

# Serious Violence in North Yorkshire and York

## Strategic Needs Assessment 2024/25



**NORTH YORKSHIRE**  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



**Updated January 2025**

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Serious Violence Duty Working Group

## Foreword

*“Serious violence has a devastating impact on victims, families, and communities across the country and whilst we know that overall North Yorkshire is one of the safest places to live, we can’t be naïve in thinking serious violence doesn’t happen here – we know it does – and people across our county need to feel safe and be kept safe.*

*As a partnership of committed public sector agencies, North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership and Safer York Partnership are proud to publish the North Yorkshire and York Response Strategy in line with the Government’s Serious Violence Duty.*

*The Strategic Needs Assessment has effectively identified the areas in North Yorkshire and York where Serious Violence is the most prominent and where we most need to focus efforts to tackle it. This has informed our Response Strategy which will be implemented together over the next two years to tackle Serious Violence across our county and help keep our communities safe and feeling safe.”*

Superintendent Ed Haywood-Noble, Chair of Safer York Partnership and Chief Superintendent Fiona Willey, Chair of North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership



## Executive Summary

The purpose of the Needs Assessment is to understand the extent of Serious Violence throughout York and North Yorkshire through the analysis of characteristics, patterns of behaviour and the impact on the wider community. Our aims are to establish the risk factors that increase the likelihood of violence, and how these factors can be reduced through prevention and early intervention.

The following key findings show the picture of Serious Violence in York and North Yorkshire and highlight the factors that underpin violence; this is the first step to implementing a public health approach to tackling and reducing Serious Violence within our communities.

This Strategic Needs Assessment is an updated version of the Strategic Needs Assessment dated January 2024. It is a review of Police data over the last two financial reporting years, 2022/23 and 2023/24, and the first two quarters of 2024/25 (April to September). Where possible, data from other supporting sources also covering April to September 2024 has been included to provide the most current picture of Serious Violence across North Yorkshire and York.

Between April and September 2024, **three** people lost their lives to violence in York and North Yorkshire. In the same period there were **3,101** serious violence offences committed. In addition to the tragic loss of life and impact that serious violence offences have on individuals, families, and the community, in monetary terms these offences have cost York and North Yorkshire over **£66 million** during the analysed period.

## York

### Deprivation

- York is the 12<sup>th</sup> least deprived local authority nationally, ranked out of 151 upper tier local authorities.
- The score for Education and Training fell in the most recent IMD.
- York scores higher on most categories compared to North Yorkshire, showing lower levels of deprivation.
- York is the 6<sup>th</sup> least affected local authority in England for overall crime according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation score.

### Employment

- 2% of the working population are in receipt of Jobs Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit.
- Both male and female claimants have seen a reduction in numbers.
- 11% of children are living in absolute low-income families, 4% lower than the national average.
- Those in York experience lower than average rates of pay, over 20% earn less than the national living wage.

### Education

- As of August 2023, York Ofsted ratings were at a high level, and all secondary schools were rated as 'outstanding' or 'good'.
- 1.5% of sessions had children absent without the school's consent; 93% of children linked to a serious violence offence had been persistently absent.
- Only 1% of 16–17-year-olds were not in education or training.
- 19% of school children in York were eligible for free school meals; 62% of those linked to a serious violence offence were eligible.
- 82% of children cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence had been suspended and 3% had been excluded.

### Substance Misuse

- York had a large proportion of those admitted to hospital for substance and alcohol misuse.
- Over 1,000 people from York are in structured treatment for drug and alcohol use; 22% of those people had children living with them.

### Mental Health

- York has a higher-than-average proportion of residents who were admitted to hospital due to self-harm injuries; rates were particularly high for 10–24-year-olds.
- There has been a decrease in suicide rates, however there is over-representation from those living in more deprived areas.

### Youth Offending

- York had 27% of all Youth Outcome Panel referrals in 2023.
- As has been the case in the last 3 years, both York and Scarborough District had a higher percentage of referrals than their percentage of the 10-17 population (ONS 2021 Mid-Year Population Estimate). Using the same method of calculation, York is overrepresented by 19%.
- The overall percentage of referrals relating to females remained static at 37% in 2023, with the percentages from York (36%) and North Yorkshire (38%) very similar.
- There has been an increase in the number and percentage of pre-teens referred to the YOP in 2023.
- During 2023, the percentage of referrals dealt with outside of the formal criminal justice system for NY and York remained at a similar level of 71.5%. However, the proportion of referrals resulting in an Outcome 22 recommendation increased significantly, from 28.5% in 2022 to 59.7% in 2023.

### **Violence Against Women and Girls**

- Offences such as ‘coercive and controlling behaviour’ continue to be on the rise, a trend seen within York.
- Half of women who are suspected of being victims of such crimes are non-visible to services and do not report crimes.

### **Violence**

- Although Serious Violence crime has seen an overall reduction, York is heavily influenced by the night-time economy and the academic year. Peak times of Grievous Bodily Harm coincided with Race days and key academic calendar days.
- The clear link between serious violence, alcohol, and the weekend & evening periods; night-time economy will be a priority.
- **Guildhall ward continues to be the most at risk ward across York, featuring highest in offence volume amongst most crime types within York. This area should continue to be a priority area of focus.**
- Administering poison (aka spiking) is significantly higher in the Guildhall Ward than any other Ward in North Yorkshire, with the majority of offences occurring overnight.
- Possession of weapon offences has increased with Guildhall being the most at risk Ward. The peak month was August, the same as the previous year.
- Rape offences have decreased by 14%, however 87% of victims were over 16 years old, and of those offence, 62% of cases the offender was known to the victim.
- Serious sexual offences have not seen a change from the previous year. Guildhall again featuring as the most at risk Ward.

### **Domestic Abuse**

- York has seen a 12% decrease in the number of domestic offences comparing April to September figures; however, it still has the second highest rate of crimes at 3.7 per 1,000 of the population.
- Assault without injury and Assault with injury were the two most common crimes, followed by stalking and coercive behaviour.
- Offence numbers are high between current partners, which shows the need for support services.

Caveat: This document uses percentage change to compare a change in totals. However, in some instances these are to be viewed with caution given the low volume in numbers.

## North Yorkshire

### Deprivation

- North Yorkshire is the 26<sup>th</sup> least deprived local authority nationally, ranked out of 151 upper tier local authorities.
- Barriers to services was a concern area, this can be partly explained due to the rural nature of the locality.
- Scarborough is significantly more deprived than any other locality within North Yorkshire, experiencing poor income, low employment, lack of educational attainment, poor health, and high crime rates.
- North Yorkshire is the 4<sup>th</sup> least affected local authority in England for overall crime according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation score.

### Employment

- 1.9% of the working population are in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit.
- The number of people claiming these benefits has decreased, however more women are now claiming.
- 12% of children are living in absolute low-income households; Scarborough had the largest amount at 37%.

### Education

- 1.2% of schools' sessions had children absent without consent; 83% of pupils linked to a serious violence offence had been persistently absent.
- 1.9% of 16-17 years are not in education or training.
- 18% of North Yorkshire schools were rated as 'inadequate'.
- 17% of pupils are eligible for free school meals; 62% of those linked to a serious violence offence were eligible.
- 83% of children cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence had ever been suspended and 16% had been excluded.

### Substance Misuse

- Over 2,450 people from North Yorkshire are in structured treatment for drug and alcohol use; 18% of those in treatment had children within the household.
- There are very low levels of people in structured treatment who complete and do not re-present within 6 months.
- **There is a higher rate of hospital admissions for substance misuse for 15-24 years olds than the national average.**
- Scarborough and Harrogate had high levels of hospital admissions due to alcohol misuse, which can be expected due to the urban nature of these areas.

### Mental Health

- Scarborough has a higher-than-average rate of people experiencing depression or anxiety; 16% of the population.

### Youth Offending

- North Yorkshire had 73% of all referrals to the Youth Outcome Panel in 2023.
- As has been the case in the last 3 years, both York and Scarborough District had a higher percentage of referrals than their percentage of the 10-17 population (ONS 2021 Mid-Year Population Estimate). Although it is positive that the percentage of referrals relating to Scarborough District has reduced from the high of 26.6% seen in 2021, it remains the most overrepresented location in 2023, with the percentage of referrals (24.0%) being 92% higher than its proportion of the York & North Yorkshire 10-17 population (12.5%).
- Richmondshire is the only other District in 2022 and 2023 where this is the case: in 2023 it had 7.7% of referrals against 5.9% of the 10-17 population – an overrepresentation of 30%.

- The overall percentage of referrals relating to females remained static at 37% in 2023, with the percentages from York (36%) and North Yorkshire (38%) very similar.
- During 2023, the percentage of referrals dealt with outside of the formal criminal justice system for NY and York remained at a similar level of 71.5%. However, the proportion of referrals resulting in an Outcome 22 recommendation increased significantly, from 28.5% in 2022 to 59.7% in 2023.
- 13% of those referred to the panel from NY had been re-referred within 12 months.

#### Violence Against Women and Girls

- Offences such as ‘coercive and controlling behaviour’ continue to be on the rise, a trend seen within North Yorkshire.
- Half of women who are suspected of being victims of such crimes are non-visible to services and do not report crimes.

#### Violence

- North Yorkshire has seen an **overall reduction** in violence with injury figures comparing April to September figures to the same time-period last year;
- Unlike last year, there has been an **increase across the most serious crimes**; Homicide and GBH, However, rape and serious sexual offences has seen a decrease.
- The largest **increase in possession offences was seen in Scarborough. Harrogate saw a decrease in offences, this correlates with OCG targeted operations and knife bin installation.**

- **Richmondshire’s possession offences have doubled in volume in the previous reporting year and are predicted to double again. Further exploration as to the reasons for this required.**
- Police data shows that there has been a reduction in weapon possession amongst youths.
- Castle ward continues to be the most at risk ward across North Yorkshire, featuring highest in offence volume amongst most crime types. This area continues to be a priority area of focus.
- Hambleton seems to be an emerging area with serious violence increasing in most crime types such as Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), Rape, Weapon Possession and Assault on Emergency Workers,
- Rape and sexual offences have both seen a decrease in recorded offences.

#### Domestic Abuse

- **Overall North Yorkshire has recorded a 12% decrease;** with all areas showing a decrease with the exception of Ryedale. This could be a reflection of the focused Domestic Abuse campaign work completed in this area.
- Scarborough had the highest rate of offences at 6.2.per 1,000 of the population; second was Selby at 3.7, which is the same level as York.
- Assault without injury and assault with injury were the two most common crimes, followed by stalking and coercive behaviour.
- Offence numbers are high between current partners, which shows the need for support services.

Caveat: This document uses percentage change to compare a change in totals. However, in some instances these are to be viewed with caution given the low volume in numbers.

## Introduction

The North Yorkshire Serious Violence Duty has been established to embed a public health approach to violence reduction in North Yorkshire. The Duty seeks to understand the risk factors that can lead to serious violence, and the impact this is having on members of our community.

To fully understand and to provide an effective response to the problem of serious violence, it is helpful to consider the range of 'violent harm':

- Actual Harm – physical and/or psychological harm has taken place.
- Intentional Harm – where harm was intended but did not occur.
- Potential Harm – where harm was not intended but their actions are such that risk of harm is a possibility.
- Cumulative Harm – the impact of repeated lower levels of harm from similar actions or the same offender, over an extended period.

Serious Violence is a multi-faceted problem, which requires a multi-agency approach and the full involvement of the community it affects. By looking at the wider risk factors which contribute to serious violence, such as deprivation, health issues, poor education, adverse childhood experiences and unemployment, we can fully understand the picture of why violence occurs and what prevention will fit the communities that require the duties involvement.

It is understandable those affected by and involved in violence are sometimes reluctant to engage with police led reform, and therefore a multi-agency response, tailored to our local communities will look at early intervention through several organisations. Whilst a strong law enforcement and offender management response will always be required, a public health model is better suited to achieve long-term benefits of reform.

'By adopting a public health approach violence can be prevented. A range of different interventions throughout the life course can reduce individuals' propensity for violence, lower the chances of those involved again and ensure that those affected by violence get the support they require'.

(Bellis et al 2012)

Violence is experienced on greater scale by communities who are more deprived and have fewer opportunities to break the cycle of violence. In recent years this has been exaggerated by the impact of COVID-19 and more recently the cost-of-living crisis. During this SNA the different risk factors of violence will be examined, and inequalities will be highlighted to ensure our approach is targeted to the local communities most at risk of serious violence.



## Definition of Violence

The Serious Violence Duty is not given a set definition of serious violence, and each local area is encouraged to set their own definition.

The definition of serious violence for North Yorkshire and York reflects issues found within the local area, and the impact and prevalence of different types of serious violence.

Therefore, for North Yorkshire and York, the following crimes are included in our definition of serious violence and were used during the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA):

- Homicide
- Violence with Injury<sup>1</sup>
- Domestic Abuse
- Rape and Sexual Offences
- Weapon Related Violence; including Weapon Possession
- Arson Endangering Life
- Stalking and Harassment; non-domestic

In addition, the following areas of thematic interest are considered within the wider profile:

- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Young People
- Alcohol and Substance Misuse
- Mental Health
- Deprivation and Employment
- Education

Rationale:

Some categories were considered for inclusion but excluded due to being covered by governance structures elsewhere.

- All HO Classifications under the 'Violence without Injury' subgroup have been excluded as they do not involve serious violence.
- County lines activity has the propensity for violence; however, this has not been included as a separate theme as it will be covered in the Drugs Market Profile, Drugs Strategy and Drug & Alcohol SNA.
- Modern Slavery has not been included, however any incidents with serious violence linked to victims of modern slavery will be picked up within the data set and noted within the SNA.

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<sup>1</sup> Attempted Murder, Endangering Life, Grievous Bodily Harm, Actual Bodily Harm, Administering Poison with Intent to Injure, Non-Fatal Strangulation and Suffocation

Our aims are:

- To understand the extent of violence throughout North Yorkshire through the analysis of characteristics, patterns of behaviour and the impact on the wider community.
- To identify the risk factors that increase the likelihood of violence, and how these factors can be reduced through prevention, diversion, and early intervention.
- To establish effective interventions in a variety of settings and monitor the impact on reducing serious violence these interventions produce.

## Public Health Approach

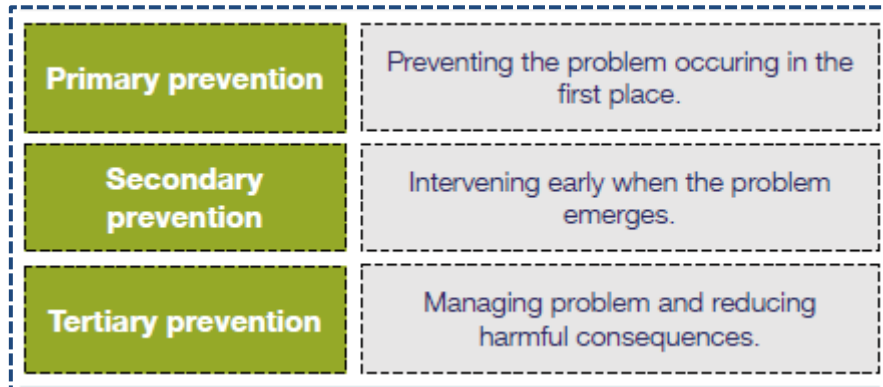
A Public Health approach is a multi-partner approach, utilising knowledge from specialist areas such as education, healthcare, and social services. A public health approach is defined by using data, intelligence, and case studies to identify the extent of serious violence and what impact this has on perpetrators and victims of crime, and the wider community. In using this approach interventions are not constrained by organisational or professional boundaries and focus on improving population health and wellbeing through long term solutions.

