significant concern for secondary-aged children, particularly girls, with almost half of young people in Years 8 and 10 reporting low resilience. Children told us that trusted relationships, belonging and emotional support continue to matter most.

Being Young in North Yorkshire

Our Priorities (continued...)

Happy

Children's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

What the partnership did:

More children and young people accessed support earlier, built stronger relationships and developed the confidence and resilience needed to thrive.

- **Strengthening early identification and access to support**

Partners continued to improve how children's emotional wellbeing needs are identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity. The HDFT 0–19 Service strengthened holistic assessment, emotional wellbeing interventions and waiting-well approaches, while TEWV CAMHS expanded personalised mental health support, including school-based interventions through the Wellbeing in Mind programme and a 'Keep in Touch' process for children waiting for support.

- **Building trusted relationships and reducing isolation**

Recognising the importance of trusted adults and belonging, North Yorkshire Youth delivered youth clubs, mentoring and positive activities across the county, providing opportunities for children and young people to build confidence, resilience and supportive relationships. Youth Voice also delivered more than 280 youth voice groups, ensuring the experiences of care experienced children, young carers, LGBTQ+ young people, children with SEND and military children help shape services and decision-making. The Children and Young People's Mental Health and Transformation Programme brought together partners to develop a youth work career pathway and strategy, recognising the importance of youth work and peer support.

- **Providing targeted emotional wellbeing and therapeutic support**

Partners invested in a range of therapeutic and specialist interventions to support children experiencing emotional distress, trauma and adversity. SELFA reported improvements in emotional regulation, coping strategies and engagement in education through therapeutic support and mentoring. Commissioned domestic abuse services delivered trauma-informed counselling, group programmes and parental support, including support for children affected by domestic abuse and child-to-parent abuse. A survivor network and young people's voice group were also developed to influence future service design.

- **Developing a trauma-informed and emotionally aware workforce**

The partnership continued to increase workforce confidence in responding to emotional wellbeing concerns. Community First delivered safeguarding and emotional wellbeing training to VCSE organisations, helping practitioners understand the links between safeguarding, trauma, anxiety and family pressures. TEWV embedded trauma-informed approaches within CAMHS, while North Yorkshire Police delivered training focusing on neurodiversity and trauma-informed interactions with children. Partners also worked with Papyrus to strengthen awareness and understanding of suicide prevention across the county.

What difference did this make?

Children and young people benefited from earlier access to emotional wellbeing support, stronger trusted relationships and increased opportunities to build resilience. Across the partnership, children reported improved confidence, stronger feelings of belonging and greater emotional wellbeing. More children were able to access support before difficulties escalated, helping them remain engaged in their families, schools and communities and reducing the longer-term impact of emotional and mental health difficulties.

Being Young in North Yorkshire

Our Priorities (continued...)

Happy

Children's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

SPOTLIGHT

SELFA – BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH TRUSTED RELATIONSHIPS

Supporting children and young people across Craven to build confidence, resilience and emotional wellbeing through trusted relationships, therapeutic support and early intervention.

SELFA
YOUR LOCAL CHILDREN'S CHARITY

WHO ARE SELFA?	WHO WE SUPPORT	OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN	WHY RELATIONSHIPS MATTER
SELFA provides: - Therapeutic support - Mentoring and trusted adult relationships - Resilience programmes - Peer support opportunities	WHO WE SUPPORT SELFA supports children and young people experiencing: - Anxiety - Trauma - Isolation - Low self-esteem	OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN - Improved emotional regulation - Increased engagement in education - Stronger peer relationships - Earlier identification of safeguarding concerns - Greater confidence and resilience	WHY RELATIONSHIPS MATTER SELFA highlights that children are often more willing to seek help and engage with support when they are already connected to: - Trusted adults - Familiar services - Positive relationships

“SELFA has done an amazing job in giving my daughter a sense of belonging and acceptance when she was losing self-esteem and confidence when feeling isolated at school. She has begun to learn valuable life skills in becoming independent, learning how to fit in and realise that there is a positive safe place for everyone.”

Supporting children's emotional wellbeing often begins with providing a safe space, a trusted adult and someone who will listen. Throughout 2025–2026, SELFA continued to provide therapeutic support, mentoring, resilience programmes and peer support opportunities for children and young people across Craven, helping them develop the confidence and coping strategies needed to navigate adversity.

Outcomes reported by the service included improved emotional regulation, increased engagement in education, stronger peer relationships and earlier identification of safeguarding concerns. SELFA also highlighted the importance of relationship-based practice, noting that children are often more willing to seek help and engage with support when they are already connected to trusted adults and familiar services.

Being Young in North Yorkshire

Our Priorities (continued...)

Happy

Right Support at the Right Time: Our Early Help System

Children and families achieve better outcomes when support is available before needs escalate. During 2025–2026, partners have continued to strengthen early help pathways, improve access to specialist provision and develop more coordinated approaches to identifying and responding to emerging need. This has resulted in earlier intervention, stronger multiagency working and improved experiences for children and families accessing support.

What children told us

Most children and young people said they have someone they trust and can turn to when worried. However, this falls during adolescence, highlighting the importance of early help, trusted adults and timely support. Children consistently told us they value services that listen, understand their experiences and respond before problems become overwhelming.

What the partnership did:

Earlier help, stronger relationships and better coordination are helping children and families access support before concerns escalate.

- **Making it easier to access support**

Partners have continued to strengthen pathways into support, helping families access the right service at the earliest opportunity. HDFT maintained triage of referrals within five working days and contributes directly to Multi-Agency Screening Team (MAST) decision-making. The TEWV Wellbeing in Mind Schools Support Service continued to provide early support for children experiencing low mood, anxiety and low self-esteem, alongside advice and training for school and college staff.

The domestic abuse central referral hub streamlined access to support, with 64% of families having their needs met at triage stage, reducing escalation into statutory

services. Commissioned domestic abuse services also exceeded 95% of support goals achieved and received positive experience ratings from 99–100% of children and young people accessing support.

- **Providing trusted relationships and early intervention**

Partners have continued to invest in services that offer children and families trusted relationships and support before problems escalate. North Yorkshire Youth's Buddy Network provided mentoring and support for children experiencing social, emotional and personal challenges, while SELFA reported increased wellbeing, stronger family relationships and successful step-down support that prevented escalation for some children and young people.

Targeted support for children affected by domestic abuse included one-to-one therapeutic interventions, group work, parental support and survivor voice activity, ensuring children's experiences continue to shape service delivery.

- **Strengthening the partnership response**

Improved multi-agency working has strengthened information sharing, continuity of support and coordinated intervention for vulnerable children. Early Help teams have developed stronger links with probation services, increasing understanding of Early Help pathways and improving opportunities for joint working with families. VCSE partners have also continued to promote professional curiosity, information sharing and early identification of concerns through training, resources and workforce development activity.

The partnership has further strengthened awareness of support available through the promotion of Restorative Solutions and wider victim support services, helping professionals and families access appropriate help more quickly.

Being Young in North Yorkshire

Our Priorities (continued...)

Happy

Right Support at the Right Time: Our Early Help System

What difference did this make?

Children and families experienced a more coordinated and responsive system, with concerns identified earlier and support tailored to individual need. Improved pathways, earlier intervention and stronger partnership working helped prevent escalation, reduced duplication and ensured children received help at the right time from the right service. More children benefited from trusted relationships, therapeutic support and coordinated interventions, improving wellbeing, strengthening resilience and helping families remain connected to support within their communities.

Healthy

Children Start Well and Live Well

The early years are critical in shaping children's health, wellbeing and development. During 2025–2026, partners continued to strengthen prevention, early identification and relationship-based support from pregnancy and infancy onwards. Activity included support for parental and infant mental health, attachment and responsive parenting, developmental reviews and earlier identification of speech, language and communication needs. Universal and specialist services also worked together to coordinate support where families had additional needs, while blended delivery and community-based clinics helped make early-years services more accessible across North Yorkshire's rural communities.

What children told us

Children and young people highlighted the importance of positive relationships, feeling connected to their communities and having opportunities to take part in activities that support their wellbeing. The survey also showed the importance of strong foundations in childhood, including emotional wellbeing, healthy relationships and support from trusted adults.

What the partnership did:

Giving children the strongest possible start through early support, strong relationships and healthier communities.

