

# the Scarborough pledge



transforming coastal futures

## ...Being ambitious for children and young people in Scarborough.

North Yorkshire have three priorities within their plan for [children and young people](#):

- *Ensuring that education is our greatest liberator*
- *Helping all children enjoy a happy family life*
- *Ensuring a healthy start to life*

On almost every measure related to the above priorities, children and young people (and their communities) in Scarborough fare less well than others in North Yorkshire. In common with many other Coastal areas around the country, wide-ranging outcomes for children and young people are frequently poor.

In March of 2015 an Education Summit was held in Scarborough to discuss the opportunities and challenges on the Coast and what more could be done to improve the outcomes and life chances for young people in terms of their experiences and achievements. As a result, the **Scarborough Pledge** was created to engage the local community in an upwards shift of perception and ambition for children on the Coast.

A wide range of diverse but integrated projects and initiatives have been developed and implemented to meet challenging objectives that aim to see:

- An overall improvement in standards of education provision on the Coast
- Improvements in student outcomes in all key stages
- A closing of the attainment gap for the most disadvantaged young people
- A reduction in the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training at 16 and 17
- An increase in the recruitment and retention of good teachers in key subjects
- Improvements in the training and development of teachers and other professionals working with children and young people
- Parents better equipped to support the learning and progression of their children
- Children and young people with high aspirations and better prepared for learning and work
- Greater involvement of the whole community in helping our children to aspire, thrive and succeed.

## Progress to date:

Following the commitment from NYCC to invest £250,000 per year over a three year period to fund enhanced activity to add value to current work, introduce new activity and drive change on the Coast, a steering group was formed oversee the **Scarborough Pledge**.

Based on consultation with local stakeholders, projects have been developed through three related work-streams; **Early Help, Improving Schools and Raising Aspirations**. The aims of these work-streams are described in more detail below together with a summary of the projects that are now underway.

## Work-streams and projects:

### Work-stream 1. – Early help

Enhancing prevention measures to ensure that potential difficulties are identified early and that children and their families don't get 'left behind'. This will include supporting parents and carers in helping their children to succeed.

#### Projects:

1. **Parental engagement** – active engagement of parents/carers to support their children's early learning in readiness for nursery and school.

This project will be led by NYCC Prevention Team in collaboration with Adult Learning, Early Years providers and the health visiting team on the Coast.

As well as providing training and 'ready for school' packs for staff and parents across all settings this project will be underpinned by measures to enhance communication and language development. This includes **all** children learning 5 common rhymes/songs before attending school and a 'ditch the dummy' campaign to limit use of dummies which are detrimental to speech development as well as to oral health.

2. **Speech and language** – another related project will work through a speech and language therapist to test and model good practice in relation to speech and language development, building capacity amongst primary staff to support this critical foundation for all learning.

### Work-stream 2. – Improving schools

Ensuring that we enhance measures to provide a high quality of learning for all children enabling them to achieve and thrive. This will include stepping up initiatives to tackle teacher recruitment difficulties on the Coast and enhancing training and development enabling teachers and other professionals to achieve the highest standards and collaborate effectively.

#### Projects:

1. **Workforce Planning** – this project will tackle teacher recruitment and retention in schools on the Coast in a context of strategic workforce planning in collaboration with leadership teams and

governing bodies across all schools. This will add value and HR expertise and resource to existing measures supporting schools with this significant challenge.

This project will be led by the NYCC HR team in close collaboration with schools.

2. **Literacy strategy** – this project will build on development work through the Early Help work-stream by extending and expanding existing literacy specialist support to teachers across all phases. The aim is to enhance professional practice and collaboration between schools in this critical area of learning and it will be launched through a high level literacy conference for teachers.

It is anticipated that this model could then be rolled out in relation to maths and potentially science. STEM (Science, technology, engineering and maths) will form part of other projects within the Raising Aspirations work-stream.

3. **Cross-phase meetings of head teachers** – this will be a key vehicle for communication and implementation of the Pledge. It will also strengthen and build upon current secondary Heads' and Principals' meetings to ensure cross-phase discussions improve transition from KS2-3.

### Work-stream 3. – Raising Aspirations

Ensuring that young people in Scarborough have high aspirations to achieve in learning and in work and have fulfilling lives. This will include providing experiences to broaden their horizons and build their resilience and confidence. This will include involvement from the business, cultural and wider community on the Coast.

#### Projects:

1. **Careers and STEM** – this wide ranging project is aimed at enhancing careers provision, increasing engagement of employers with schools and raising understanding of the importance of STEM disciplines in relation to career opportunities. This project will be led by NYBEP in collaboration with NYCC, SBC, local employers and other partners.

The project will include re-launching the **Employability Charter** to bring all young people into contact with employers; supporting more secondary schools to achieve a nationally recognised standard in their careers provision; improving access to and use of local labour market information; challenging gender stereotypes in relation to STEM and a range of other related activities.

2. **Cultural and Heritage experience** – this project is targeted at expanding the horizons of children and young people and enhancing their learning through access to cultural, arts and heritage experiences.

It will be led by the Stephen Joseph Theatre building on their significant track record to date of work with local schools and will ensure the engagement of other cultural partners in Scarborough in the project. Pledge funding for this project has been matched by funding from CapeUk with support from Arts Council England.

## Next steps:

- The three Work-stream Groups will now drive the full implementation, development and evaluation of projects.
- The Steering Group will oversee all aspects of the Pledge and hold project leads accountable for progress and impact of their projects as well as ensuring that project leads take account of and join up with other projects and local initiatives where relevant.
- Baseline data has been collected and linked to key measures so that we can evaluate the success of our work and understand the impact of different approaches.
- Communication channels have been established to keep key stakeholders, the education, business and wider community aware of Pledge developments and understand how they can support the work of the Pledge.
- A 'launch' of the Pledge will take place on 22 June 2016 to provide more information about the initiative and gain wider commitment to the Scarborough Pledge as defined on page 5 below.

## Key contacts:

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If you would like to join a group, get involved with a project or contact someone from the Scarborough Pledge please contact:

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## *The Scarborough Pledge*

### What this Pledge means for Children and Young People:

All Pledge activity aims to achieve a learning entitlement which will enable young people to take responsibility for realising their potential.

As children grow up and progress through their education they will:

- Build upon an excellent early start to their lives supported by their families and carers and the local community
- Go to a school that is good or outstanding
- Receive consistently high quality teaching
- Be treated as individuals and encouraged to aspire and achieve
- Know they will be given help, support and encouragement to achieve through a trusted adult or mentor
- Achieve at least, and aim to exceed, expected progress in literacy, numeracy and science at all levels
- Have access to cultural experiences
- Have access to experiences that help them to understand and develop skills needed for the workplace and develop ambitious ideas for their future.

All children and young people will:

- Take responsibility for their own learning
- Exercise leadership
- Be responsible for their own physical and mental well-being
- Relate positively with adults
- Make ambitious plans for their future
- Understand what is expected of them at school, in their community and at work
- Be enterprising
- Try new things and take measured risks without fear of failing

**Scarborough Pledge Steering Group**

**May 2016**