‘Partnership is central to public health approaches because the breadth of population need requires intervention across many disciplines and services. Different partners have access to different skills, levers, and mechanisms to effect change’.

(Public Health England, 2019)

Serious Violence can be prevented, and through the reduction of risk factors in common public health issues this can be sustainable. Due to the wide range of issues which contribute to serious violence, a public health approach naturally lends itself to the problem.

Public Health England’s public health approach to serious violence identifies the ‘5 C’s approach’ – collaboration, co-production, cooperation in data and intelligence sharing, counter-narrative, and community consensus. This approach will be applied within the North Yorkshire Serious Violence Duty.



Three levels of prevention are identified and can be applied to different cohorts of offenders or potential offenders. A high-risk cohort requires a reduction in offending and tertiary prevention, the at-risk cohort requires early intervention and therefore secondary intervention, and the low-risk cohort needs primary prevention.

Although the importance of preventative work is widely recognised, demand for services and years of cuts in funding has resulted in services responding at crisis point, rather than at an early intervention stage. By identifying the key risk factors, locations at risk and cohorts of offenders, targeted preventative solutions can be embedded into everyday work throughout the partnership services which already exist.

## Financial Cost of Violence

The financial cost of violence can have a significant impact on other areas of intervention and prevention, and the ability to tackle serious crime. By reducing serious violence, we can allow more funding for essential support to victims and offenders and allocate demand to areas which are most in need.

The cost of serious violence in York and North Yorkshire has been estimated by multiplying the number of recorded crimes by the unit cost of crime provided by the Home Office.<sup>2</sup>

The method takes into consideration factors such as anticipation of crime, such as defensive expenditure, consequences of crime, such as stolen property and victim services, and response to crime, such as police cost.

These unit costs have been adjusted to factor in inflation rates as the original publication was circulated in 2018. The Bank of England Inflation Calculator has been used to estimate this adjustment.<sup>3</sup>

Only certain break down of crimes within York and North Yorkshires definition of serious violence were available in the methodology, and so only these have been included.

Crime Type	Cost per crime	2023/24 full year		2024/25 Q1 & Q2 only	
		Number of crimes	Total Cost	Number of crimes	Total Cost
Homicide	£4,077,239	1	£4,077,239	3	£12,231,717
Violence with Injury	£17,803	4,845	£86,255,196	2,429	£43,243,317
Rape Offences	£49,874	367	£18,303,593	166	£8,279,009
Serious Sexual Offences	£8,262	574	£4,742,141	268	£2,214,101
Arson	£10,669	31	£330,742	19	£202,713
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>£113,708,911</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>£66,170,857</b>

The overall cost of serious violence in York and North Yorkshire, between April and September 2024, was approximately **£66,170,857**.

This figure can be reduced through the implementation of prevention and intervention, to prevent serious violence and reduce the financial and psychological impact of crime on victims and services.

As will be detailed in this report, **York and North Yorkshire has seen an overall 10% reduction in Serious Violence offences since the previous reporting year, and with-it potential financial savings. However, homicide has increased, which is of the greatest severity and has the highest financial cost.**

<sup>2</sup> Home Office, *The Economic and Social Cost of Crime: Second Edition*, July 2018

<sup>3</sup> Bank Of England, *Inflation Calculator*, September 2024

## Survey Results

The National Crime Survey<sup>4</sup> of England and Wales showed that out of the 43 Police Forces, North Yorkshire Police is rated highest in the country in four categories:

- Having the confidence of its communities
- Treating the public with respect
- Doing a good or excellent job
- Understanding local concerns.

The local Serious Violence survey that was run by the former Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner in 2023, was re-run by the York and North Yorkshire Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime between 22 July and 27 September 2024.

The survey was promoted online and via Social Media channels such as Facebook, X, Instagram and Linkin. The aim was to obtain a wider audience than the previous year, so additional promotion was made in September via schools, colleges, and youth settings, in order to engage the younger population.

A total of 81 full completed responses were received (this an increase from 67 in the previous year). Six responses have been partially excluded; excluded from the 'experience of police and support' as their experience did not fall within the Serious Violence definition or were in the North Yorkshire area. A further 118 partial responses were received but were incomplete and so they have not been included within the results figures.

Due to such a small sample size, the results of the survey do not represent the overall population of York and North Yorkshire and instead can be considered a snapshot of a few. Because of this, comparisons have not been made between the two surveys.



<sup>4</sup> [The survey](#), published by ONS, measured public perceptions for the year ending June 2024

## Locality

North Yorkshire is made up of two council areas, North Yorkshire, and City of York. York is an urban, densely populated area. North Yorkshire is largely rural area that consists of seven localities - Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough, and Selby. Harrogate and Scarborough stand out as more demographically urban areas, however, are very different characteristically.

There are three universities within the region; University of York, York St. John University and Coventry University: Scarborough; York University is a large Russell Group university, which incorporates a large campus and many student accommodations.

There is one prison situated North Yorkshire and York which is an open prison for women over the age of 18. There are however many in the surrounding areas of Yorkshire and Humberside, including a young offenders institute and a high security prison. Those convicted within North Yorkshire and York will likely be sent to one of these regional prisons.

Violence within prisons previously saw an increase, which mirrors the trend in Assault on Emergency Workers. Assault on prison staff members saw a 71% increase in figures from 2022/23 to 2023/24. Comparing figures from April to September 2024 to the same time-period in 2023, it appears that numbers have stabilised<sup>5</sup>.

The new Labour government has also implemented a short-term measure, allowing certain prisoners to automatically be released on licence into the community after serving 40% of their sentence in prison. However, this change will not apply to all prisoners. Excluded are those serving sentences for certain sexual, violent, domestic abuse, terrorism, and national security offences.

## Population

North Yorkshire and York is England's largest county by area, covering over 3,100 square miles with a population of over 800,000.<sup>6</sup>

North Yorkshire is the third least densely populated upper tier local authority in England; only Northumberland and Cumbria have fewer residents per square kilometre. Amongst a set of similar areas, known as statistical neighbours, North Yorkshire has the lowest population density by a considerable margin.

The 2021 census showed that the population of North Yorkshire and York is predominantly white: 96.7% in North Yorkshire and 92.8% in York; these are both higher than the national average showing that the region is not notably ethnically diverse.

Trends over the last decade indicate that the area is becoming marginally more ethnically diverse. York's white population sat at 94.2% in the 2011 census. This trend is expected to continue.

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<sup>5</sup> HMPPS Performance Hub dashboard – [Assaults on Prison Staff VR001a](#)

<sup>6</sup> Office for National Statistics, *Census 2021*, July 2022

The female population is slightly larger; 51% in North Yorkshire and 52% in York. The age profile is very varied between the two localities; York hosts a much younger population and North Yorkshire has a higher-than-average age of residents.

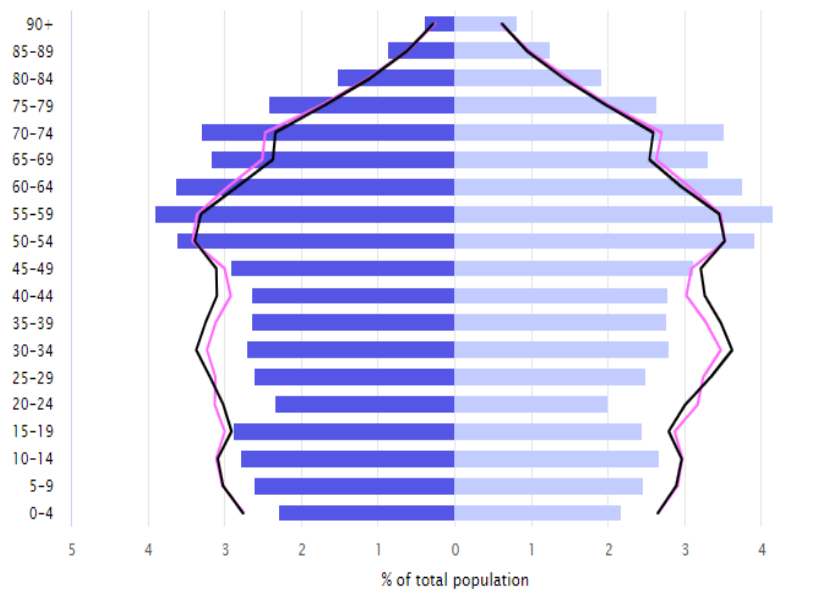
### North Yorkshire

The most recent census indicates that the approximate population of North Yorkshire is 615,500. The median age was 48.5; this average age is above the national average and represents an ageing population. The working age population is 60% of the total population.

As expected, Harrogate and Scarborough are the most densely populated localities; Harrogate hosts 26.4% of the overall population and Scarborough 17.6%.

Despite being the most populated areas, they recorded the smallest population growth in North Yorkshire, with Scarborough recording a 0.1% decrease since 2011. Richmondshire was the only other area with a decrease, falling 4.2%. The regional average was a population increase of 3.7%.

Selby recorded the largest increase with a 10.2% uplift in population growth, higher than the national average of 6.6%.



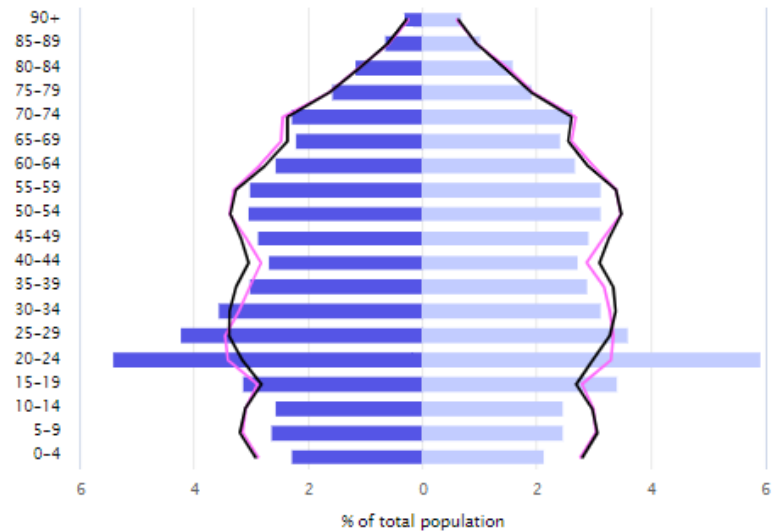
The wards of Scarborough Central and Eastfield, Crossgates & Seamer have the highest proportion of 25- to 34-year-olds. In Harrogate the wards with the highest amounts of 25- to 34-year-olds fell within the wards of Central Harrogate and Harrogate East.

This age group represents a large majority of those involved in criminality, at risk of being involved or a victim of crime. These areas will be highlighted further within the violence section of the needs assessment.

## York

The most recent 2019 Census indicated that the approximate population of York is 202,800, which increased by 2.4% from the previous census in 2011. This was a smaller increase than the region at 3.7% and nationally at 6.6%.

The urban population of York accounted for 84% of the total population.



Looking at the City of York age profile, it is clear to see that the age groups 15-19 and 20-24 are overrepresented, which shows the impact that York University has on the age demographic.

It is widely known that urban areas, with a student population and a younger age profile are more susceptible to higher levels of criminality, influenced by the younger population and the night-time economy.

The largest proportion of 15- to 24-year-olds are situated in the wards of Fulford, Heslington & University totalling 53.6%. This is expected due to the student accommodation and city centre attractions within this area.

Tang Hall and Fulford Road & Clementhorpe also have a high density of 15- to 24-year-olds, with the student population and young professionals spread out into these areas of the city.

The median age of York is 39, considerably lower than that of North Yorkshire, and the region.

The working-age population totalled 66.4% of the population, this is higher than North Yorkshire and again shows the average younger age represented in York.



## Risk and Protective Factors

### Poverty

The Social Metrics Commission 2019 report on UK poverty estimated that at the time there were approximately 14.3 million people living in relative poverty. This is equivalent to more than 1 in 5 of the total population. The report also highlighted that child poverty has been rising since 2011, and in the 2019 report 4.6 million children were estimated to be living in poverty.<sup>7</sup>

Current poverty levels are defined as people living in households with income more than 60% below the national median.

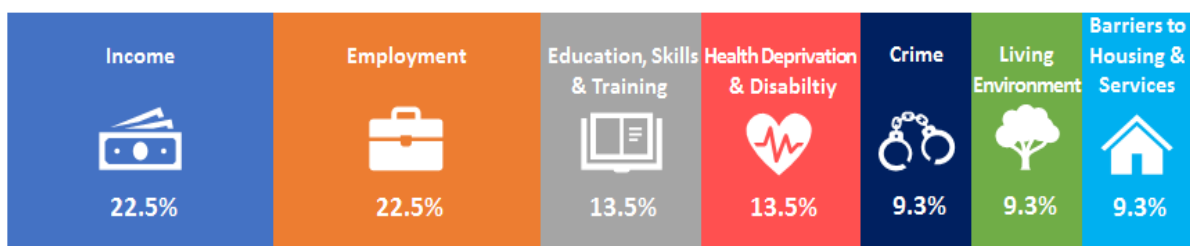
The median household disposable income in the UK was £34,500, a decrease of 2.5% from FYE 2022, based on estimates from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Household Finances Survey (HFS).<sup>8</sup>

The phrases 'poverty' and 'deprivation' are often used interchangeably however someone can be in poverty due to economic circumstance, they can also be classed as deprived due to a lack of any number of resources, not just financial.

Poverty affects people disproportionately, defining the social context into which some children are born, which create disadvantages from birth.

Deprivation is measured nationally through the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). To score a level of deprivation 39 datasets, rounded into seven categories – income, employment, health, education & skills, housing & access to services, crime and living environment.

As can be seen in the graphic below, the domains are weighted with income and employment given the most weight. A higher score indicates a greater level of deprivation, and a rank of 1 indicates the most deprived area.