- **Supporting children and families in the earliest years**

Partners strengthened support from pregnancy and infancy onwards, recognising the importance of parental mental health, early relationships and a baby's lived experience. Universal services supported attachment, responsive parenting and earlier identification of parental emotional

wellbeing needs, while TEWV's specialist Perinatal Community Mental Health Team worked alongside health visiting, Early Help and other services where families required more coordinated support. Partnership guidance and the PAMIC tool also helped practitioners consider how parental mental ill health may affect a child, alongside strengths and protective factors, so that support and safeguarding responses reflected the needs of the whole family.

The partnership also improved the early identification of speech, language and communication needs through integrated reviews and closer working between health, early years and Speech and Language Therapy services, helping children access support at the earliest opportunity.

- **Improving access to support across North Yorkshire**

Recognising the challenges of North Yorkshire's rural geography, partners continued to adapt services to improve accessibility for children and families. Face-to-face clinics in rural communities helped reduce barriers to accessing support, while TEWV's Circle by the Sea project is helping improve understanding of the needs of children and young people in coastal communities.

- **Building healthy, supportive environments**

The partnership has continued to invest in the workforce and wider community support networks that help children thrive. Early Years safeguarding twilight sessions strengthened practitioner understanding of safeguarding, child development and emerging issues, whilst community-based youth provision provided positive activities that improved confidence, social skills, participation and a sense of belonging for young people.

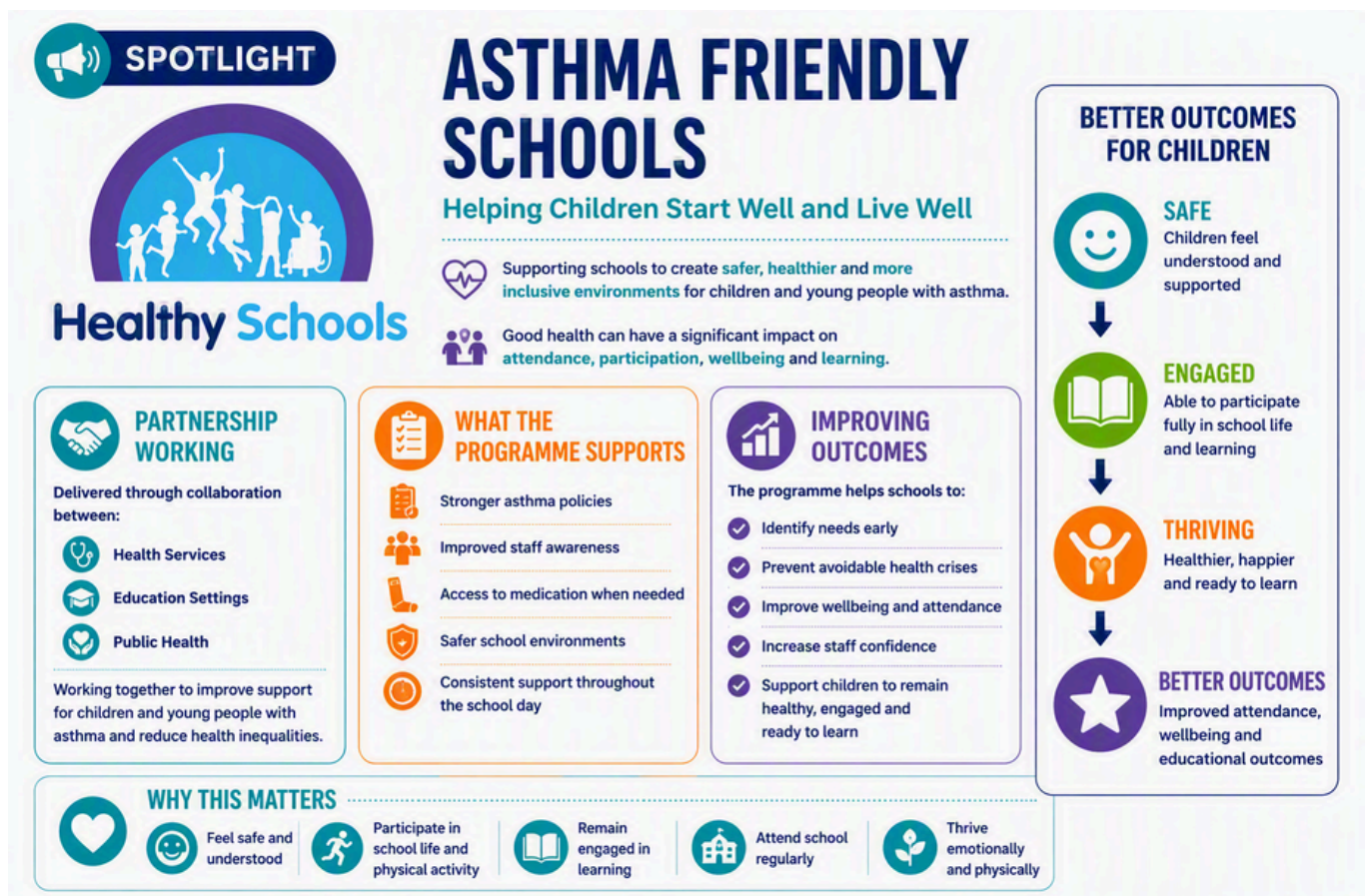
Being Young in North Yorkshire

Our Priorities (continued...)

Healthy

Children start well and live well

For children with asthma, good health can have a significant impact on attendance, participation and learning. Through the Asthma Friendly Schools programme, partners across health, education and public health have worked together to improve support for children and young people with asthma, helping schools create safer and more inclusive environments. This is relevant to safeguarding because schools need the knowledge and systems to recognise and respond when a child's asthma places their health, safety or access to education at risk.



Healthy

Reduce Health Inequalities

Children's outcomes are strongly influenced by the wider determinants of health, including poverty, rurality, housing, access to services and social isolation. The partnership has prioritised reducing inequalities by targeting support to those most at risk and ensuring that services are accessible, inclusive and responsive to local need.

What children told us

GUNY continues to highlight inequalities in outcomes for some children and young people. Children with SEND reported lower resilience, higher levels of bullying and reduced feelings of safety compared with their peers. These findings reinforce the importance of creating inclusive services and reducing barriers that prevent children from accessing opportunities and support.

What the partnership did:

Creating fairer opportunities by ensuring support is accessible, inclusive and responsive to every child's needs.

Being Young in North Yorkshire

Our Priorities (continued...)

Healthy

Reduce Health Inequalities

- Tackling poverty and barriers to participation

Partners have strengthened their focus on reducing the impact of poverty and financial hardship on children's wellbeing. The launch of Action on Poverty Guide has supported schools to identify and reduce barriers experienced by families on low incomes. Schools can now review six key areas, including food provision, uniform, learning resources and wider family support, helping to create more inclusive school environments and reduce stigma associated with poverty.

- Improving access to support and services

Recognising that where a child lives should not determine their access to support, partners have continued to adapt services to meet the needs of North Yorkshire's rural and dispersed communities. HDFT delivered the Healthy Child Programme through a blended model of face to face, virtual and community-based support, whilst VCSE organisations provided local, trusted services for children and families experiencing rural isolation or who may be less likely to engage with statutory services.

The National Child Measurement Programme continues to provide valuable insight into health inequalities across the county. This intelligence is now informing the development of targeted interventions, including the upcoming Healthier Habits programme, designed to support families where children may be at increased risk of poor long-term health outcomes.

- Supporting children with additional vulnerabilities

The partnership has continued to strengthen support for children with SEND and other groups who experience poorer outcomes. A dedicated Disabled Children's Team learning event helped practitioners better understand referral pathways, available support and the introduction of a new assessment toolkit designed to improve consistency and responsiveness for children and families.

Partners have also commissioned specialist support for communities facing additional barriers to accessing services, including domestic abuse services for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families and specialist support through Halo for children and families affected by honour-based abuse and other cultural harms.

What difference did this make?

The partnership's focus on reducing inequalities has helped more children and families access support regardless of where they live or the challenges they face. Through targeted interventions, community-based provision and more inclusive approaches, services are becoming increasingly accessible and responsive. This is helping to reduce barriers associated with poverty, rurality, SEND and social isolation, ensuring more children can access the support and opportunities they need to thrive.

Being Young in North Yorkshire

ACTION ON POVERTY:
A Guide for Schools
in North Yorkshire



NORTH YORKSHIRE
COUNCIL

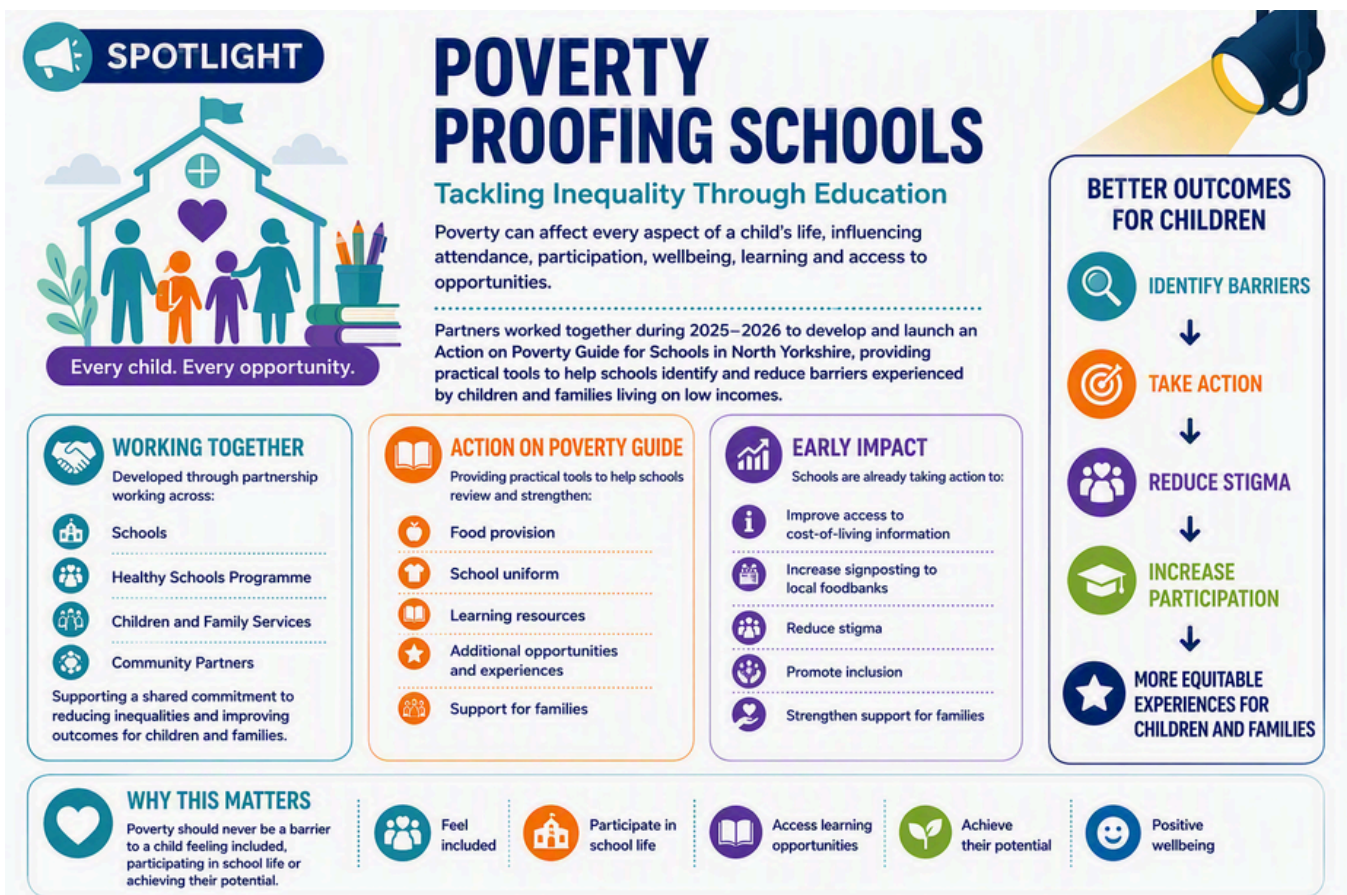


Our Priorities (continued...)

Healthy

Reduce Health Inequalities

Poverty can affect every aspect of a child's life, influencing attendance, participation, wellbeing, learning and access to opportunities. Recognising this, partners worked together during 2025– 2026 to develop and launch an [Action on Poverty Guide for Schools in North Yorkshire](#), providing practical tools to help schools identify and reduce barriers experienced by children and families living on low incomes.



Safe

Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

The partnership has continued to strengthen its multi-agency response to child exploitation through improved information sharing, disruption activity and contextual safeguarding approaches. Partners have worked collaboratively to identify risk outside of the home, including within peer groups, communities and online environments, ensuring that responses are proportionate and targeted. Increased alignment between strategic oversight and operational activity has supported more effective identification of vulnerability and coordinated intervention.

What children told us

The survey highlighted ongoing concerns about online harm and exploitation. Significant numbers of young people reported blocking people online, receiving unwanted messages or experiencing online behaviours that made them feel uncomfortable. These findings reinforce the need for continued work to help children stay safe both online and within their communities.

What the partnership did:

Strengthening prevention, disruption and partnership responses to help children stay safe from exploitation both online and within their communities.

Being Young in North Yorkshire

Our Priorities (continued...)



Safe

Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

- Strengthening identification, assessment and response to exploitation

Partners continued to strengthen multi-agency arrangements through MACE, improving information sharing, disruption activity and risk management for children at risk of exploitation. High-risk cases received additional oversight through locality-based arrangements, helping agencies develop coordinated responses and more effective safeguarding plans.

Partners also strengthened links between MACE, health services and probation, with identified single points of contact improving communication, information sharing and the quality of risk assessments.

- Building confidence to recognise exploitation and harm outside the home

The partnership invested in workforce development to improve understanding of exploitation, online harm and contextual safeguarding. Health, police and VCSE partners delivered training, awareness raising and learning opportunities focused on recognising indicators of exploitation and responding to emerging risks.

The Introduction to Child Exploitation partnership video was viewed 168 times, while continued promotion of the [BeAware](#) resource hub helped improve awareness amongst children, parents, carers and professionals. TEWV embedded child exploitation awareness within safeguarding training and continued to contribute to exploitation audits, reviews and partnership learning activity.

- Taking a proactive approach to prevention

Recognising the importance of identifying vulnerability early, partners strengthened preventative approaches to exploitation. The introduction of Children and Young People

Multi-Agency Problem Solving (MAPS) Meetings across North Yorkshire Community Safety Hubs brought together police, education, health, community safety, children's services and other partners to identify emerging concerns, share intelligence and coordinate early intervention activity.

HDFT also maintained oversight of children at risk of exploitation through statutory health assessments, ensuring that vulnerable children continued to receive support even where direct engagement may be limited. Trusted relationships developed through organisations such as SELFA supported earlier identification of concerns and improved resilience amongst children vulnerable to exploitation.

What difference did this make?

More children vulnerable to exploitation were identified earlier and supported through coordinated multi-agency plans. Improved information sharing, increased professional understanding of exploitation and stronger preventative activity have strengthened the partnership's ability to recognise risk, disrupt harm and respond to vulnerabilities both online and within communities. Children at risk of exploitation are increasingly supported through joined-up, child-centred responses that focus on both protection and long-term resilience.

Being Young in North Yorkshire

Our Priorities (continued...)

Safe

Child Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding



Safe

Protecting Children at Risk of Harm

Protecting children from harm remains a core responsibility across the partnership. During 2025–2026, partners strengthened safeguarding culture, increased workforce confidence and improved multi-agency collaboration, resulting in earlier identification of risk and more coordinated support for vulnerable children and families.

What children told us

Most children and young people in North Yorkshire report feeling safe at home. However, children also told us about concerns relating to bullying, online experiences, emotional wellbeing and feeling safe in different environments. Their feedback highlights the importance of recognising risk early and ensuring children know where to go for help and support.

Being Young in North Yorkshire

Our Priorities (continued...)

Safe

Protecting Children at Risk of Harm

What the partnership did:

Recognising risk earlier and strengthening partnership responses to help children stay safe from harm.

- [Strengthening early identification and safeguarding responses](#)

Partners continued to strengthen the early identification of risk and vulnerability through improved information sharing and multi-agency working. North Yorkshire Police extended Operation Encompass into early years settings, ensuring that where children are affected by domestic abuse, education providers receive timely information to offer support and appropriate safeguarding responses. Police also conduct daily reviews of incidents involving children, with all children linked to domestic abuse incidents recorded as victims, strengthening early recognition of risk and vulnerability.