York and North Yorkshire are placed quite highly within the 151 local authorities which shows that on average there is not a significant problem with poverty or deprivation overall, however this does not take away from the small pockets of areas which have localised issues. This is further discussed below, in which 'average score' and rank of average score' measures from the IMD data have been utilised.<sup>9</sup>

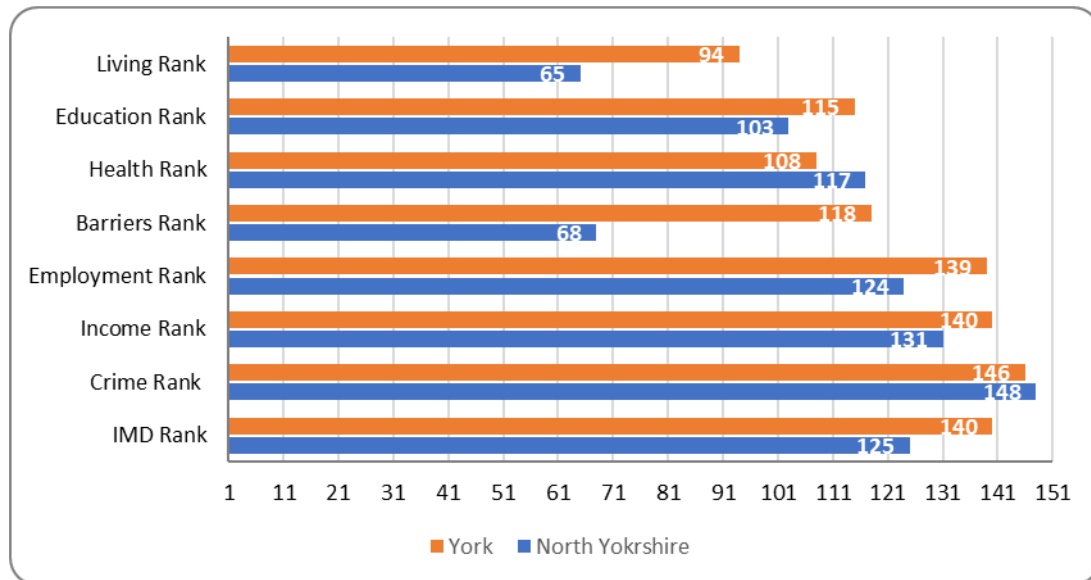
<sup>7</sup> The Social Metrics Commission, *Measuring Poverty 2019*, July 2019

<sup>8</sup> Office of National Statistics, *Average Household Income*, September 2024

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, *English Indices of Deprivation 2019*, September 2019

Similarly, both York and North Yorkshire have a positive rank of Income Deprivation Affecting Children. Both were ranked within the least 15 deprived areas, meaning that children in our area are experiencing a better standard of living. This is of course an average and does not represent all households equally. This also does not reflect the current economic climate in which the cost-of-living crisis is affecting many households as fuel, food and other essentials are increasing in price.

The chart shows current IMD scores; a higher score means lower levels of deprivation.



## York

The overall IMD average score for York is 11.73; the range in England scoring from the least deprived at 5.85 to the most deprived at 45.04.

York is ranked 140 out of 151 upper tier local authority (UTLA), meaning York is the 12<sup>th</sup> least deprived UTLA in England. York is the least deprived UTLA within the Yorkshire and Humber region; this has remained the same since 2015.

The domain on which York ranks the best is Crime, in which it ranks 6<sup>th</sup> least deprived local authority in England, showing the lower amounts of crime that occur within the City of York. The Crime domain has improved by 16 places since the 2015 IMD, which is a significant reduction in crime figures. Whilst the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) shows low amounts of crime, it is important to analyse which crimes are happening within this area, something that will be focused on in the Violence section of this report.

Compared with 2015, York improved in four of the seven domains, showing significant uplift in the area. The domains in which York's ranking fell were Education Skills and Training and Health and Disability. **As will be discussed further in the document, children's education plays a significant part in the road to becoming involved in criminality and therefore must be an area which is improved before the next IMD is published.**

The Local Authorities are also sub-divided into lower tier categories, of which there are 317 nationally.

York is ranked 267 out of 317 lower tier local authority (LTLA), and so York is the 51<sup>st</sup> least deprived LTLA in England. Within the region, York is the second least deprived area, with Harrogate being the least deprived.

### North Yorkshire

The overall IMD average score for North Yorkshire is 14.76; the range scoring from least deprived at 5.85 to the most deprived at 45.04. North Yorkshire is therefore ranked 125 out of 151 upper tier local authorities, meaning that North Yorkshire is the 26<sup>th</sup> least deprived UTLA in England.

Similarly, to York, the domain that North Yorkshire ranks best is crime, in which it is the 4<sup>th</sup> least deprived area out of the 151 local authorities. This shows that overall York and North Yorkshire have very low levels of crime overall, and that it is an area which is of least concern. It will be established in the Violence section of the profile, what proportion of crime is categorised as serious violence.

The domains in which North Yorkshire ranked the worst in was Barriers (68 out of 151) and Living (65 out of 151). Barriers to Housing and Services is something that North Yorkshire will be disadvantaged at due to the geographical nature of the county. There is a vast amount of small rural villages where many services are not easily accessible due to locations and transport. Living Environment deprivation is highlighted in both rural and urban areas of the county and represents the proportion of households in poor quality or without necessary functions such as central heating.

The Local Authorities are also sub-divided into lower tier categories, of which there are 317 nationally.

**Within North Yorkshire, Scarborough is significantly more deprived overall than the other areas within the county. Scarborough has an IMD score of 26.28, ranking it 69 out of the 317. In comparison the next highest ranking North Yorkshire local authority is Ryedale which is ranked 200.**

Scarborough ranks highly in Income, Employment, Education and Health. This indicates that Scarborough has a high amount of people experiencing low income, high levels of the population involuntarily excluded from employment, a lack of educational attainment and a higher risk of premature death and people experiencing impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health.

It is also the highest-ranking lower tier area for Crime, however when this is compared nationally to the other 317 lower tier areas it is relatively low ranking, again showing North Yorkshires overall low levels of crime.

Richmondshire was highest ranking in the Barriers category, ranked 37 out of 317. This is representative of the rural nature of North Yorkshire which has previously been mentioned. Ryedale ranks next highest at 48. Ryedale is also the highest-ranking lower tier within the Living category at 29, followed by Craven at 34.

## Employment

Nationally the unemployment rate from July to September 2024, for all aged 16+, is at 4.3% which has increased 0.3% from the previous quarter.<sup>10</sup> The unemployment rate in North Yorkshire was 2.2% in the year ending September 2023.<sup>11</sup> Around 2,900 people aged 16 and over in York were unemployed in the year ending December 2023. This is a rate of 2.5%. This was an increase compared with the year ending December 2022 when the unemployment rate was 1.8%.<sup>12</sup>

Nationally there has been an increase in the amount of people claiming either Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) or Universal Credit (UC); +6,805 for England in the 12 months before June 2023. Overall men had seen a decrease, with the number of women claiming significantly increasing.

In the financial year ending 2023 there were 2.48 million children (aged 0-15) in relative low-income families, and 1.96 million children (aged 0-15) in absolute low-income families across the UK. This accounts for 20% and 16% respectively.<sup>13</sup>

Unemployment can impact a person's living circumstances; the most extreme example is someone becoming homeless because of their financial situation. Across York and North Yorkshire in 2022/23 there were approximately 69 households in temporary accommodation. This was 0.7 per 1,000 of the population; the national average was 4.3. Half of these households had children within them.<sup>16</sup>

### North Yorkshire

As of June 2023, 7,035 people are in receipt of either JSA or UC. This accounted for 1.9% of the population, aged 16 – 64, and showed a 235 decrease in claimants from the previous year. 54% of the claimants were male, however male claimants had seen a reduction of 310 from the previous 12 months. Female claimants had increased by 80.

In the year to March 2022 North Yorkshire had 11,555 children living in absolute low-income families; this is 12% of all children living within North Yorkshire. The national median rate sat at 15%, and so North Yorkshire had a lower than national average rate.<sup>14</sup> Scarborough has the largest proportion with 3,007 which is 37% of the total. The lowest area total was in Richmondshire.<sup>15</sup>

In the last quarter of 2021, a total of 538 households across North Yorkshire were officially recorded as being threatened with homelessness or as homeless; although this figure sits below 1% of the population of North Yorkshire, it is a relatively economically stable county, and no households should be in a position in which the residents are at risk of homelessness. **Nearly two in four (38%) of these households were from Scarborough and one quarter (25%) from Harrogate.**<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Office for National Statistics, *Unemployment Statistical Release*, November 2024

<sup>11</sup> Office for National Statistics, employment, unemployment and economic inactivity in North Yorkshire, 2 February 2024

<sup>12</sup> Office for National Statistics, employment, unemployment and economic inactivity in York, 14 May 2024

<sup>13</sup> Relative low income: This refers to people living in households with income below 60% of the median in that year. Absolute low income: This refers to people living in households with income below 60% of median income in a base year, usually 2010/11. This measurement is adjusted for inflation.

<sup>14</sup> Department for Work & Pensions, *Children in low-income families: Area statistics 2014 to 2022*, March 2023

<sup>15</sup> Department for Work & Pensions, *Stat-Xplore*, July 2023

<sup>16</sup> Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, *Statutory Homelessness: Detailed local authority-level tables*, September 2022

## York

In York, the percentage of people aged 16 years and over who were employed sat at 52.5% as estimated in the 2021 census. This was a decrease of 3.0% since 2011.

As of June 2023, 2,270 people were in receipt of either JSA or UC; this is 2% of the working age population of York. This figure has seen a reduction of 205 from the previous year.

58% of claimants were male. Both female and male claimants had shown a reduction in numbers from the prior 12 months.<sup>17</sup>

In the year to March 2022 York had 3,283 children in absolute low-income families; this equates to 11% of the under 16 years old population of York. This has dropped by approximately 1,000 from the year previous and is 4% lower than the national average.

Those who are in employment within York will experience lower than average wage compared to the national average. Over 20% of working people in York earned less than the living wage, which places 13% of York's children in low-income families.<sup>18</sup>

## **Education and School Absenteeism**

Systems of support are crucial to protect children from being drawn into criminality. A child's full attendance in good quality education is a significant protective factor against the risk of young people being involved in or becoming a victim of serious violence.

Children struggling in education are particularly vulnerable. Those who are persistently absent, suspended, excluded or attending alternative education settings are far more likely to be victims of and to engage in violent behaviour than their peers. For example, **74% of excluded pupils and 40% of those in pupil referral units report perpetrating violence, compared to just 16% of the average across the population.** Children with special educational needs, particularly cognitive or learning difficulties, are similarly at heightened risk.<sup>19</sup>

The drivers of violence are complex, and concern is not only for children who become offenders, but also those who become victims of violence.

'The 'term serious youth violence' implies a one-way relationship where youths commit violence, but there are children who are victims of violence and many who are experiencing violence as a victim and offender at the same time.'

*Neal Hazel, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Salford*

67% of 13-17 year olds are concerned about being a victim of violence from other young children. This may be exacerbated by the fact that exposure to real-life violence on social media has become the norm, rather than the exception with 70% of teenager children (aged 13-17) encountering some form of real-world violence online in the last 12months. The most frequently observed content is

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<sup>17</sup> Office for National Statistics, *Claimant Count by Unitary and Local Authority*, July 2023

<sup>18</sup> City of York Council, *York Joint Strategic Needs Assessment*, 2021

<sup>19</sup> Youth Endowment Fund Survey of 10,000 teenager children – Who is affected by Violence Report 1 2024

footage of fights involving young people.<sup>20</sup> **It is recommended that this is included in future Serious Violence analysis and to involve partners such as Youth Commission.**

Nationally there is an average 6.9% absence rate. Just over half of absence was due to illness, which accounted for 3.5% of possible sessions in autumn 2023/24 and 3.8% in spring 2023/24. The level of absence due to illness reduced compared to the combined terms for autumn and spring 2022/23, but remained higher than the pre-pandemic levels.<sup>21</sup>

A recent review into child support systems shows that stigmatisation is a significant factor into a child's journey into violence. Practitioners who label a child as 'risky' or 'offender' can influence their self-identity, having a negative impact on the child's perception towards themselves and the system.<sup>22</sup> In contrast to this, it is widely known that positive relationships with practitioners and easy access to the right support can protect against violence, and encourage healthy behaviours in young people.

A survey by the Youth Endowment Fund of over 10,000 teenage children (**aged 13-17**) highlighted the consequences for children involved in violence are varied. Most commonly, they face repercussions from parents (39%) or school authorities (32%), with 20% reporting school exclusion and 10% involving the police. However, **21% of those who committed violence say there was no response from adults at all.**<sup>20</sup>

**The concerning element is the lack of proactive support** Despite the fact that adults in authority find out about most cases of violence, **only 10% of those who committed violent behaviour report were offered support or training to help them better manage their actions in the future.** Only 12% say they were offered support or training after perpetrating serious violence that was repeated and led to injury. This highlights a **critical gap in addressing the root causes of violence** and preventing its recurrence.<sup>20</sup>

An estimated 13.2% of all people aged **16 to 24 years** in the UK were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in July to September 2024. This is an increase compared with July to September 2023, and up on the previous quarter.

An estimated 15.1% of young men (up on the year) and 11.2% of young women (down on the year) were NEET. There were 946,000 young people who were NEET in total, an increase on the year. This increase was caused by young men. Of the total number of young people who were NEET, 550,000 were young men and 397,000 were young women.<sup>23</sup>

Nationally the number of pupils eligible for free school meals has continued to increase, in January 2023 over 2 million pupils were eligible for free school meals, this is 23.8% of all pupils. This has increased from 22.5% since the previous year.

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<sup>20</sup> Youth Endowment Fund Survey of 10,000 teenage children – [Role of Social Media](#) Report 2 2024

<sup>21</sup> Department of Education, *Pupil Absence in Schools in England: Autumn and spring terms*, October 2024

<sup>22</sup> Department of Education, *The Role of Systems of Support in Serious Youth Violence: Evidence and gaps*, June 2023

<sup>23</sup> Office for National Statistics, *Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training*, November 2024

## North Yorkshire

North Yorkshire hosts 362 state-funded schools: 300 primary, 43 secondary, 11 special, five alternative provision and three nurseries. This data is correct as of December 2022.

Roughly 82,598 children attended North Yorkshire schools, with 100 different languages spoken. 9.3% of school children are from a black and minority ethnic background which compares to a national figure of 33.7%.

**North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership conducted research which highlighted that in the average North Yorkshire classroom of 30 children, by the age of 15 one would regularly smoke, one would have taken at least one drug in the last month and six would have had an alcoholic drink in the last seven days.<sup>24</sup>**

Levels of deprivation can have an impact on children's school journey, from lack of resources to going to school without a proper diet, which has been proven to decrease a child's ability to focus. Free school meals enable children to get the nutrients they need. Of the 83,632 pupils recorded in state schools of North Yorkshire, approximately 14,068 pupils use the free school meal scheme; this is 17% of the total.

As stated previously, non-attendance at school can considerably affect a child or young person's prospects and can enable them to slip into a cycle of poor behaviour. Of the 179,122,37 sessions available to attend at North Yorkshire's schools, 11,544,84 sessions had non-authorised unattendance. This means that 1.2% of sessions had children absent without the school's consent, slightly lower than the rate within York.<sup>25</sup>

67% of 13-17-year-olds are concerned about being the victim of violence from other young people. Boys aged 13-15 (71%), Black children (74%) and those in inner city areas (76%) are particularly concerned. 81% of children attending pupil referral units (PRUs) and 86% of those excluded from school are concerned about violence.

Looking at children aged 16-17 years, 88% of children remain in full time education with only 1.9% recorded as being NEET. The remaining are enrolled in apprenticeships or other education and training programmes.

There had been 1,000 missing episodes for 391 children in 2019/2020 and estimated that 39 were at risk of child sexual exploitation and 57 at risk of child criminal exploitation.<sup>26</sup>

It is vital that all children across the county have access to quality education; educational settings are where children can form good relationships with teachers and other practitioners and gain trust in support services.