Probation involvement within MAST has improved understanding of family circumstances, offending behaviour and potential risks within households, helping partners make more informed safeguarding decisions.

- [Supporting children affected by domestic abuse](#)

The partnership continued to strengthen support for children experiencing domestic abuse. Increased attendance at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) improved information sharing and safety planning for children living in high-risk households. Commissioned domestic abuse services reported high satisfaction rates and improved wellbeing outcomes for children, demonstrating the value of coordinated multi-agency support.

- [Building awareness of emerging risks](#)

Partners delivered a wide range of prevention and awareness activity to help children stay safe. This included training and resources focused on online safety, exploitation and emerging risks.

The partnership's [Social Media and Emojis learning event](#), delivered during Child Exploitation Awareness Day, has since been viewed more than 70 times, while [MACE bulletins](#) continue to share information on emerging apps, online harms and trends affecting children and young people.

The Operational MACE Lead also worked directly with schools, providing safeguarding staff with updates on exploitation, online harm and emerging risks identified across North Yorkshire.

- [Preventing harm through education and early intervention](#)

Partners continued to invest in preventative safeguarding activity. More than 1,300 children participated in Crucial Crew, helping them develop awareness of personal safety, healthy choices and how to seek help when needed.

Health partners strengthened preventative work through the [Home Environment Assessment Tool \(HEAT\)](#) and promotion of the [#ASK Me Safe Sleep Campaign](#), supporting practitioners to identify early signs of neglect, improve home safety and engage families in conversations about infant safety, safe sleeping and coping with infant crying.

[What difference did this make?](#)

Children benefited from a stronger safeguarding system that is increasingly confident in identifying risk, sharing information and responding to concerns at the earliest opportunity. Strengthened partnership working, improved safety planning and increased awareness of emerging harms have helped ensure children are better protected and supported by professionals who understand their lived experiences, needs and vulnerabilities.

Being Young in North Yorkshire

Our Priorities (continued...)

Safe

Protecting Children at Risk of Harm

Vaping is relevant to safeguarding because children may be exposed to unsafe or unregulated products and, in some circumstances, wider risks linked to how vapes are supplied, shared or sold. Prevention, professional curiosity and early support help partners protect children from harm, identify potential exploitation or coercion, and respond to emerging concerns.



Achieving Transitions

Periods of transition can increase vulnerability and create additional challenges for children and young people. Across North Yorkshire, partners have continued to strengthen support during key transitions, helping children move successfully between schools, services and into adulthood while maintaining trusted relationships and continuity of support.

What children told us

Children and young people described key transitions such as moving schools, entering adolescence and preparing for adulthood—as important periods of change. Trusted adults, supportive relationships and clear information were identified as important factors in helping young people feel confident and supported when navigating new experiences and challenges.

Being Young in North Yorkshire

Our Priorities (continued...)

Achieving Transitions

What the partnership did:

Helping young people navigate change with confidence through trusted relationships, coordinated support and stronger transitions into adulthood.

- **Improving transitions into adulthood**

Health partners have strengthened support for children in care as they move towards adulthood. All young people approaching their 18th birthday are offered a comprehensive Health Summary, ensuring important health information is available as they transition into adult services. Engagement with care leavers through celebration events has helped services better understand young people's experiences and use this feedback to improve support. Regular visits by Children in Care Specialist Nurses to No Wrong Door homes have also strengthened relationships with young people and staff, improving communication, engagement and continuity of care.

Partners have also continued to improve pathways for young people with additional vulnerabilities, including those affected by exploitation, SEND, emotional wellbeing needs and complex safeguarding concerns. Findings from the Section 11 audit reinforced the importance of coordinated planning, information sharing and multi-agency working during periods of transition.

- **Strengthening planning and preparation**

TEWV CAMHS delivered training for Clinical Nurse Specialists and Advanced Practitioners to improve the quality of transition plans for young people moving into adult services. Early feedback indicates improvements in both the quality of plans and the experience of young people moving between services. TEWV also continues to promote safeguarding approaches that recognise transitions as a period of increased vulnerability and encourage stronger multi-agency collaboration.

The Probation Service has also launched an innovative Young Adults Project, recognising that many young adults in the criminal justice system may have developmental needs or lower levels of maturity than their chronological age suggests. Evidence from similar programmes elsewhere has shown reductions in reoffending and improved engagement with services.

What difference did this make?

Young people were better supported through key life transitions, including moving between schools, services and into adulthood. Greater emphasis on continuity of relationships, information sharing and coordinated planning has helped reduce uncertainty, strengthen resilience and ensure young people remain connected to the support they need during periods of change. This is helping services respond more effectively to vulnerability and providing young people with stronger foundations for adulthood.

Being Young in North Yorkshire

Our Priorities (continued...)

Achieving Transitions

The partnership's Safeguarding Children through Exploitation and Transitional Safeguarding audit highlighted the importance of recognising that vulnerability does not end at age 18. The audit identified examples of strong practice, including trusted relationships, effective multi-agency working and personalised support that helped young people remain engaged during key transition periods. It also reinforced the need for earlier planning, improved information sharing and greater consistency in how agencies support young people moving into adulthood, particularly those affected by exploitation, trauma, mental health difficulties or additional vulnerabilities.



Learning from the audit has informed ongoing work with partners to strengthen transitional safeguarding arrangements, improve coordination between children's and [adult services](#), and ensure that young people continue to receive support based on their needs rather than their age.

Why this matters

Young people are less likely to experience gaps in support during key transitions, helping them remain safe, connected and supported at a time when vulnerability to exploitation and other harms can increase.

For further information on the audit, see the NYSCP [Learning for professionals](#) page

Being Young in North Yorkshire

Our Priorities (continued...)

Achieving

Education and Inclusion

Achievement is about more than academic success. Children are most likely to thrive when they feel included, valued, connected and able to access support when they need it. During 2025– 2026, partners have strengthened inclusive practice, improved support for vulnerable learners and increased opportunities for children and young people to participate fully in school and community life.

What children told us

Children and young people told us that feeling included, having supportive relationships and a sense of belonging are important contributors to achievement. While most children feel safe in school, fewer secondary-aged pupils report feeling happy at school, highlighting the importance of inclusive environments where all children feel valued and supported to reach their potential.

What the partnership did

Creating inclusive environments where every child feels valued, supported and able to achieve their potential.

- **Creating inclusive environments where children can thrive**

Partners have continued to strengthen inclusive practice across education settings, recognising that children learn and achieve best when they feel understood, valued and supported. Learning from GUNY reinforced the importance of trusted adults, belonging and positive relationships as protective factors in children's lives, helping shape partnership priorities and workforce development.

Following his successful delivery at the NYSCP DSL Conference, James Koppert (Youth Voice and creative engagement officer) delivered neurodiversity training to an additional 12 schools and a Headteacher Forum, increasing

understanding of neurodiverse experiences and helping schools create more inclusive environments for children and young people. Schools have also continued to adapt safeguarding and communication approaches for children with SEND, including the use of technology to help non-verbal children express worries and concerns and ensure their voices are heard.

The Schools Safeguarding Audit provided practical examples of this inclusive practice in action. Schools reported adapting safeguarding approaches for children with SEND, including the use of technology to support non-verbal students to share worries and concerns, adapting safeguarding posters with pictures and less text, and using mechanisms such as School Council to ensure pupil voice is heard. One special school described how “leaders have taken action to safeguard non-verbal students, introducing technology to enable students to report”, demonstrating how inclusive safeguarding practice helps remove barriers to support and enables children to participate more fully in school life.

- **Strengthening safeguarding and support within education**

Safeguarding audit activity provided assurance of strong safeguarding practice across education settings, highlighting the commitment of schools and education leaders to creating safe and supportive learning environments.

Supporting children to achieve their potential

HDFT 0-19 Healthy Child Service strengthened school readiness pathways through integrated reviews and earlier identification of developmental needs, helping children access support sooner and reducing barriers to learning and participation. This early intervention approach has helped ensure children are better prepared to engage in education and progress through key stages of development.

Being Young in North Yorkshire

Our Priorities (continued...)

Achieving Education and Inclusion

What difference did this make?

More children benefited from inclusive environments where their individual needs were recognised and supported. Improved understanding of neurodiversity, stronger safeguarding practice and earlier identification of need have helped children feel more included, connected and able to participate in school life. By strengthening trusted relationships and removing barriers to support, children are better able to engage with learning, develop confidence and achieve their potential.



Food, Entertainment, Activities and Sport Together

Supporting Children to Belong, Thrive and Achieve



54,132
ACTIVITY SPACES
Delivered in 2024
16% increase
on the previous year



100,799+
MEALS PROVIDED
Over the last two years



6th
MOST COST-EFFECTIVE
HAF programme nationally

**BELONGING**

**FRIENDSHIP**

**CONFIDENCE**

**NEW EXPERIENCES**

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WHO MAY FACE ADDITIONAL BARRIERS



FEAST is the only activity my child can attend.





Gave us some headspace at a hard time. We are struggling as a family.



WHY THIS MATTERS

**INCLUDED** ... **CONNECTED** ... **ACTIVE** ... **SUPPORTED** ... **THRIVING**



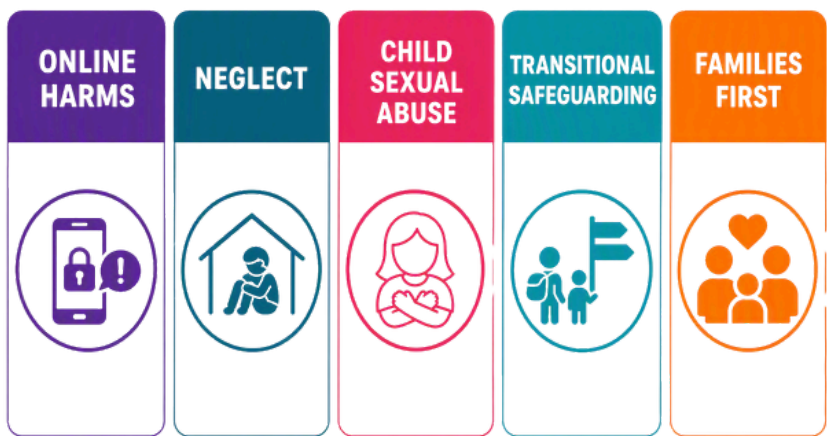
FEAST helps children feel included, connected and able to participate in positive activities. Safe spaces, trusted relationships, healthy food and enriching experiences build confidence, resilience and a sense of belonging – important foundations for achievement and lifelong wellbeing.



The [FEAST \(Food, Entertainment, Activities and Sport Together\)](#) programme continues to make a significant contribution to reducing inequalities and supporting children and young people to remain connected, engaged and active during school holidays. Delivered through the national Holiday Activities and Food Programme, FEAST provides free holiday activities and meals for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals, helping to address food insecurity, social isolation and barriers to participation.

Beyond 2026: Continuing to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families

The partnership has made significant progress in strengthening safeguarding arrangements, embedding learning and improving outcomes for children and young people. However, partners recognise that safeguarding takes place within an increasingly complex environment, with rising levels of vulnerability, changing national policy and growing expectations around early intervention, child protection and transitional safeguarding. Building on the foundations established through the Being Young in North Yorkshire strategy, the partnership has identified a number of priority areas for development during 2026–2027.



Online Harms: Understanding Risk in a Digital World

The digital world is now embedded within children's everyday lives, shaping how they learn, socialise, develop relationships and access information. While technology provides significant opportunities, it also creates increasingly complex safeguarding challenges that cut across multiple areas of practice, including child exploitation, child sexual abuse, violence against women and girls, mental health and emotional wellbeing, harmful sexual behaviour, bullying, radicalisation, organised crime networks, misogyny, and emerging risks associated with artificial intelligence and new technologies.

The partnership recognises that online harm is not a standalone safeguarding issue but a golden thread running through many of the challenges facing children, young people and families. The pace of technological change means risks continue to evolve, requiring partners to build their understanding, remain responsive to emerging threats and ensure safeguarding approaches reflect children's lived experience both online and offline.



During 2026–2027, the partnership will therefore focus on developing a stronger understanding of online harms across North Yorkshire. This will include exploring partnership data and intelligence, learning from safeguarding practice reviews, audits and national reports, and engaging directly with practitioners, children and young people to understand emerging concerns and areas of vulnerability.

Through forums such as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Conference, practitioner networks and safeguarding events, alongside exploring how children's voices can better inform future strategic planning and service development.

The partnership will continue to work with wider safeguarding and community safety partners, including the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB) and Safer North Yorkshire, to deliver a coordinated, multi-agency approach to online harms

Beyond 2026: Continuing to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families

Online Harms: Understanding Risk in a Digital World (continued...)

Measures of success

- Improved partnership understanding of online harms and emerging digital risks.
- Greater use of data, intelligence and practitioner insight to identify trends and areas of concern.
- Evidence that children's voices and lived experiences are informing strategic thinking and future priorities.
- Increased practitioner confidence in recognising and responding to online harms.
- Stronger collaboration between safeguarding, community safety and adult safeguarding partnerships.
- Clear recommendations to inform future partnership approaches, priorities and potential strategy development.

What this means for children and families in North Yorkshire

Children, young people and families will benefit from a partnership that is better equipped to understand and respond to the risks and opportunities created by the digital world. By strengthening knowledge, listening to lived experiences and working together across agencies, partners will be better placed to identify emerging harms, support safe and healthy online experiences, and ensure safeguarding responses remain relevant in an increasingly connected world. This will help children and young people to be safer online, receive support at the earliest opportunity when concerns arise, and ensure families have access to the information and support they need.

Neglect: Earlier Identification and Stronger Responses



Neglect continues to be one of the most common features underpinning safeguarding concerns and learning from reviews. During

2026–2027, the partnership will develop and implement a refreshed multi-agency Neglect Toolkit, supported by workforce development and quality assurance activity. A multi-agency audit will be undertaken to understand how effectively practitioners recognise cumulative harm, assess neglect and respond to children experiencing long-term unmet need.

Measures of success

- Increased practitioner confidence in recognising and responding to neglect.
- Improved evidence of cumulative risk analysis within audits.
- Greater consistency in the use of neglect tools across agencies.
- Improved demonstration of children's lived experiences within assessments and plans.

Families First Partnership Programme



National reforms through the Families First Partnership Programme represent an important opportunity to strengthen whole-family working, early help and multi-agency responses to vulnerability. The partnership will continue to support implementation locally, ensuring safeguarding arrangements align with new Family Help arrangements and Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams.

Measures of success

- Effective partnership transition to Families First arrangements.
- Evidence of improved multi-agency decision-making and coordination.
- Increased integration between early help, targeted support and safeguarding services.
- Children and families reporting more joined-up experiences of support.

Beyond 2026: Continuing to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families

Child Sexual Abuse: Strengthening Assurance and Learning



Protecting children from sexual abuse remains a priority nationally and locally. During the next year, the partnership will undertake a focused programme of audit, assurance and workforce development activity to strengthen understanding of child sexual abuse, identify barriers to recognition and ensure learning is translated into practice.

This work will build on existing child-centred and trauma-informed approaches, supporting practitioners to identify concerns earlier and respond effectively when children disclose abuse.

Measures of success

- Completion of a multi-agency child sexual abuse audit.
- Increased practitioner confidence through training and learning events.
- Improved evidence of professional curiosity and analysis within case audits.
- Greater assurance that children's voices and lived experiences inform decision-making.

Measuring What Difference We Make

Alongside these priority areas, the partnership will continue to strengthen how it understands and demonstrates impact. Building on learning from audits, reviews, 2026 GUNY findings, practitioner feedback, inspections and the voices of children and families, partners will focus on understanding not only what activities have been delivered, but what difference those activities are making to children's lives.

Our ambition is simple

To ensure that every child in North Yorkshire is **happy**, **healthy**, **safe** and able to **achieve**, supported by services that work together, listen to children and respond to their needs at the earliest opportunity.

Transitional Safeguarding



Learning from the Exploitation and Transitional Safeguarding Audit reinforced the importance of recognising that vulnerability does not end at age 18.

The partnership will continue to strengthen approaches to transitional safeguarding, working with the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board and wider partners to improve continuity of support for young people moving into adulthood.

Particular focus will be given to young people affected by exploitation, mental ill-health, trauma, neurodiversity, homelessness and other complex vulnerabilities.

Measures of success

- Clearer multi-agency pathways for transitional safeguarding.
- Improved coordination between children's and adults' services.
- Evidence of earlier transition planning and information sharing.
- Positive feedback from young people regarding their experience of transition into adulthood.

Assurance and Scrutiny

“... it significantly strengthens our confidence and helps mitigate risk throughout the year ... and the daily safety and welfare of all at the federation.”