As of August 2023, North Yorkshire had 18 schools which were rated as 'inadequate', which is the lowest grading given by Ofsted.

When looking at secondary schools in the same period, 18% of schools were rated as 'required improvement' or 'inadequate'. Nationally this figure sat at 19%, and so North Yorkshire is not

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<sup>24</sup> North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, *Being Young in North Yorkshire 2021-2024*

<sup>25</sup> Department of Education, *Pupil Absence in Schools in England: Autumn and spring terms*, October 2023

<sup>26</sup> North Yorkshire Safeguarding Child Partnership, *Being Young in North Yorkshire 2021-2024*

proportionally underachieving when the comparison is made. However, as mentioned above, the impact that schools, and more significantly secondary schools, have on supporting a young person is crucial to their on-going well-being.

## York

York has a total of 63 state-funded schools: 50 primary, nine secondary, two special, one alternative provision and one nursery. Of the 63s schools 11 (17%) were rated as outstanding and 46 (73%) good.

None of the secondary schools in York were graded as 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate'.

Of the 50 primary schools, 5 (10%) were rated as 'requires improvement', which is just above the national average however due to the small number associated with this figure it is not an accurate comparison.

As stated above, non-attendance at school can considerably affect a child or young person's prospects and can enable them to slip into a cycle of poor behaviour. Of the 55,627,09 sessions available to attend at York's schools, 86,234 sessions had non-authorized unattendance. This means that 1.5% of session had children absent without the school's consent.<sup>27</sup>

The most recent data shows that York had 31 children aged 16-17 who were classed as NEET, which is 1% of the Year 12-13 age group. This suggests that there is not a significant problem with children within York failing to attend school long term.

Of the 21,856 pupils recorded in state schools of York, approximately 4,112 pupils use the free school meal scheme; this is 19% of the total.

The Department of Education Dashboard holds data from 3.7 million pupils aged 7-11 years from 2007 to 2013. Nationally there has been 128,300 (4%) of children cautioned or sentenced for any offence.

34,100 (1%) of these were for a serious violence offence. The peak age for a child's first offence is 15 years old, and the peak age of the first serious violence offence is 16 years old.

The below data originates from the education dashboard, specific to York and North Yorkshire.

## North Yorkshire

At the end of the academic year 2020/21 North Yorkshire had 36,644 pupils: 49% female and 51% male.

Of the 36,664 pupils 1,397 (4%) had been cautioned or sentenced for an offence, with 214 (1%) being cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence. These figures equal the national average.

**Almost half of those who had been cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence, had been cautioned or sentenced for a prior offence.**

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<sup>27</sup> Department of Education, *Pupil Absence in Schools in England: Autumn and spring terms*, October 2023



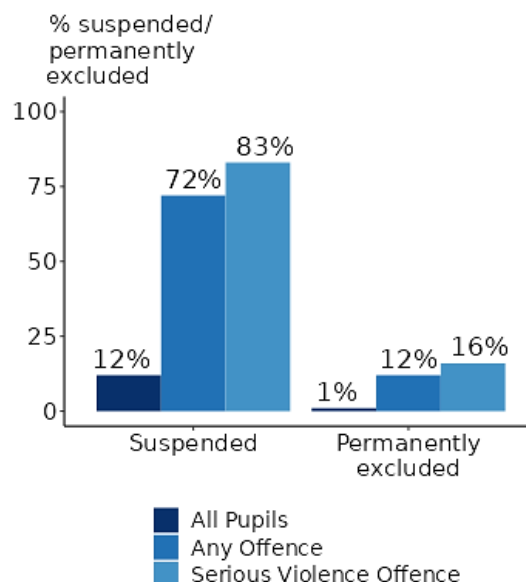
56% of children who were cautioned or sentenced for an offence had previously been eligible for free school meals, this percentage rises when looking at those cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence at 62%.

**80% of children who were cautioned or sentenced for an offence had previously been persistently absent. This figure rises to 83% when looking at those cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence.**

Children cautioned or sentence for any offence; 72% had previously been suspended and 12% had been excluded.

Children cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence; 83% had previously been suspended and 16% had been excluded.

37% of pupils who experienced their first exclusion prior to their first serious violence offence had committed this offence within two years of the exclusion.<sup>28</sup>



## York

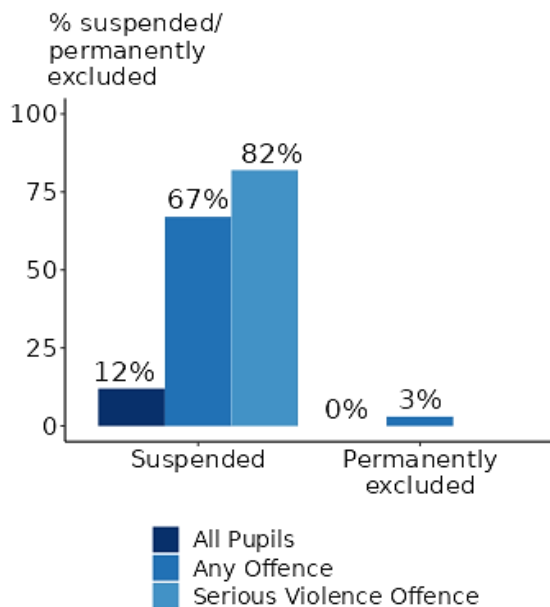
At the end of the academic year 2020/21 York had 10,017 pupils, 51% being male and 49% being female.

479 pupils (5%) were cautioned or sentenced for an offence, with 76 pupils (1%) being cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence. These percentages are in line with the national averages.

**When looking at those who had committed a serious violence offence, 47 of the 76 had previously been cautioned or sentenced for a prior offence of any offence type; this equalled 62% which is significantly higher than the national average of 37%.**

61% of children who were cautioned or sentenced for an offence had previously been eligible for free school meals; this figure highlights how multiple levels of risk can impact on one another.

<sup>28</sup> Department of Education, *Interactive Dashboard: Education, Children's Social Care and Offending*, March 2022



80% of children who were cautioned or sentenced for an offence had been persistently absent from school; this figure increases to 93% when looking at those cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence.

Children cautioned or sentence for any offence; 67% had previously been suspended.

Children cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence; 82% had previously been suspended and 3% had been excluded.<sup>29</sup>

**This exclusion rate is much lower than North Yorkshire.**

It can be inferred that children who are persistently absent or have a high number of exclusions from school are far more likely to be involved in criminality from a young age and therefore should be the focus of educational interventions.

The main effort should be to keep children in the classroom or educational setting regardless of other circumstances and provide them with early intervention.

### Children Looked After

The Prison Reform Trust suggests that a disproportionate number of children in custody come from a care background. Fewer than 1% of all children in England are in care, but two thirds (66%) of children in STCs and YOIs have been in care at some time in their lives.<sup>30</sup>

The complex needs of children in care, and their potential living environment can result in a risk of offending and serious violence. Children can be placed in multiple households, and in areas with higher levels of criminality and deprivation.

Across England, new children’s homes, and demand for these homes, continues to rise. As at March 2023 there was a 12% increase in the number of homes and a 7% increase in the number of places compared with the previous 12 months.

Out of the 12 million children living in England, just under 400,000 (3%) are known to the social care system. Just over 84,000 of these children are in care.

A total of 83,630 children looked after (CLA). This is down by 0.5% on the 2023 statistics. 33,050 children entered the ‘looked after’ category during the 12 months; this is down 0.5%.

The proportion of CLA experiencing high instability through at least one mid-year school move in 2022 was 8%, remaining broadly stable since 2018. The data shows that younger children aged 4 to 9 years

<sup>29</sup> Department of Education, *Interactive Dashboard: Education, Children’s Social Care and Offending*, March 2022

<sup>30</sup> Prison Reform Trust, *Bromley Briefings February 2024*, November 2024

old experience the highest educational instability, 12% compared to 8% of children aged 10 to 15 years.<sup>31</sup>

Nationally, 54% of children who were cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence had ‘ever’ been children in need, however only 5% of those in care were children who were cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence.<sup>32</sup>

Looking at offending rates for all children (over ten years old) in care, which in 2022 was over 39,000, the proportion convicted or subject to youth cautions or youth conditional cautions during the year was 2% - the same as last year and down from 4% in 2018. In 2022 this equated to 860 children.<sup>33</sup>

This suggests that whilst some children in care may carry more risk and protective factors than the average child, the trend does not show that they are always more likely to be committing serious violence offences.

### York

In the year to March 2024 York has 243 young people within the care system.<sup>34</sup> Throughout the pandemic when national rates of children in care rose, York’s figures remained comparatively stable, with a reduction in the most recent 12-month period.

The Department of Education has highlighted in York 63% of children in need<sup>35</sup>, of Key Stage 4 age group, had been cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence.

**However, only 5% of all that had ever been children in need were children who had been cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence.**<sup>36</sup>

### North Yorkshire

Locality	Count
Scarborough	147
Out of County	91
Harrogate	66
Hambleton	60
Selby	48
Ryedale	20
Richmondshire	17
Craven	11
Unknown	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>464</b>

As of March 2023, North Yorkshire has 464 children in care. The largest number of children are placed within Scarborough, which has 147 children located there. 91 are placed out of county.

The table shows how many children are placed within each local area.

Services have seen consistently high levels of demand across 2022/23, and this trend shows no sign of abating. Between January and March 2023 there were 1409 referrals to social services, the highest quarterly number of referrals received in at least the last seven years and is 26% higher than the same period last year.

<sup>31</sup> GOV.UK, *Children’s Social Care in England 2023*, November 2024

<sup>32</sup> Department of Education, *Interactive Dashboard: Education, Children’s Social Care and Offending*, 2021

<sup>33</sup> Department of Education, *Children Looked After in England including Adoptions*, July 2023

<sup>34</sup> City of York Council, *York Open Data – Number of Children in Care*, November 2024

<sup>35</sup> Children in need, as described by the department of education as those who are subject to different social care classifications such as a child protection plan, children looked after or under youth detention accommodation.

<sup>36</sup> Department of Education, *Interactive Dashboard: Education, Children’s Social Care and Offending*, 2021

The Department of Education has highlighted in York 58% of children in need, of Key Stage 4 age group, had been cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence. **However, only 4% of all that had ever been children in need were children who had been cautioned or sentenced for a serious violence offence.**<sup>37</sup>

North Yorkshire No Wrong Door was established to support young people on the edge of care, to give them more stability. The intervention has seen a positive impact on reducing the number of children in care. Further details can be seen in the existing interventions section of the document.

## Substance Misuse

The impact of alcohol and illicit drug use is far reaching, affecting the outcomes of individuals, family members and wider communities.

In the year to March 2024, 9% (139) of children in needs assessments in York identified alcohol misuse by a parent or other adult living with the child as an issue. Drug misuse was a factor in 7% (103) of assessments.<sup>38</sup>

In North Yorkshire the numbers were higher; 19% (1062) of children in needs assessments identified alcohol misuse by a parent or other adult living with them, and 15% (862) with drug misuse as a factor.<sup>39</sup>

**There is a substantially higher rate of hospital admissions due to substance misuse for 15–24-year-olds in North Yorkshire compared to the national average; 105 per 100,000 vs 85 per 100,000.**

**There is also a higher-than-average percentage of children with parents or carers in drug treatment; 18% locally vs 13% nationally.**<sup>40</sup>

There are strong links between illicit drugs and health inequalities and poverty. Illicit drug misuse is a significant risk factor for a number of acute and chronic health conditions, reduced life expectancy, lower quality of life, and a range of social and economic issues such as unemployment, homelessness, exposure to criminal activity and violence.<sup>41</sup>

### Drugs

NHS data tells us that between April 2021 and March 2023 in York and North Yorkshire there were 337 admissions, where the primary diagnosis was solely related to taking substances, other than alcohol. The age group 20-29 were responsible for the most admissions with 100 over the two years. The next being 30-39 with 69 admissions.

York had the largest proportion of patients, with 80. Scarborough was the highest within North Yorkshire with 75 admissions. Hambleton and Harrogate both had 55 admissions over the period.

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<sup>37</sup> Department of Education, *Interactive Dashboard: Education, Children's Social Care and Offending*, 2021

<sup>38</sup> Department of Education, *Characteristics of Children in Need*, March 2024

<sup>39</sup> Department of Education, *Characteristics of Children in Need*, March 2024

<sup>40</sup> Department of Education, *Comparator Local Authorities Interactive Tool*, 2022

<sup>41</sup> North Yorkshire County Council, *Illicit Drugs Needs Assessment 2022*, December 2022

Of the total admissions, 19 patients were admitted more than once due to the same condition. Unlike the trend for alcohol admissions, females had the largest proportion of incidents accounting for 54%.<sup>42</sup>

County Lines drug dealing is a modern and competitive market, which can increase tensions between rival 'gangs' and between drug lines.

Whilst there is sporadic feuding between OCGs in North Yorkshire, the level of violence is not significant.

The national picture assesses that within County lines those most at risk of violence are young cuckooing perpetrators, victims of cuckooing and adult dealers involved in dealing for county lines.<sup>43</sup>

### York

Unlike the rates in alcohol dependence, drug misuse in York is well below the national average, for all types of illegal substances.<sup>44</sup>

In the year to February 2023, there were 676 adults in structured treatment for drug misuse; 66% were opiate users, with the remaining being non-opiate users. Only 5% of opiate users recorded completing treatment and not re-presenting. This was higher for non-opiate users at 23%.<sup>45</sup>

### North Yorkshire

In the year to February 2023, there were 1,329 adults in structured treatment for drug misuse; 63% were opiate users, with the remaining being non-opiate users. A small 7% of opiate users recorded completing treatment and not re-presenting. This was higher for non-opiate users at 27%.<sup>46</sup>

### Alcohol

NHS data tells us that between April 2021 and March 2023 in York and North Yorkshire, there were 9,172 patient admissions where primary or secondary diagnoses were attributed to alcohol. There was a decrease of 404 admissions from 2021/22 to 2022/23. Of the total patients 1,560 were admitted more than once due to the same set of conditions.<sup>47</sup>

The age range of patients with the most admissions sat between 50 to 69. With the maturity of these age groups, it could suggest that these admissions are due to more serious alcohol dependencies than that of younger age groups, who are more frequently casually drinking. Men were admitted more than women; however, this was only by a small margin.

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<sup>42</sup> NHS North Yorkshire and York, *Alcohol and Substance Hospital Admissions – Excludes Craven*, July 2023

<sup>43</sup> NCLCC County Lines Strategic Assessment 2020-2022

<sup>44</sup> Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, *National Drug Treatment Monitoring System*, August 2023

<sup>45</sup> Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, *National Drug Treatment Monitoring System*, August 2023

<sup>46</sup> Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, *National Drug Treatment Monitoring System*, August 2023

<sup>47</sup> NHS North Yorkshire and York, *Alcohol and Substance Hospital Admissions – Excludes Craven*, July 2023

## York

York had 2,855 admissions over the two-year period, showing the highest figures for all North Yorkshire and York.