Audits

School Safeguarding Audit

The School Safeguarding Audit is a biennial self-assessment designed to assure the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive that schools and colleges are fulfilling their statutory safeguarding responsibilities. As a partnership audit, it reflects a collective approach to understanding safeguarding practice, bringing together intelligence from schools and wider data sources to build a comprehensive picture across North Yorkshire.

A key strength of the audit is the way evidence is brought together to inform understanding. Audit returns are triangulated with insight from multi-agency school panel visits, and wider intelligence, including the Growing Up in North Yorkshire (GUNY) survey, alongside input from School Improvement advisers and safeguarding partners. This cross-partnership approach ensures that findings reflect both reported practice and the lived experience of children. It strengthens the Partnership’s ability to understand the impact of safeguarding arrangements in practice and supports a shared, evidence-based view of priorities across the system.

Between April 2025 and March 2026, the Partnership has built on these findings through continued collaborative work with schools and partners. This has included working closely through the Education Sub-Group to share learning, support school-led reflection and ensure that safeguarding remains a shared priority across the system. Activity has focused on strengthening how learning is communicated, promoting consistent understanding across staff and governance, and ensuring that schools are supported to access and apply safeguarding guidance, resources and training in practice. Central to this has been the co-production and redevelopment of the audit itself, with feedback from schools and School Improvement colleagues to refine the audit tool, ensuring it

remains relevant, proportionate and aligned to statutory expectations. Key changes, including the introduction of a dedicated culture of safeguarding section, have strengthened the partnership’s ability to look beyond compliance and assurance alone. This has enabled a richer understanding of both the data and the reality of safeguarding practice on the ground, supporting a more meaningful question across the system: not only whether processes are in place, but how we know that children are safeguarded in practice.

Overall, the SSA 2024–2025 demonstrates a strong safeguarding system across North Yorkshire, underpinned by effective partnership working. Its impact lies not only in confirming that key safeguarding arrangements are in place, but in supporting the partnership and schools to move from assurance and compliance towards a clearer understanding of lived safeguarding practice.



The NYSCP is turning audit learning into action – strengthening safeguarding practice and outcomes for children.



— KEY OUTCOMES —



96%
of schools completed the audit, reflecting strong commitment to safeguarding.





Support for Schools

- ✓ Dedicated support hub
- ✓ Guidance and resources
- ✓ Drop-in support sessions





What Schools Said

“Safeguarding is not just a policy but a lived value, visible in daily practice.”

“It could be happening here... and it is happening here.”

“There has been a culture shift... with effective challenge and support.”

Assurance and Scrutiny



Audits

Section 11

The Section 11 Governance Audit is a multi-agency self-assessment designed to assure the partnership that statutory safeguarding responsibilities are being met across North Yorkshire. Jointly coordinated by the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP), North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NYSAB) and the City of York Safeguarding Adults Board (CYSAB), it reflects a collaborative approach to governance and assurance, supporting consistency and a more joined-up experience for partners completing the return. The audit aligns with Working Together to Safeguard Children and combines assurance questions with narrative responses to provide context, identify and support areas for improvement, and strengthen understanding of impact.

Responses were analysed and shared with partners in early 2026, providing a valuable picture of how safeguarding is embedded across agencies in North Yorkshire. Findings showed that safeguarding is well established within governance arrangements, with partners able to evidence leadership oversight, policy, training, accountability and partnership working. The joint approach with NYSAB and CYSAB also created opportunities for shared learning and follow-up work, including on pathway to adulthood, helping to strengthen thinking and practice at key transition points. A [partner briefing](#) summarising the key messages and learning is available on the NYSCP website.

Thematic Audit: Transitional safeguarding and exploitation

The Safeguarding Children through Exploitation and Transition audit was a multi-agency learning themed audit commissioned to understand how effectively partners identify, assess and respond to children experiencing exploitation over time, particularly as they approach adulthood. The audit recognised that exploitation is dynamic and can change as children's relationships, environments and circumstances change. It focused on how well

safeguarding systems maintain curiosity, continuity and coordinated support when risk persists, escalates or becomes less visible, including at the point where a young person turns 18. The partner briefing for the audit can be accessed [here](#).

NYSCP learning themed audits are not inspections of individual practice, they are reflective partnership learning exercises. Partners come together to consider a small number of cases against an agreed theme, using case information, professional discussion and wider evidence to identify what is working well, where systems create barriers and what needs to change. Learning is then translated into recommendations, workplan actions, practitioner briefings, guidance updates and future learning activity, ensuring audit findings are used to strengthen practice and improve outcomes for children and young people.

JTAI update

Although the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) took place in February 2025, it remains highly relevant to this reporting period due to the sustained and impactful work undertaken to embed learning across the partnership. The inspection highlighted strengths in multi-agency working, but identified areas for development, particularly around recognising children as victims of domestic abuse, strengthening professional curiosity, and improving capture of the child's lived experience.

In response, significant changes have been implemented. These include the introduction of police flagging systems to identify children affected by domestic abuse, strengthened multiagency oversight through forums such as MARAC and MATAC, and the widespread rollout of the Voice of the Child toolkit to improve how children's experiences are understood and recorded.

Workforce development has also been enhanced, with aligned, multi-agency training programmes and targeted campaigns to increase awareness and improve practice.

From Insight to Impact

Strategic Partnership Development Days

During 2025–2026, the partnership brought together leaders, practitioners and strategic partners through a series of Partnership Development Days, creating opportunities to learn, share expertise and collectively shape future priorities. These events focused on key areas including learning from inspections and audits, alignment across the Safeguarding Children Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board and Community Safety Partnership, delivery of the [Being Young in North Yorkshire strategy](#), exploitation and contextual safeguarding, and preparation for the implementation of Working Together 2026 and the Families First Partnership Programme. The events provided a forum for partners to reflect on what children and young people have told us through the [Growing Up in North Yorkshire Survey](#), explore emerging safeguarding risks, strengthen partnership relationships and develop shared actions in response to local and national learning. They also supported a greater focus on evidencing impact, improving multiagency working and ensuring that reforms are implemented in a way that improves outcomes for children and families.

The December 2025 Partnership Data Day brought together representatives from Public Health, Health, Police, Probation, Education, Children's Services, Early Help, VCSE organisations and commissioned services to strengthen the partnership's understanding of how data can be used to evidence outcomes and impact for children and young people. Partners explored how existing data supports the Being Young in North Yorkshire priorities and identified opportunities to strengthen assurance, scrutiny and decision-making.



Spotlight On: Partnership Data Day

December 2025

Partners Involved	How data supports the Being Young in North Yorkshire priorities				Key Outcomes from the Day
- Public Health - Health - Police - Probation - Education - Children's Services - Early Help - VCSE Organisations - Commissioned Services	 Happy Using data to understand wellbeing, belonging and what matters most to children and young people.	 Healthy Using data to understand physical health, emotional wellbeing and where support is needed.	 Safe Using data to identify risks, strengthen, safeguarding and improve protection for children.	 Achieving Using data to understand learning, progress, attendance and positive outcomes.	- Stronger understanding of outcomes and impact for children and young people. - Improved assurance and scrutiny. - Better decision-making across partners. - Combining performance data with children's voices and lived experience.

Partnership Data Task and Finish Group			
Improve Data Quality	Strengthen Outcome Measurement	Enhance Multi-agency Analysis	Embed Children's Voices and Lived Experience



Understanding not only what services do, but the difference they make to children and families.



Training and Learning

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) delivers a comprehensive multiagency learning programme, ensuring practitioners, volunteers and partners have the knowledge, skills and confidence to safeguard children effectively. Learning is designed around local priorities, national developments and learning from reviews, audits and inspections, and is delivered through a flexible mix of online events, twilight sessions, recorded content and targeted briefings.

Developments in Safeguarding Programme

Throughout 2025–2026, the partnership delivered a programme of monthly Developments in Safeguarding learning events, covering key safeguarding themes including the voice of the child, self-harm and suicide prevention, harmful sexual behaviour, information sharing, restorative justice and learning from reviews.



The programme continued to reach a broad cross-section of the children's workforce, with recorded sessions further extending the reach of learning beyond live attendance.



NYSCP

@nyscp • 317 subscribers • 85 videos

A place to access NYSCP training and learning ...more

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

Customize channel

Manage videos



To view NYSCP learning events and training sessions and to subscribe, please see the [NYSCP YouTube channel](#)

[All North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Training can be accessed here.](#)

Training and Learning



To view NYSCP learning events and training sessions and to subscribe, please see the [NYSCP YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqKqKqKqKqKqKqKqKqKqKqK)

Learning Session	Number of Attendees	YouTube Views
Early Years Twilight Session (April 2025)	162	97
Early Years Twilight Session (October 2025)	166	132
Partnership Intelligence Sharing	94	15
Learning from Case Reviews	52	56
Being Young in North Yorkshire	43	86
Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP)	35	Not available
Restorative Justice	29	28
Disabled Children's Team Pathway	25	62
Self-Harm & Suicide Prevention	24	71
Record Keeping & Information Sharing	23	15
Voice of the Child	166	717
Harmful Sexual Behaviour Learning Event	26	241

Targeted and flexible learning

Alongside the core programme, the partnership delivered targeted learning in response to emerging risks and specific workforce needs. This included learning from safeguarding practice reviews, child exploitation, information sharing and local safeguarding priorities.



A free [Safeguarding Children Basic Awareness e-learning](#) programme also remained available to all partners, including the voluntary and community sector, helping to promote a consistent foundation of safeguarding knowledge across North Yorkshire.

Partners are also made aware of wider training packages and resources through our NYSCP training page, with training links accessed via the website over 7500 times.

Website, Digital Communications and Social Media



Extending safeguarding messages through digital channels

The NYSCP website and digital communications continue to play a vital role in sharing safeguarding information, learning and resources with professionals, children, young people and families across North Yorkshire.

During 2025–2026, the NYSCP website received over 250,000 page views from more than 100,000 active users, demonstrating the significant reach of the partnership's online information, guidance and safeguarding resources.

Reaching practitioners through targeted communications

The [NYSCP monthly bulletin](#) continued to provide a reliable and effective route for sharing safeguarding updates, learning, resources and partnership developments, with 1,801 subscribers receiving regular communications throughout the year. Performance data suggests the bulletin remains a trusted communication channel for partners, while also identifying opportunities to further improve engagement through refining subject lines and content formats.

The [MACE monthly bulletin](#) expanded its reach during the year following wider distribution arrangements introduced in September 2025. The bulletin now reaches 419 subscribers and continues to demonstrate strong and consistent engagement. Open rates peaked during September and February, while click-through activity remained strong, indicating that subscribers are actively accessing and using the information provided.

Both bulletins migrated to a new communications platform during 2025–2026, providing enhanced insight into user engagement and enabling communications to be increasingly tailored to the needs and interests of different audiences.

Growing digital learning opportunities

The NYSCP YouTube channel continues to support workforce development and accessibility of learning. During the year the channel grew to more than **300** subscribers, an increase of approximately 75 subscribers, and now hosts 85 safeguarding videos and resources.

Content on the channel received over **11,400** views, generating more than 750 hours of watch time, demonstrating growing demand for flexible and accessible learning opportunities that practitioners can access at a time that suits them.

Increasing engagement through social media

Social media continues to provide an important platform for promoting safeguarding messages, campaigns and learning opportunities. During 2025–2026, NYSCP Facebook content received 17,895 views, supported by increased use of short-form video content, animations and key message campaigns. The page now has 672 followers, enabling safeguarding information to reach a wider audience across communities and professional networks.

What difference did this make?

Digital platforms are helping the partnership reach more people than ever before with safeguarding information, learning and support. Increased website traffic, growing social media engagement and strong bulletin subscriptions demonstrate that practitioners, families and communities are actively accessing safeguarding information. These channels help ensure learning is shared quickly, key messages reach wider audiences and professionals have easy access to the resources they need to support children, young people and families.

Website, Digital Communications and Social Media

Website, Digital Communications and Social Media



OUR WEBSITE

250,000+
page views
over the year

100,000+
active users
accessing information,
guidance and resources



MACE MONTHLY BULLETIN

419
subscribers

Expanded distribution from
September 2025 – now
reaching a wider audience.

Open rate peaked
in September and
February.

Click-to-open
rates remain
close to 30%.

Sent monthly
to 419
subscribers.



YOUTUBE CHANNEL

300+
subscribers
(+75 in the
past year)

85
videos and
resources

11.4K
views of videos
(+750+ hours
of watch time)

Providing flexible, accessible learning for practitioners
and partners at a time that suits them.



FACEBOOK

17,895
views of
Facebook posts

672
followers

Increased use of videos and moving shorts
to share key messages and campaigns.



WHY THIS MATTERS

More people accessing vital
safeguarding information
and learning.

Greater awareness of key
issues and support.

Stronger connections across
our partnership, communities
and wider workforce.

Better informed professionals,
families and young people for
better outcomes.



Worried about a child?
Make a Referral
[CLICK HERE](#)

Home About Us Professionals Children & Young People Parents & Carers Communities Resource Library Search

Welcome to North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Search for the help or information you need...

At North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership we are committed to sharing learning, resources, information and training for everyone across North Yorkshire in order to ensure that all children and young people are Safe, Happy, Healthy and able to Achieve in North Yorkshire.

Please enter the site via:

Worried about a child?

Professionals

Children & Young People

Parents & Carers

Communities

Quick Links to Useful Forms

Universal Referral Form

Early Help Assessment

LADO Notification Form

Intelligence Sharing

SPRG Request Form

60

Resources



Health Providers information

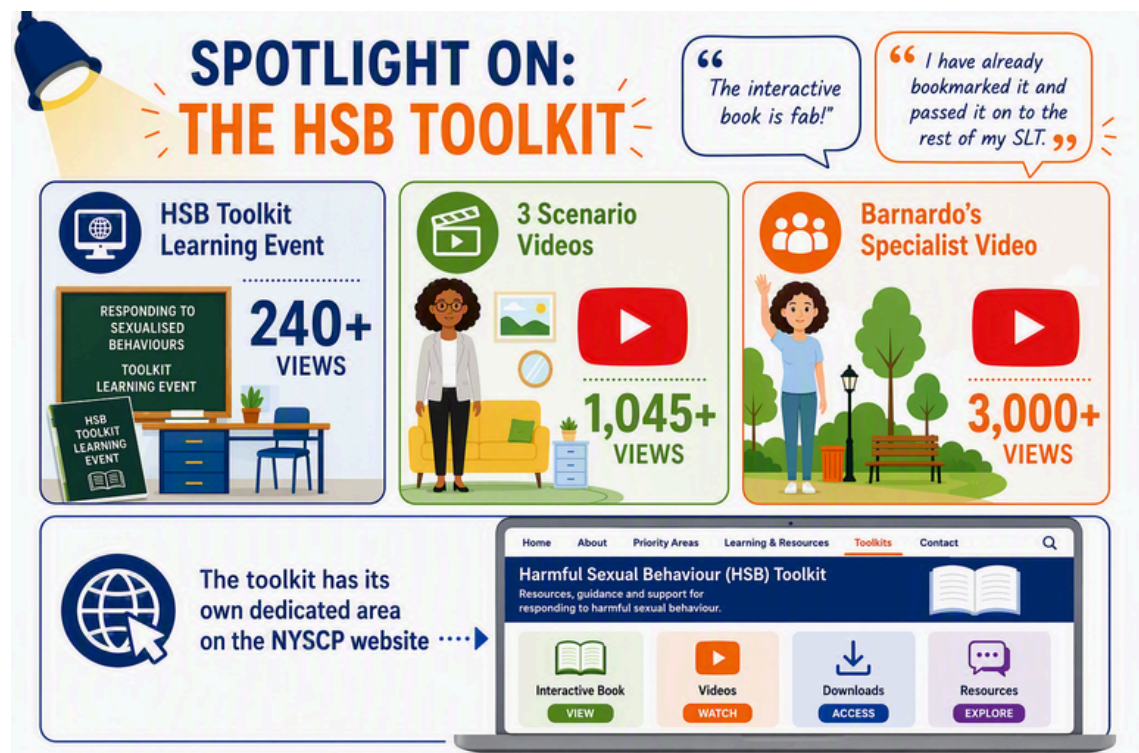
Health services play a critical role in safeguarding children, often having contact with children and families from pregnancy through to adolescence. This places health professionals in a unique position to identify emerging concerns, recognise patterns of vulnerability and ensure children receive the right support at the earliest opportunity.

To support this, the NYSCP has developed a dedicated [Health Provider Organisations](#) webpage, bringing together safeguarding information, guidance, training opportunities and key contacts for health professionals working across North Yorkshire.