Comparing York to national data, York shows higher rates of alcohol related admissions at 771 per 100,00 of the population compared to 626 per 100,00 in England in the 2021/22 year.<sup>48</sup>

In the year to February 2023, there were 380 adults in structured treatment for alcohol misuse; 28% of people in treatment completed and did not re-present. 18% of those in treatment are parents living with children; this shows the impact that alcohol dependency can have on the wider family.<sup>49</sup>

York's most recent drug and alcohol profile suggested that 84% of people who are alcohol dependant are not in treatment. The number of adults in active treatment has reduced year on year over the last decade; down from 813 in 2009/10.<sup>50</sup>

The figures relate to those admitted to a ward due to conditions such as alcoholic liver disease and unintentional injuries, rather than A&E admissions and whilst these figures allow us to understand those who are struggling with alcohol daily, it however may not give us an insight into those who are committing serious violence within York and North Yorkshire.

Trends within urban areas, such as York, show that violence being committed in the night-time economy are often committed by those who are travelling into the cities and towns for the weekend, or the evening, and are abusing alcohol in a 'binge drinking' manor, causing violent behaviour.

## North Yorkshire

Within North Yorkshire, the localities with the highest admissions for alcohol related conditions were Scarborough (2,855 admissions) and Harrogate (2,042 admissions), which is expected due to the more urban nature of these places.<sup>51</sup>

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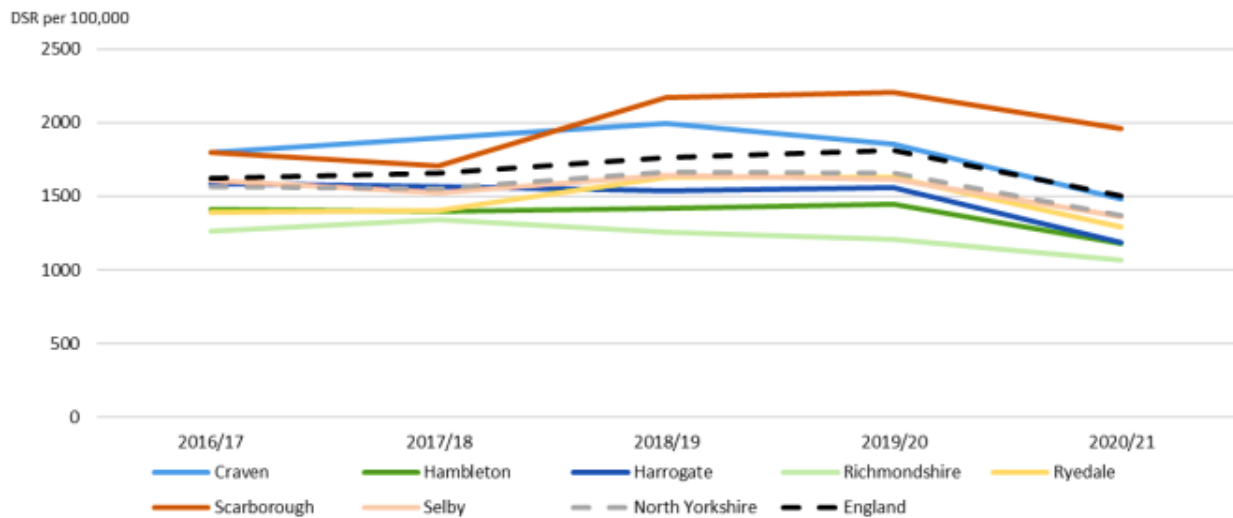
<sup>48</sup> Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, *Fingertips: Local Alcohol Profiles*, November 2023

<sup>49</sup> Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, *National Drug Treatment Monitoring System*, August 2023

<sup>50</sup> City of York Council, *Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment*, January 2022

<sup>51</sup> NHS North Yorkshire and York, *Alcohol and Substance Hospital Admissions – Excludes Craven*, July 2023

In the year to February 2023, there were 1,136 adults in structured treatment for alcohol misuse; 30% of people in treatment completed and did not re-present.<sup>52</sup>



## Mental Health

The links between mental health and violent criminality is complex, and often not a focus for individual services. Nationally there are 1.7 million people in contact with mental health services at the end of May 2023.

As seen in the Poverty section of the SNA, Health is given a weighting of 13.5% in the Indices of Deprivation, relating to the populations risk of premature death or experiencing an impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health.

Health and Poverty can become a risk factor into criminality by forcing a situation on someone, where they feel that they need to use illegal means to support their lifestyle or families. It can often be the reason people fall into the cycle of alcohol and substance misuse.

Mental ill health and other pressure in someone's lived experience can cause people to believe that they have no further options left to them, with suicide being one of the biggest killers in the UK.

Nationally 6,069 suicides were registered in 2023, 7.6% higher than in 2022. Yorkshire and the Humber recorded 12.3 deaths per 100,000 people which is higher than the national average of 11.2 per 100,000<sup>53</sup>.

### North Yorkshire

The percentage of people reporting depression or anxiety in North Yorkshire is 13%, slightly lower than the national average at 14%. Scarborough has a higher rate at 16%.

<sup>52</sup> Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, *National Drug Treatment Monitoring System*, August 2023

<sup>53</sup> Office of National Statistics, *Suicides in England and Wales 2023*, November 2024

While there is not a direct link between mental health and serious violence, it is widely accepted that mental health can lead to substance abuse and as discussed above, this can become a risk to being involved in criminality.

Despite there being a rise in suicides nationally, North Yorkshire has seen a decrease in recorded deaths. In 2021 there were 45 suicide deaths, a decrease of 24 from 2020. Scarborough and Harrogate had the highest rates, however this is expected due to being larger, more urban areas. All areas in North Yorkshire saw a decrease in suicide deaths in 2021.<sup>54</sup>

### York

In 2021, 48.5% of residents described their health as 'very good'. This had increased slightly since the previous census.<sup>55</sup> Despite this York has a higher proportion of residents who were admitted to hospital because of self-harm injuries than the national average. The rates were particularly high for those aged 10-24.<sup>56</sup>

Similarly, to North Yorkshire and against the trend nationally, York has seen a decrease in suicide death rates. In 2021 there were 20 deaths, down from 29 in 2020.

Despite seeing a decrease in numbers, local analysis shows that there is over-representation from those living in more deprived areas. The number of suicides per 100,000 of population is 90 in the most deprived quintile in York, compared to 49 in the least deprived.

## **Violence Against Women and Girls**

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a term used to describe a wide range of harms which affect women and girls disproportionately. It is clear to say that anyone can be affected by violence, however the offences included in the VAWG definitions are those in which women and girls are overrepresented in victim numbers.

Offences included in the definition are sexual offences, stalking, domestic abuse, honour-based abuse, and revenge porn. These are just a few examples of the types of crimes disproportionately experienced by women and girls. The offenders of these crimes can be partners, children, acquaintances or strangers and victims can be from all backgrounds, age, sexualities, and race.

The scale and prevalence have been brought to the forefront of the nation's attention in recent years, and to support this, the government, in 2021/22, pledged to provide £151 million for victim and witness support services. And in September 2024 Home Secretary, Yvette Copper, pledged to half violence against women and girls in the next decade.<sup>57</sup>

Nationally there has been an increase in reports of coercive and controlling behaviour; 45,310 offences in the year to March 2024 compared to 43,774 and 41,039 during the previous two years.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> City of York Council, *Self-Harm and Suicide Rates*, September 2023

<sup>55</sup> Office for National Statistics, *Census 2021 – How York has Changed*, January 2023

<sup>56</sup> City of York Council, *York Health and Wellbeing*, June 2022

<sup>57</sup> Government [Announcement News](#) – September 2024

<sup>58</sup> Office for National Statistics, *Domestic Abuse Prevalence and Trends*, November 2024



This trend is **not** followed in York and North Yorkshire. Police records show that in the year ending March 2024 there was a 22% decrease in offences compared to the previous year, ending March 2023.<sup>59</sup> **This is an area to explore further.**

Women's Aid 2022 found that 93.7% of all women had experienced street harassment, including whistling, leering and sexually explicit language. Behaviour that impacted the victims' long-term actions such as avoiding areas and not going out alone.<sup>60</sup>

Behaviours such as these are also moving online, with social platforms such as Instagram and TikTok being used to promote hatred towards women and spread derogatory language and attitudes.

Stalking and Harassment offences in York and North Yorkshire have been reviewed and detailed further in this report.

The SafeLives review in 2022/23 highlighted that in York and North Yorkshire an estimated 118,000 adult victims have experienced domestic abuse at any point; 79,000 (67%) of these are estimated to be female. This shows the extent that women as victims are outnumbered within the domestic abuse landscape and demonstrates the need for a focus on VAWG offences.

### North Yorkshire

In North Yorkshire 62,000 adult females are estimated to have experienced domestic abuse at some point since the age of 16; this equates to 20% of North Yorkshire's female population. 17,000 or 5% of these victims will have experienced this abuse in the last year.

SafeLives has conducted research that shows that double the number of victims who are visible to services, were non-visible.<sup>61</sup>

### York

In York an estimated 17,000 adult females are estimated to have experienced domestic abuse at some point since the age of 16; this equates to 16% of York's female population. A lower proportion than that of North Yorkshire. 4,500 or 4% of these victims will have experienced abuse within the last year.

SafeLives research has concluded that in York there is double the number of victims who are visible to services, who are non-visible.<sup>62</sup>

**The high number of non-visible victims in York and North Yorkshire highlights the need for further support in these areas to give women and girls the confidence and space to come forward and report these crimes.**

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<sup>59</sup> North Yorkshire Police, *Police Recorded Data*, March 2023

<sup>60</sup> Women's Aid, *The Domestic Abuse Report*, 2022

<sup>61</sup> SaveLives, *North Yorkshire and City of York: Public Health Approach to Ending Domestic Abuse*, July 2023

<sup>62</sup> SaveLives, *North Yorkshire and City of York: Public Health Approach to Ending Domestic Abuse*, July 2023

## North Yorkshire & York VAWG Strategy

The strategy has been established to strengthen the multi-agency approach to VAWG, enhance support services, increase public confidence and trust in Police and to enable continuous feedback and lived experiences from those within North Yorkshire and York.

To support the strategy an online survey was opened in April 2023. This is an ongoing open survey. Analysis conducted in 2023 reviewed 322 responses, 80% being completed by female participants. Further analysis is currently being undertaken.

The survey found that the main reason for a victim not reporting a crime was 'shame, fear or embarrassment'; this was true for 50% of responses. A further 39% stated 'they did not believe it would get justice', and another 39% 'did not think they would be believed'.

Of the 75% of victims who did share their experience, only 30% of told the Police. Trust in the Police needs to be improved throughout North Yorkshire and York to support victims in being able to comfortably report offences, which will increase the ability to direct victims to the support they require.

Those that did tell the Police found that 'good responses' were experiences when they were taken seriously, follow up contact and support was given, and reports were responded to quickly. These qualities in policing need to be standard practice to ensure victims can be heard and believed.

Trauma awareness should begin with the Police and extend across the criminal justice system and support services throughout North Yorkshire and York. This requires more understanding and further training for those in a public facing role.

### What works:

A progress report completed June 2023 found that 12% more referrals were being made to victim's services and for those who access services, 154% more were reporting positive outcomes.

Further training has resulted in 116 stalking champions; 1,000 North Yorkshire Police employees trained to spot domestic abuse and 187 night-time economy workers received vulnerability training.

## Youth Justice

Services for young people continue to see consistently high levels of demand.

It is widely accepted that children and young people who experience violence themselves as victims, are more at risk of becoming the perpetrator of a violent offence.

**Between January and March 2023, the number of violent offences in York and North Yorkshire, where a child was the victim remains high, with 747 offences recorded during the quarter.**

For the full year, the rate of violent offences against children was 238 per 10,000 population. This is significantly higher than the rate of 207 per 10,000 in the same period the previous year.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> North Yorkshire Council, *NYSCP Performance Report Q4 2022\_23*, August 2023

The next full update for First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the Criminal Justice System for 2023/24 is not yet available. Recent reports have indicated that both York and North Yorkshire are above the national average rate, which is 144 per 100,000 of the 10–17-year-old population.<sup>64</sup>

The number of FTEs is being impacted by the national ongoing issue with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), who set a minimum disposal outcome for young people that are referred back from Court into the Youth Outcomes Panel. This prevents the consideration of an out of court disposal. The new Child Information Form has been published but is not formally in operation yet.

At the time of updating this strategy, January 2025, the Crown Prosecution Service’s stance is that all cases adjourned from Court for discussion at the Youth Outcome Panel must receive either a Youth Conditional Caution or a Youth Caution.

This means that young people who have been charged to Court without any previous experience of the criminal justice system, must now be adjourned from Court and miss out on the opportunity to engage in preventions / early intervention work that would prevent them entering the criminal justice system as a First Time Entrant (FTE).

A further change has seen all motoring offences (that are often dealt with in Court through an outcome that does not include any Youth Justice Service (YJS) involvement are now included in the FTE data. This can see a young person receive a fine or conditional discharge and subsequently be recorded as a FTE even though YJS have had no involvement in the case.

The Youth Outcome Panel has been operating since 2017 and is used to consider the most appropriate disposal for children and young people who have committed a criminal offence. The panel aims to ensure disposals are:

- Proportionate to the crime committed.
- Effective in reducing first time entrants to the criminal justice system.
- Effective in reducing the risk of further offending.

The data below refers to referrals to the YOP between January 2022 to December 2023.

The panel sat on 25 occasions in 2023, relating to 223 referrals and 25 occasions during 2022 relating to 179 referrals.

There has been an increase in the number of pre-teens referred to the panel in 2023, with 21 referred during the year compared with 12 in 2022. For the first time since 2020, four referrals were made relating to 10-year-old children.

District 2023	10-17 Population	% of 10-17 Pop.	% Referrals
Craven	4,729	6.6	4.1
Hambleton	7,361	10.3	10.4
Harrogate	16,753	23.5	12.7
Richmond	4,171	5.9	7.7
Ryedale	4,615	6.5	2.7
S'boro	8,921	12.5	24.0
Selby	8,360	11.7	11.3
York	16,240	22.8	27.1
N Yorkshire	71150	100.0	100.0

<sup>64</sup> Office for National Statistics, *First Time Entrants into the Criminal Justice System: year ending March 2022, August 2022*

Overall, 77% of referrals related to young people aged 14 or over, with 14 being the age at which most referrals were received.

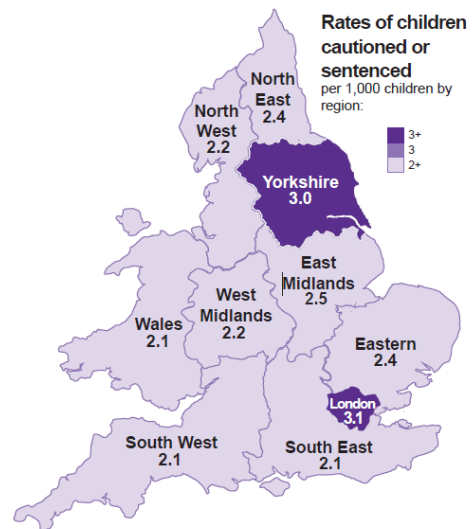
The percentage of referrals dealt with outside of the formal criminal justice system, for York and North Yorkshire, remained at a similar level to 2022 with 71.5%. However the proportion of referrals resulting in an **Outcome 22 recommendation increased significantly from 28.5% in 2022, to 59.7% in 2023.**

Outcome 22 was introduced in response to recommendations in the Lammy Report. It is a Police outcome that can be used when the police decide to defer prosecution until a child or young person has been given the opportunity to engage with an intervention activity, which is aimed at keeping them out of the criminal justice system.