The page provides a central point of access to safeguarding resources, helping to promote consistent practice and strengthen understanding of local safeguarding arrangements across a diverse health workforce. By ensuring practitioners can quickly access up-to-date information and guidance, it supports effective information sharing, professional curiosity and timely responses to safeguarding concerns.

This resource also strengthens partnership working by improving connectivity between health providers and the wider safeguarding system, ensuring that learning, updates and key messages are accessible to all organisations involved in protecting children.

[The NYSCP Harmful Sexual Behaviour \(HSB\) Toolkit](#) is an interactive multi-agency resource that supports practitioners to identify, understand and respond to harmful sexual behaviour, including technology-assisted behaviours. Informed by learning from an NSPCC-led multi-agency audit, it promotes a consistent partnership response across North Yorkshire.



Co-produced with practitioners and partners, the toolkit uses mixed-media resources, including animations, scenarios and a dedicated learning session with specialist input from Barnardo's. These resources are available through the NYSCP website and YouTube channel, enabling learning to be revisited beyond formal training. The toolkit has been viewed 2,220 times, demonstrating strong engagement and its value in supporting practitioners to respond to complex and sensitive behaviours.

Celebrating our Partners

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Awards celebrates the multi-agency work between the Local Authority, 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.

The Partnership Achievement Awards are given to individuals or groups working or volunteering with children and young people. 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.



Awards have been presented to the following professionals and teams over 2025/2026:



Happy. Kathryn Morrison, Policy and Development Officer within the NYSCP Business Unit, who played a pivotal role in coordinating safeguarding week and the exploitation summit, bringing together a wide range of partners and community leaders. Kat's leadership, resilience and collaborative approach ensured both events were highly successful, receiving excellent feedback and strengthening partnership working to better support and protect children, young people and communities.



Healthy. SOS+ North Yorkshire (Mandy Norris and Nic Skaife), Early Intervention and Prevention Exploitation Caseworkers, who have gone above and beyond to support vulnerable young people despite challenging circumstances. Through building trusted relationships and tailoring their approach, they have helped young people move away from risk behaviours such as exploitation and weapon carrying, improving wellbeing and supporting positive, lasting change.



Safe. Emily Wall, Social Worker within North Yorkshire Council, who demonstrated outstanding multi-agency leadership to reduce risks of exploitation for a vulnerable young person. Through coordinated work with police, Youth Justice, CAMHS and Early Help, Emily contributed to a 57.5% reduction in police callouts and successfully reduced the young person's risk from high to low, building trust and empowering them to share their worries.



Celebrating our Partners

Awards have been presented to the following professionals and teams over 2025/2026, continued...

Safe. Lee Holmes, Police Sergeant with North Yorkshire Police, who demonstrated exceptional compassion and professionalism while responding to a domestic abuse incident. By taking time to calmly engage and reassure a distressed child, Lee enabled a key disclosure that strengthened the evidential case, helping to secure longer-term protection for the family.



Achieving. James Koppert, Youth Voice & Creative Engagement Officer within North Yorkshire Council, who has made a significant impact through engaging and innovative work with children and young people, particularly around neurodiversity. Following his keynote session at the 2025 DSL conference, James delivered highly praised training and workshops, leaving young people feeling accepted and valued, and equipping staff with practical strategies to better support them.



Making Nominations:

NYSCP likes to celebrate and showcase the great work happening right across our multi-agency partnership.

We would love to know about people who have stood out, gone beyond expectations, or worked creatively and innovatively to improve the lives of Children and Young People in our County.

To recognise the contribution and impact, we have established an NYSCP Partnership Achievement Award.

Individuals or teams working or volunteering with Children and Young

People are eligible to receive an award; all we need is your nomination!

There is a short [form](#) to complete; however, please feel free to be creative. We would love to see included evidence you have of recognition, such as articles, photos, or even a short video clip, as to why you are nominating them.

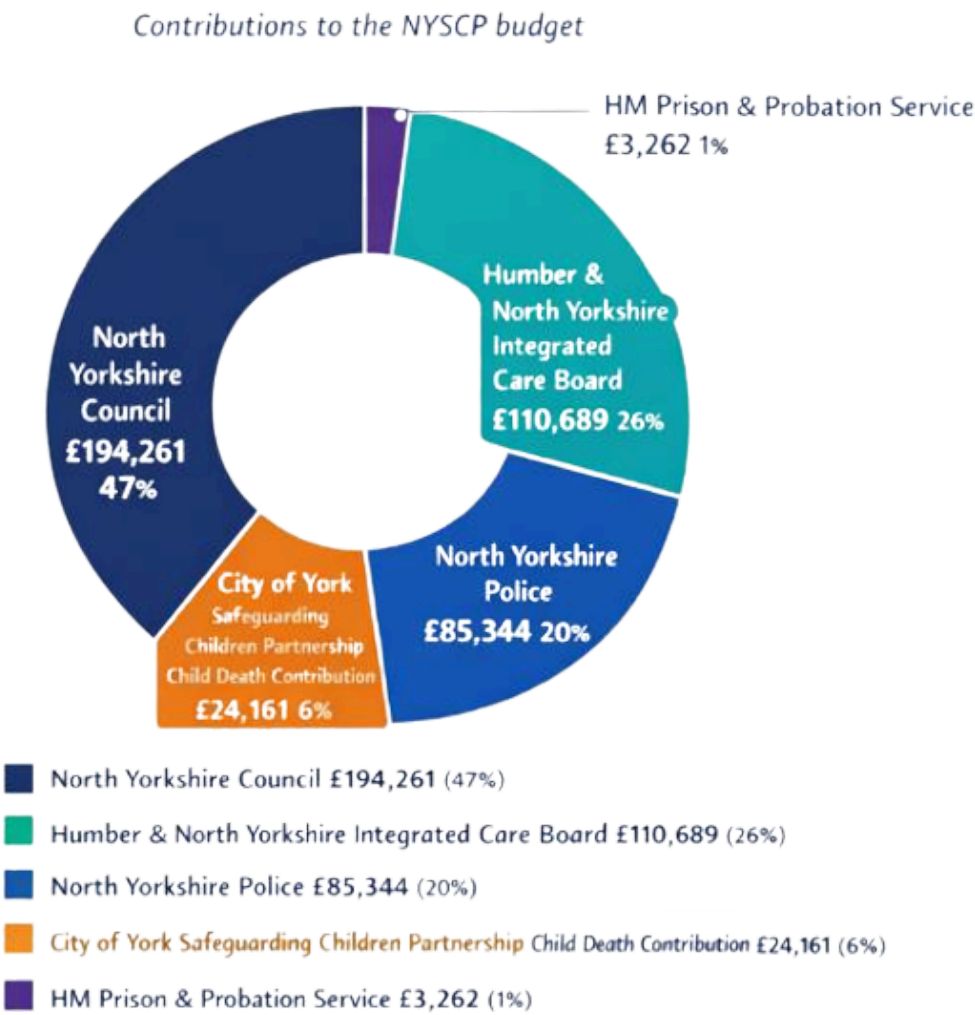


Financial Position

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

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

Financial Breakdown 2025–2026



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

Conclusion

Throughout 2025–2026, the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has continued to strengthen how partners work together to keep children safe, happy, healthy and achieving. This report demonstrates a partnership that is increasingly focused on understanding children's lived experiences, translating learning into practice and evidencing the difference safeguarding activity is making for children and families.

There is clear evidence of stronger multi-agency working, earlier intervention, improved use of children's voices and continued investment in workforce development, learning and prevention.

Importantly, partners remain committed to learning, reflection and continuous improvement, recognising that safeguarding takes place within an increasingly complex environment and that there is always more to do.

As we move into 2026–2027, the partnership will continue to focus on strengthening responses to neglect, child sexual abuse, transitional safeguarding and the implementation of the Families First Partnership Programme. Alongside this, we will continue to improve how we measure impact, ensuring that the voices of children and families, performance information, learning and assurance activity help us understand not only what we do, but the difference it makes.

Together, we remain committed to creating the conditions in which every child in North Yorkshire can thrive and reach their full potential.



Happy



Healthy



Safe



Achieving

Contact

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County Hall,
Northallerton
DL7 8AE

www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk
email: nyscp@northyorks.gov.uk

Telephone: 01609 535123

If you have safeguarding concerns about a child click [here](#) to view the [worried about a child page](#)



Happy



Healthy



Safe



Achieving