Outcome 22 has largely replaced the use of a Community Resolution Disposal (CRD) as a YOP outcome recommendation. An Outcome 22 provides a significantly longer period to work with a young person, up to 16 weeks, compared with 4 weeks for a CRD. This enables a greater opportunity to build a relationship with a young person, increasing the chances of preventing further offending.

The graphic shows rates of children cautioned or sentenced in the year ending March 2022.

As shown on the map, Yorkshire has the second highest offending rates nationally with 3 in 1,000.



Although this doesn't represent the rates in North Yorkshire, it does show that North Yorkshire borders areas with high rates of criminality which can spill over the border and influence crimes involving young people such as County Lines and weapon possession.

## York

In 2023 York had 27% of referrals, compared with 29% in 2022.

The percentage of young people referred, when broken down to locality level, highlights significant differences between York and North Yorkshire's local areas.

As has been the case in the last 3 years, both York and Scarborough District had a higher percentage of referrals than their percentage of the 10-17 population (ONS 2021 Mid-Year Population Estimate). Using the same method of calculation, York is overrepresented by 19%.

The percentage of females represented in the YOP has increased in York over the last two years to 36%. When looking at First Time Entrant data, females in the 2022 York and North Yorkshire cohort is significantly higher than that in the national average.

55% of the primary offences being committed by females related to Violence Against the Person; for males this was lower at 40%. Whilst males are attributed to a much wider range of offences, these can also be more serious than their female counterparts.

The themes shown above have also been highlighted in recent North Yorkshire cohorts with offences being committed against known peers or emergency workers. This is a theme that has been highlighted in recent years and should be an area that is focused on in ongoing work (see further detail in the Assaults on Emergency Workers section from page 44).

### North Yorkshire

In 2023 North Yorkshire had 73% of referrals. These percentages are relative to the amount of 10 – 17-year-olds represented in North Yorkshire (77%).

The percentage of young people referred, when broken down to local level, highlights significant differences between York and North Yorkshire.

As has been the case in the last 3 years, both York and Scarborough District had a higher percentage of referrals than their percentage of the 10-17 population (ONS 2021 Mid-Year Population Estimate). Although it is positive that the percentage of referrals relating to Scarborough District has reduced from the high of 26.6% seen in 2021, it remains the most overrepresented location in 2023, with the percentage of referrals (24.0%) being 92% higher than its proportion of the York & North Yorkshire 10-17 population (12.5%).

Richmondshire is the only other District in 2022 and 2023 where this is the case: in 2023 it had 7.7% of referrals against 5.9% of the 10-17 population – an overrepresentation of 30%.

Similarly, to York, North Yorkshire had a higher than usual rate of females being referred in 2023 at 38%. Again, these referrals can be linked to Violence Against the Person offences.

The significance overrepresentation of Scarborough can be linked to the deprivation levels found within this locality. The IMD 2019 shows that Scarborough has nine LSOAs in the most deprived 10% nationally. North Yorkshire had only a further two LSOAs within this deprivation scale; these were in Harrogate and Selby.

## Violence Profile

Between April to September 2024, York and North Yorkshire, have seen a total of 3,101 serious violence offences. Compared to the same time-period of the previous year, this shows an **overall 10% reduction in violent offences.**

Offence Category	2022/23 Q1 & Q2 only	2023/24 Q1 & Q2 only	2024/25 Q1 & Q2 only	Difference	% Difference
Arson	15	17	19	2	12%
Homicide	4	0	3	3	300%
Possession of Weapons	198	194	216	22	11%
Rape Offences	272	209	166	-43	-21%
Serious Sexual Offences	337	339	268	-71	-21%
Violence with Injury	3,168	2,671	2,429	-242	-9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,994</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>3,101</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>-10%</b>

Arson has seen a small increase, but numbers are small. The same is true with homicide but higher on the severity scale. Homicide is detailed further on the subsequent page.

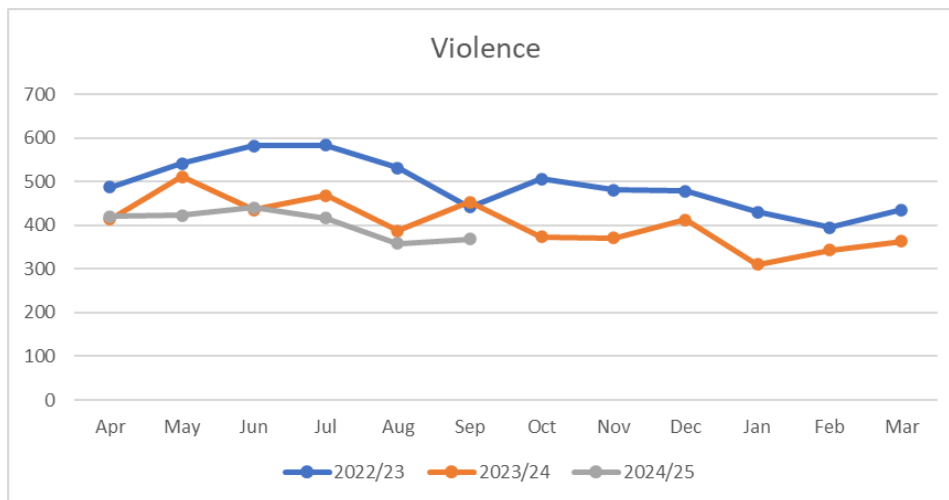
The below table shows the rate of all violent offences per 1,000 of the population for each locality within North Yorkshire and York.

Locality	Administering Poison	Actual Bodily Harm (ABH)	Attempted Murder	Greivous Bodily Harm (GBH)	Woudning with Intent to do GBH	Non-fatal Strangulation	Total	Total per 1,000
Craven	4	94		5	5	5	113	2.0
Hambleton	3	169	1	14	17	3	207	2.3
Harrogate	10	330		19	21	14	394	2.4
Richmondshire	1	84		7	2	8	102	2.1
Ryedale	1	90		6	6	3	106	1.9
Scarborough	5	494		37	34	24	594	5.5
Selby	3	187	1	12	13	4	220	2.4
York	25	575	1	28	34	30	693	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2429</b>	<b>3.0</b>

Scarborough was highlighted last year as one of our most at risk areas and, as figures show, it continues to be an area of significant concern.

## Violence with Injury

Overall, Violence with Injury has seen a 9% decrease, in comparison to April to September data of the previous year, and is fluctuating less month by month than the previous reporting years.



Q1 & Q2 comparison for:  
2022/23 – 3168  
2023/24 – 2671  
2024/25 – 2429

Crime types are seeing similar figures or less than the previous year, **except for Homicide and Grievous Bodily Harm offences** (as detailed in the subsequent sections).

## Homicide

In this most recent six-month period (Apr-Sept 2024), there were three Homicides which exceeds last reporting year's low figure of one.

The recent homicide offences are summarised below:

- one murder had strong contributing factors of deprivation, vulnerability, and drug-use,
- one was domestic violence related\*, and
- one drug debt related.

\* The perpetrator was given life imprisonment for the murdering his ex-partner. The two other cases, are due at court in the coming months.

This reporting period has seen no One-Punch murders and this could be a successful outcome to the punched out cold campaign.

Two further murders have occurred in November 2024, which fall outside this reporting period and therefore not included in the figures. But figures will obviously increase further.

There were three **attempted murders** within this six-month period (Apr – Sept), which is the same total as the last 12-month reporting period, and therefore **likely to exceed figures** by March 2025.

All murder and attempt murder offenders (7) were males, across a varied age range (33yrs to 56yrs).

## Grievous Bodily Harm

In the previous Strategic Needs Assessment, Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH)(Malicious wounding and wounding with intent) had shown offences decreases. But **trends appear to be reversing and are increasing**. Comparing this point in time to previous years (Apr – Sept data), offences are higher.

Locality	2022/23 Q1 & Q2	2023/24 Q1 & Q2	2024/25 Q1 & Q2	Difference
Craven	12	6	10	4
Hambleton	18	19	31	12
Harrogate	30	34	40	6
Richmondshire	7	6	9	3
Ryedale	6	9	12	3
Scarborough	56	57	71	14
Selby	17	18	25	7
York	74	64	62	-2
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>47</b>

Hambleton is an area of concern considering the rise in volume and the population size, which is smaller to more urban localities such as York, Scarborough and Harrogate.

The Wards with the highest volume of offences are Castle (25) in Scarborough and Guildhall (23) in York.

Knife crime has been highlighted as one of our concern areas, and when looking at all violence with injury offences (both ABH & GBH), it is recorded that **4.0% have 'Bladed Implement'** as a weapon. This is an **increase to the previous two reporting years** (full years) which was consistent at 3%.

**In 88% of the offences where a bladed implement was recorded, the offender was known to the victim. Out of these, 38% were domestic violence related.**

### North Yorkshire

Scarborough locality continues to have the highest number of offences. 37% record Alcohol as a contributory factor. And 27% are related to Domestic Violence.

Within Scarborough, **Castle Ward is the most at risk Ward** which has a significantly higher level of offences than other Wards. This has not changed since the previous reporting year. Offences in the Castle locality vary in day and time. In the latest UK Local Area deprivation Index, Castle Ward was ranked 1,005 out of 32,844 in England, with one the most deprived and 32,488 the least. This locality contains the train station, Scarborough castle, the Grand Hotel, an amusement park and access to the beach thereby key to the tourist economy.

However, GBH offences did not peak in August, with June showing the most offences. Actual Bodily Harm offences did not increase in August either. Therefore, there does not appear to be a correlation with the summer holidays or tourist trade.

Note that the Clear Hold Build initiative\* does not include part of the Castle ward and approximately 1% of offences in the Castle Ward are linked to Organised Crime Members, which is very low. Analysis has been conducted, and will be detailed the Scarborough Annex attached to this document.



The most at risk localities within Hambleton are **Thirsk (6) and Northallerton Central & North combined (10)**. 49% of Grievous Bodily Harm occurrences in Hambleton had alcohol markers. Hambleton contains relatively small numbers and offences vary in type.

\*Clear Hold Build

Clear, Hold, Build is an innovative framework, developed by the Home Office, to help police forces tackle serious and organised crime. It reclaims and rebuilds neighbourhoods affected by organised crime, makes areas safer and increases public confidence in the police and partner agencies. In the North Yorkshire Police area, the first two Clear, Hold, Build projects were publicly launched in March 2024 at:

- Clifton in York
- Barrowcliff in Scarborough.

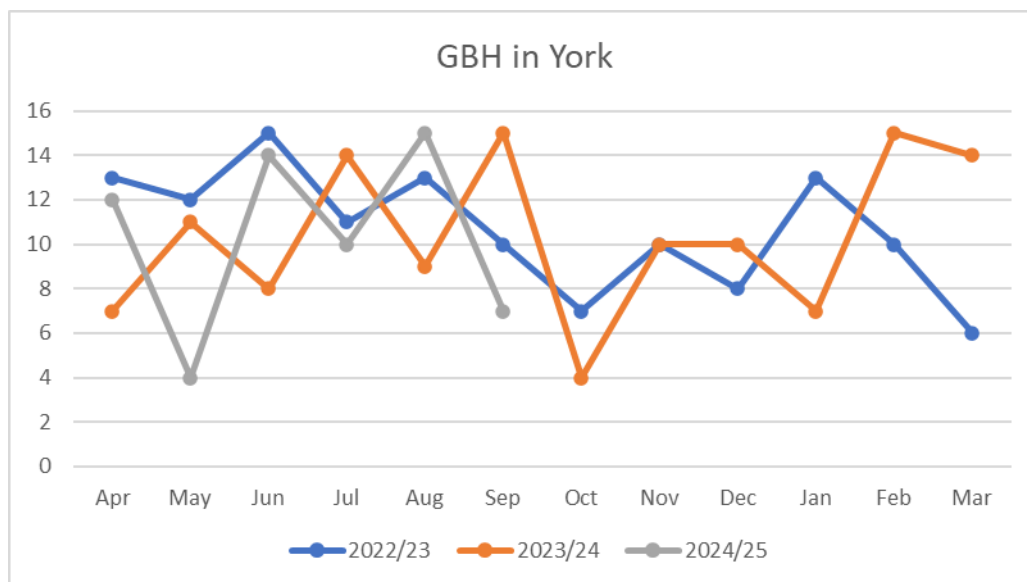
York

There was an unusually low volume of GBH in May 2024; and June and August (highest) saw a large increase in occurrences.

Of those that occurred in August, 71% occurred in the evening and into the early hours of the morning and 67% occurring over the weekend. This could reflect the night-time economy. 52% of occurrences in August the offender was either a stranger or not known. Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) is relatively high over three months: June, July and August. Possible correlation to end of the academic year and summer holiday period. Two days recorded the highest volume of offences for both GBHs and ABH which were the:

- Thursday 22 August, which correlates with Ladies Day of the Ebor Festival
- Saturday 31 August, which was the Saturday prior to the start of the academic year.

Previous years show notable drops in the September and October months, again, possible correlation to the start of the academic year and studies.



58% of occurrences happened within two Wards: **Guildhall and Micklegate**. These are in the York city centre where there is a busy night-time economy. As expected, most of these offences

(approximately 72%) occurred over the weekend and during the evening and into the early hours of the morning.

**Operation Reach**, funded through the Serious Violence Duty and initiated and led by North Yorkshire Police, has currently engaged with over 40 different licenced premises, with additional efforts and deployment made on key dates. For example, a multi-agency operation with City of York council and York Business Improvement District (BID) was conducted on the weekend of Ebor Races.

### Administering Poison

Administering Poison offences trajectory for this reporting year looks to be significantly reduced. However, York remains significantly higher than other locality in North Yorkshire with the highest offences occurring in the Guildhall Ward (four times higher in volume than the next Ward). The majority of offences in Guildhall occurred overnight between the hours of 22:00hrs and 04:00hrs. This correlates with the Night-Time Economy. The offender was not known in 70% offences.

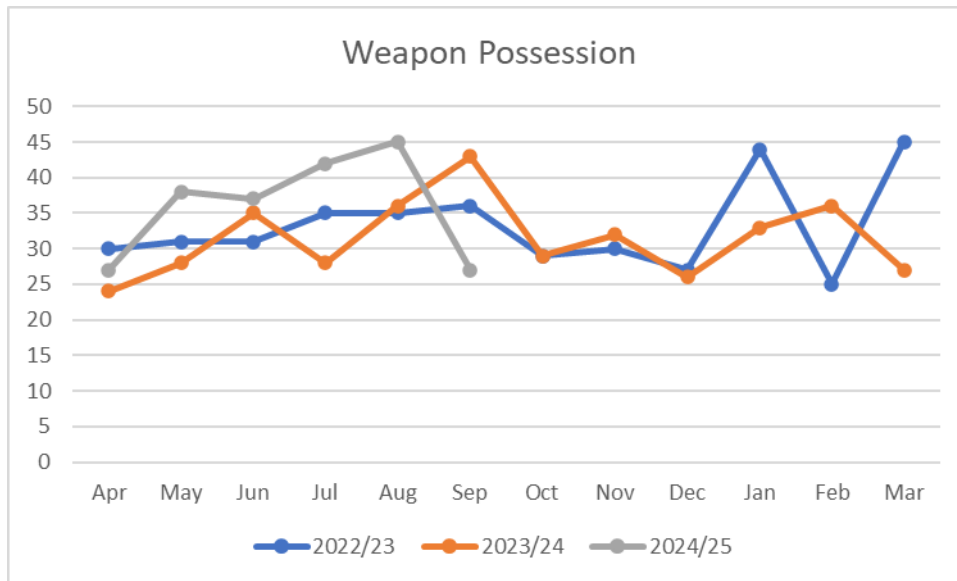
### Hate Crime

A recent Hate Crime review (2023-24 data) was conducted, that showed:

- There has been an overall **2.6% reduction in Hate Crimes** from the previous reporting period (2022-23).
- **Racial hate crime remains the highest reported hate crime.**
- Anti-semitism has seen an increase from 9 to 24 reports. Due to the Middle East conflict, it is likely a further increase will be seen.
- The three peak wards are Guildhall (York), Castle (Scarborough) and Micklegate (York).
- Peak suspect/perpetrator age bracket is 10-19yr olds.

## Weapon Possession

Weapon Possession looks on course to exceed last year's figures. This mirrors national trends. Comparing April to September data to the previous year, there has been a 11% increase.



Q1 & Q2 comparison for:  
 2022/23 – 198  
 2023/24 – 194  
 2024/25 – 216

When comparing April to September data to previous years, Harrogate, Selby and Ryedale have seen an improvement.

Locality	2022/23 Q1 & Q2	2023/24 Q1 & Q2	2024/25 Q1 & Q2	Difference
CRAVEN	9	2	13	11
HAMBLETON	14	13	16	3
HARROGATE	38	36	22	-14
RICHMONDSHIRE	5	8	15	7
RYEDALE	13	9	6	-3
SCARBOROUGH	50	41	56	15
SELBY	21	24	15	-9
YORK	48	61	73	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>22</b>

There is currently one knife bin installed in the Harrogate area from the pilot project, which has collected 1630 from January 2023 to September 2024. A further 20 knife bins have been ordered through the Serious Violence Duty funding and will be rolled out across the county from January 2025 onwards.

As part of the national campaign to reduce knife crime, North Yorkshire Police provided knife amnesty bins at York, Scarborough, Malton, Northallerton, Harrogate and Skipton Police Stations between 11 to 17 November 2024.

**Note there have been no offences related to the possession of a Firearm in this reporting period (Q1 & Q2) for North Yorkshire and only one recorded offence in York. Therefore, it is clear that North Yorkshire and York do not have an issue with firearm possession.**

NHS hospital data has been requested and shared in order to obtain a more rounded view on knife crime. However, work is ongoing within our local health care providers around recording standards, so that accurate data is available.

Comparing Q1 & Q2 data over the last three years, shows that knife possession is **reducing amongst youths**. This may be the impact of the work carried out under Op Divan – North Yorkshire Police’s partnership led initiative to challenge and discourage the carrying of knives by young people.

The vast majority of offences relate to possession of bladed implement in **a public place** (118). Figures for imitation firearm/air weapon in a public place more than doubled, however the numbers are small in number (5 to 13). Possession of a weapon in an education setting decreased, which correlates to the decrease of youth related offences, as detailed above.

The National Crime Agency says that “violence at street level is often linked to drugs supply” and “continues to be associated” with county lines drug dealing. **Therefore, it is recommended that further work is completed around perpetrators and their vulnerability to exploitation and/or links to organised crime, especially in the localities that have are seeing in an increase is GBH and weapon possession.**

#### North Yorkshire

The most at risk Wards is Castle in Scarborough (which also correlates with GBH offences) accounting for 39% of offences. This is significantly higher than any other Ward in North Yorkshire.

Monday and Saturday had the largest proportion of offences. This is fairly consistent over the six-month reporting period. No pattern to peak times.

Craven has seen a significant increase, but this appears to be due to the previous reporting year having a very low volume.

**Richmondshire figures doubled from 9 occurrences in 2022/23 to 18 occurrences in 2023/24 and is on track to nearly double again as there have been 15 occurrences in these first six months of 2024/25 reporting year. Further exploration as to the reasons for this is required.**

#### York

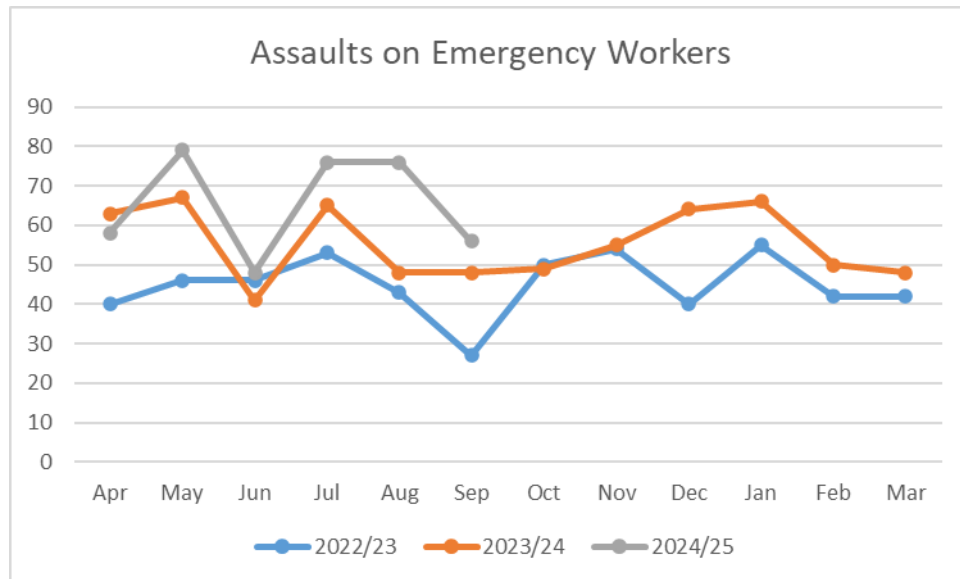
The most at risk Ward is Guildhall, which correlates to GBH offences.

Saturday had the largest proportion of offences; however, **offending was also high through the week** (particularly Wednesday and Thursday) and so although some offences may be linked to the night-time economy there are many that fall outside of this too. Offences over this six-month period varied between 27 to 45. The highest volume occurred in August. This does mirror last year, where August was the peak month of the 12-month period.

### **Assault on Emergency Workers**

Assault on Emergency Workers offence came into force on 13 November 2018. As in the table below, figures are expected to increase again this reporting year. This mirrors national trends.

Comparing April to September figure from 2024 to 2023, there has been an 18% increase, and Assault with Injury showing a higher percentage increase than Assault without injury.



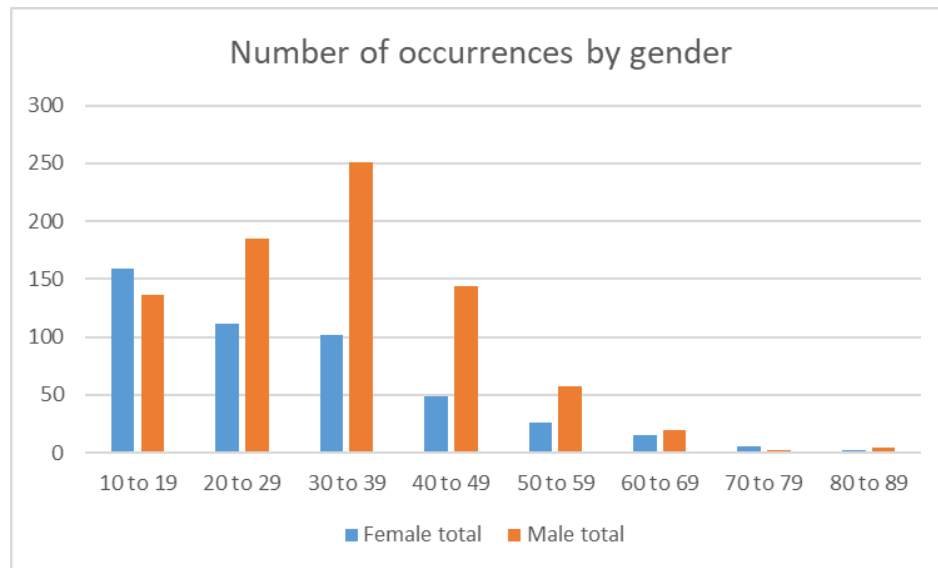
There has been a total of 393 assaults against Emergency Workers between April to September 2024. This is a mean average of 66 assaults per month.

Locality	2022/23 Q1 & Q2	2023/24 Q1 & Q2	2024/25 Q1 & Q2	Difference
Craven	8	14	5	-9
Hambleton	10	16	36	20
Harrogate	52	47	75	28
Richmondshire	5	6	10	4
Ryedale	4	5	10	5
Scarborough	59	103	104	1
Selby	6	24	37	13
York	109	117	116	-1
<b>Total</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>61</b>

Assaults commonly occurred in Custody, Police Stations or hospitals. They tend to be secondary offences to the primary incident, although further analysis is required.

31% of offences had alcohol as a contributory factor.

The below table shows the number of occurrences by gender for 2024 data. Note that the volume of occurrences in females is highest in 10–19-year-olds and steadily decreases with age.



The age of suspect/offenders for 2024 fall predominantly in the 30-39 year old age bracket, followed closely but 10-19 year olds.

A review of assaults against Emergency Workers in 2024, **where the offender was under 18s**, found that 55% of offenders were females, and 45% were males. 63% of offenders had either self-harm or suicidal markers. 50% had Mental Health markers. Note, that markers include victim disclosed self-diagnoses. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) was the most common mental health disorder.

This analysis has been shared and discussed at the Serious Violence Working Group with follow up and further analysis being taken forward accordingly.

#### North Yorkshire

Harrogate and Hambleton localities saw the largest increase in offences:-

**HARROGATE** – The top locations relate to two wards that contain either Harrogate Police Station, the Hospital and a Children’s Centre, followed by Harrogate Town ward.

**HAMBLETON** - The increase in Hambleton is unclear but occurrences are predominantly in Northallerton. There are a few occurrences where an occurrence resulted in a high volume of assaults.

#### York

York has seen a decrease by one offence when comparing April to September figures for 2024 against 2023. The most at risk ward is Guildhall. This area is the city centre and contains both the retail and night-time economy. 66% occurred over the weekend, which the majority occurring in the evening and early hours of the morning.

### Existing plans

Op Hampshire is a national operation focusing on Assaults on Emergency Workers. Op Hampshire was brought about in order to gauge the scale and range of assaults, to ensure all Forces were recording assaults consistently, inform policy and practise, improve officer safety standards and understand the impact on victims. The overall aim is to support officers and to move away from accepting assaults as ‘part of the job’.

North Yorkshire Police have embedded Op Hampshire within their priorities and continue to support victims as well as explore further restorative justice opportunities for offenders, in particularly with Youth Justice Services.

### **Rape**

Comparing April to September figures to previous years, Rape offences look to be on a downward trajectory, with a 21% (43) decrease comparing April to September figures.

Note that the number of offences may increase as due to the crime type, victims can take time to report these offences and so it can be expected that the offence numbers can see a small increase when the data is re-run in the future.

Locality	2022/23 Q1 & Q2	2023/24 Q1 & Q2	2024/25 Q1 & Q2	Difference
Craven	15	11	5	-6
Hambleton	17	19	21	2
Harrogate	46	39	31	-8
Richmondshire	10	8	11	3
Ryedale	17	10	5	-5
Scarborough	66	48	30	-18
Selby	21	22	18	-4
York	80	52	45	-7
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>-43</b>

The most common victim-offender relationship is ‘Acquaintance’ (32%) and ‘Partner’ (21%). ‘Stranger’ accounts for 14% of offences.

North Yorkshire Police have recently appealed against unduly lenient sentences given to the offenders of rape. One in particular was of a stranger rape, which saw the sentence more than doubled from two years and nine months to six years, an example of how North Yorkshire Police and partner agencies support victims and help bring offenders to justice<sup>65</sup>.

### North Yorkshire

North Yorkshire has seen a **23% reduction** in figures comparing April to September figures to the same time-period last year (157 to 121 offences); however, as previously stated, due to the nature of the offence, reports to the Police can be delayed.

<sup>65</sup> BBC News – [Rapist’s jail term](#) doubled

**74% of rape offences related to females aged 16 or older.** Of those offences, 71% of the offences the offender was known to the victim, with 'Acquaintance' being the most common victim-offender relationship.

Despite seeing a reduction, Castle ward has the highest volume of rape offences in North Yorkshire (9), all of which relate to rape of a female aged 16 or over.

Although numbers are relatively low, Hambleton and Richmondshire are higher than this time last year. Hambleton has two localities of risk: one which relates to an address of a repeat victim and the other locality is Northallerton.

### York

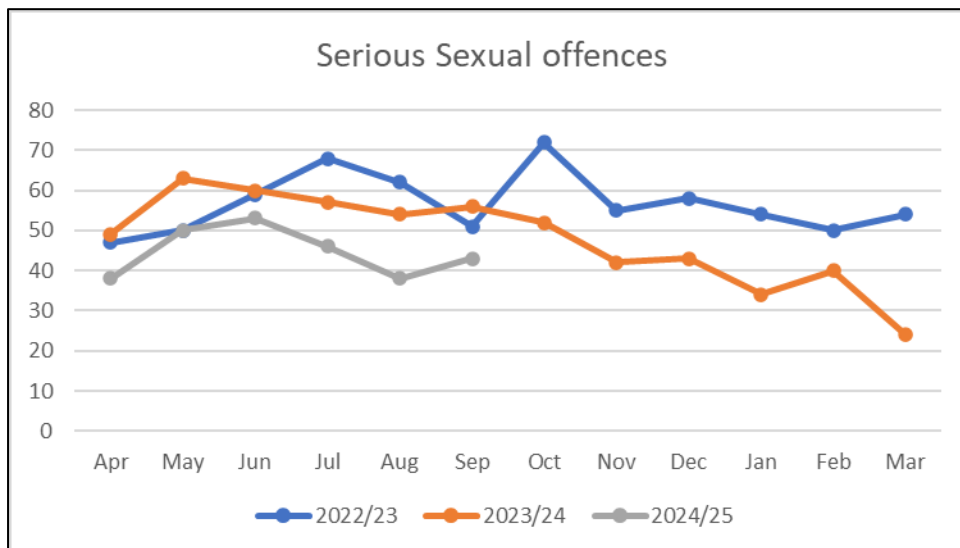
York has seen a **14% reduction** to figures comparing April to September figures to the same time-period last year (52 to 45 offences).

**87% of victims were over 16 years old**, and of those offences, 62% of cases the offender was known to the victim with 'Acquaintance' being the most common victim-offender relationship.

There has been a change in the highest Ward type from Guildhall and Micklegate to Heworth (8).

### Serious Sexual Offences

Serious sexual offences has seen an overall reduction.



Q1 & Q2 comparison for:  
2022/23 – 337  
2023/24 – 339  
2024/25 – 268

And has seen a 21% reduction when comparing April to September figures.



Locality	2022/23 Q1 & Q2	2023/24 Q1 & Q2	2024/25 Q1 & Q2	Difference
CRAVEN	21	18	8	-10
HAMBLETON	34	28	22	-6
HARROGATE	52	61	38	-23
RICHMONDSHIRE	19	13	13	0
RYEDALE	19	19	6	-13
SCARBOROUGH	63	92	72	-20
SELBY	18	20	21	1
YORK	111	88	88	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>-71</b>

### North Yorkshire

North Yorkshire recorded 180 serious sexual offences between April to September 2024, a decrease from 251. As can be seen in the table above, no locality has seen an increase in offending except for Selby, an increase by one.

The Castle Ward continues to be the highest offending locality but no longer the highest of the whole of North Yorkshire. It was previously double that of any other Ward. This has seen reduced and is now matching the Micklegate ward in York.

Offending is higher over the weekend period, specially Friday and Saturday.

33% of offences were recorded as having a 'stranger' or 'not known/no current suspect' as the offender victim relationship.

### York

York has seen a change in sexual offences volume as per the table above. However, the highest offending ward has changed from Guildhall (in previous years) to Micklegate (21).

Unlike previous years, offending is highest on Saturday, and mid-week (Tuesday and Wednesday).

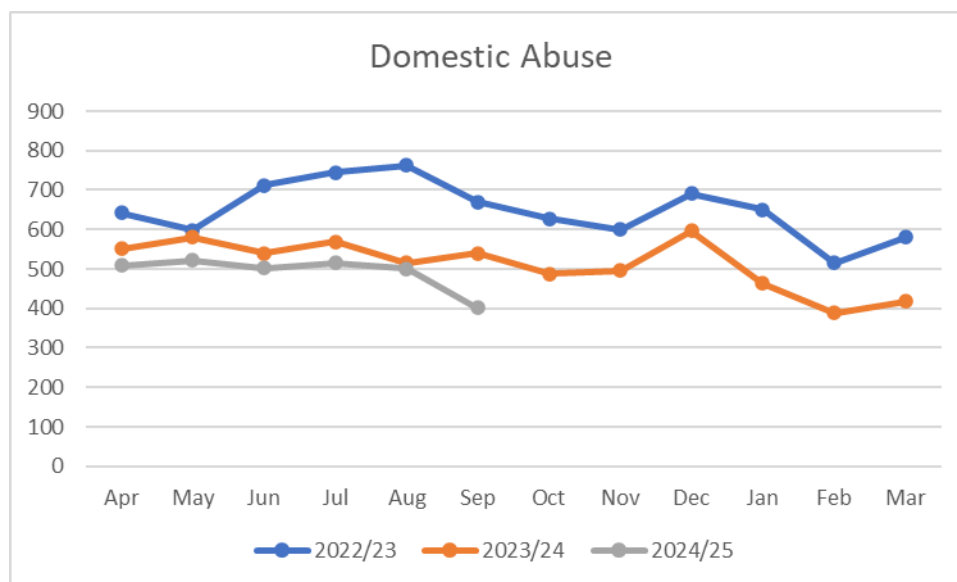
39% of offences were recorded as having a 'stranger' or 'not known/no current suspect' as the offender victim relationship.

The Office of Policing, Fire and Crime Commissioning (OPFCC) commissions a countywide Counselling and Talking therapy service to support victims of crime (of any age) to cope and recover. They have seen a 22% increase over the last two reporting periods (2023/23 and 2023/24). With approximately 90% of referrals related to Sexual or Domestic abuse.

## Domestic Abuse

There have been a total 2944 Domestic Abuse offences, in York and North Yorkshire, between April and September 2024.

**This is an 11% drop, comparing this time last year. And a 29% drop from the penultimate year.**



Nationally, police flagged 857,810 recorded offences as domestic abuse-related in Year Ending (YE) March 2024, including 672,864 violence against the person offences. Overall, the number of domestic abuse-related offences decreased 6% compared with YE March 2023 (911,248 recorded offences). This decrease is mainly because of decreases in violence against the person offences (from 719,681 offences). The **proportion of violence against the person offences** that were flagged as domestic-abuse related was 33%. This is similar to the previous year (34%)<sup>66</sup>. **This is a 1% decrease.**

Locality	2022/23 Q1 & Q2	2023/24 Q1 & Q2	2024/25 Q1 & Q2	Difference	Total per 1,000
Craven	222	158	158	0	2.8
Hambleton	355	331	240	-91	2.6
Harrogate	621	546	512	-34	3.1
Richmondshire	225	156	125	-31	2.5
Ryedale	197	132	147	15	2.7
Scarborough	1003	810	671	-139	6.2
Selby	458	355	339	-16	3.7
York	1050	808	752	-56	3.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>4131</b>	<b>3296</b>	<b>2944</b>	<b>-352</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

Scarborough, York and Selby remain the areas with the highest rate of offences, although are lower than previous years. Ryedale is the only locality that has seen an increase. Seven of the twenty Wards within Ryedale are higher than the previous year. This could be a positive reflection of the

<sup>66</sup> ONS [Domestic Abuse](#) in England and Wales Overview

focused and targeted work that has been completed by IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services Charity) in the rural communities within this area. In addition, the Serious Violence Funded project **She Was Walking Home**, that provides education-based workshops, performances and wider engagement across the county to raise awareness of those with lived experience, also identified further need to reach girls and women in rural settings.

#### Victim/offender relationships

Both in York and North Yorkshire, offence numbers are highest between partners (this differs from the last reporting period, where figures were highest between ex-partners). Therefore, focus needs to be made around support services.

#### Recording of Domestic Abuse Offences

In August 2024, the recording of Domestic Violence offences were reviewed for recording compliance. A statistically significant sample of records were assessed, with a Compliance Result of 98.3%, graded as Excellent.

There have been changes in the recording of harassment offences. The double counting rule came into effect in 2017, whereby the course of conduct offence (e.g. harassment) would be recorded in addition to any other principal crime (i.e. a crime of higher severity). This rule was reversed in May 2023, and came into effect in Force on 01/07/2023.

However, reviewing figures of Domestic Abuse with and without Stalking & Harassment crimes, the downward trajectory is still evident.

#### North Yorkshire Police's internal processes

Between 2019 and 2024, there was a percentage increase of nearly 60% for cases heard at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

There has been a downward trend of Domestic Abuse (DA) Public Protection Notices (PPN) since 2021, however, high-risk PPN's have increased by 4% year on year since 2021.

Although DA crimes and incidents have decreased in the last 12 months, high-risk PPN's, MARAC referrals, and DVDS applications continue to increase.

#### External influences

Clare's Law, often known officially as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), is named after Clare Wood who was murdered by her ex-boyfriend in 2009. The scheme came into force across England and Wales in March 2014, and became statutory in April 2023. It designates several ways for the police to disclose a person's history of abusive behaviour to those who could be at risk from such behaviour in future. It is intended to reduce intimate partner violence.

Between 2019 and 2024, there was a percentage increase of over 140% for DVDS applications (503 to 1243 applications). This is indicative of the increased awareness and confidence in the scheme.

### Partners and commissioned services

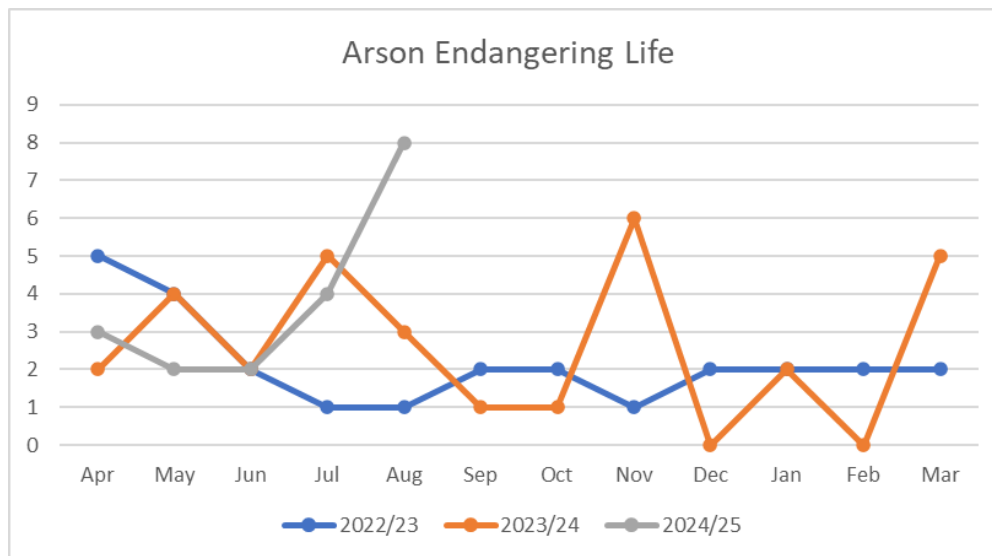
This downward trend is being explored by the Domestic Abuse Joint Commissioning Group (JCG) as support services report they are operating at full capacity.

IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services Charity) are experiencing large demands on their Service. Referrals are significantly higher than pre-Covid levels, and have remained **very high at over 10,000 referrals** for the last two years; with **engagement rates remaining at 60%**. In addition, there has been a significant increase (by approximately 30%) in contact through other methods such as their Helpline and via LiveChat. This has caused a backlog of referrals and the need to prioritise High-Risk referrals. So, although there has been reduction in In-Services cases from 2022/23 to 2023/24 by 6.7%, it is expected that this will increase, once the referrals backlog and support is in place. To avoid further demand on IDAS, education on the importance of accurate information on referrals to be continued to be communicated and time-frame expectations managed to minimise negative impacts.

The Office of Policing, Fire and Crime Commissioning (OPFCC) commissions a countywide Counselling and Talking therapy service to support victims of crime (of any age) to cope and recover. They have seen a 22% increase in referrals over the last two reporting periods (2023/23 and 2023/24). With approximately 43% of referrals related to Domestic abuse.

## Arson – Endangering Life

Although the numbers of Arson-Endangering Life are small, it is showing a slight increase over the last two years.



The peak of offences in August (8) appears to be unrelated and are spread occurring in seven different wards, and five different localities.

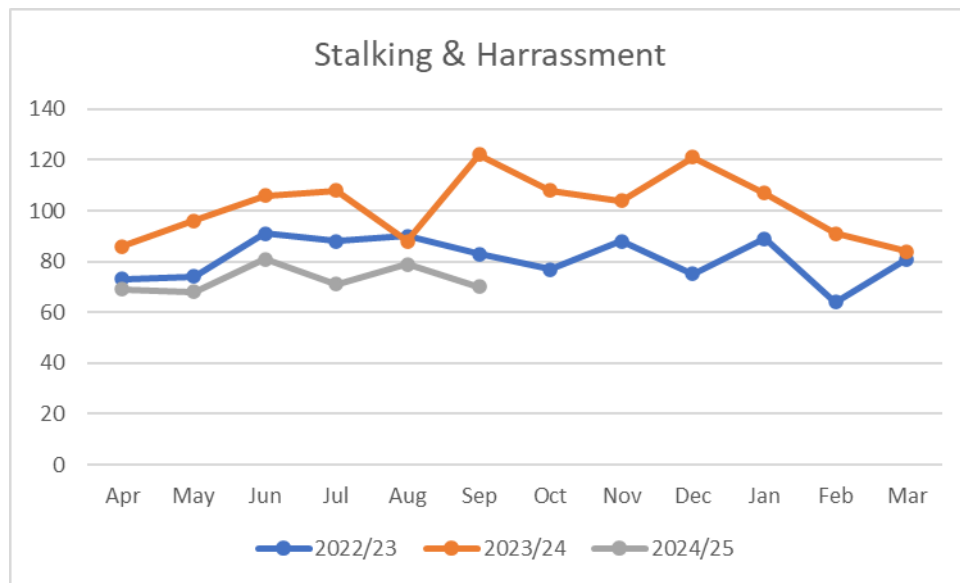
Locality	2022/23 Q1 & Q2	2023/24 Q1 & Q2	2024/25 Q1 & Q2	Difference
CRAVEN	1	2		-2
HAMBLETON		5	3	-2
HARROGATE	2	2	1	-1
RICHMONDSHIRE	1		1	1
RYEDALE		2	1	-1
SCARBOROUGH	2	2	6	4
SELBY		1	1	0
YORK	9	3	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>

## Stalking

There have been recent national changes to the recording of Stalking & Harassment as directed by the Home Office<sup>67</sup>. Where a stalking/harassment crime has been disclosed by a victim at the same time as reporting other crimes committed by the same offender, in most cases the principal crime would be recorded. However, this does not mean that the other crimes are forgotten. All crimes will be documented within the crime record and investigated fully.

<sup>67</sup> Note - This form of recording was previously the case, aligned to other types of crime recording, but the rule was amended between 2017 and 2023, where each conduct of stalking, harassment or controlling/coercive behaviour was counted. However, at the same time the Home Office have made several adjustments to the principal crime table to reflect the seriousness of stalking/harassment offences, essentially moving these offences higher up the principle crime table.

Between April and September 2024, 425 Stalking, Harassment or Coercive behaviour offences have been recorded in York and North Yorkshire. When comparing the same April to September time frame to the previous year, Stalking, Harassment or Coercive behaviour has decreased by 29%.



To enhance services by North Yorkshire Police with regards to Stalking and Harassment, a newly dedicated Stalking Support Team was established in April 2024. This could have had a positive impact on the volume of Stalking & Harassment offences.

Locality	2022/23 Q1 & Q2	2023/24 Q1 & Q2	2024/25 Q1 & Q2	% Difference
CRAVEN	23	27	23	-15%
HAMBLETON	35	64	42	-34%
HARROGATE	73	104	86	-17%
RICHMONDSHIRE	33	33	18	-45%
RYEDALE	25	29	28	-3%
SCARBOROUGH	120	132	81	-39%
SELBY	60	61	49	-20%
YORK	130	151	98	-35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>-29%</b>

All areas have seen a decrease when comparing April to September data, with many areas seeing significant reductions.

Locality	Non-domestic	Domestic
CRAVEN	2	21
HAMBLETON	13	29
HARROGATE	12	74
RICHMONDSHIRE	2	16
RYEDALE	4	24
SCARBOROUGH	16	65
SELBY	5	44
YORK	10	88
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>361</b>

361 of the 425 offences were domestic related; this is 85% of the total. 64 offences were therefore classed as non-domestic.

175 of the 425 are still under investigation and are awaiting an outcome. Of the remaining offences, the most common outcome accounting for nearly 30% of the total\*, was 'victim declines/withdraws support'.

\*110 of the 126 'victim declines/withdraws support' relate to domestic related incidents.

Due to the low numbers of non-domestic incidents, which are classed as the most serious types of stalking, and the low numbers of stranger stalking incidents, it can be concluded that non-domestic stalking is much less prevalent in York and North Yorkshire, in terms of volume.

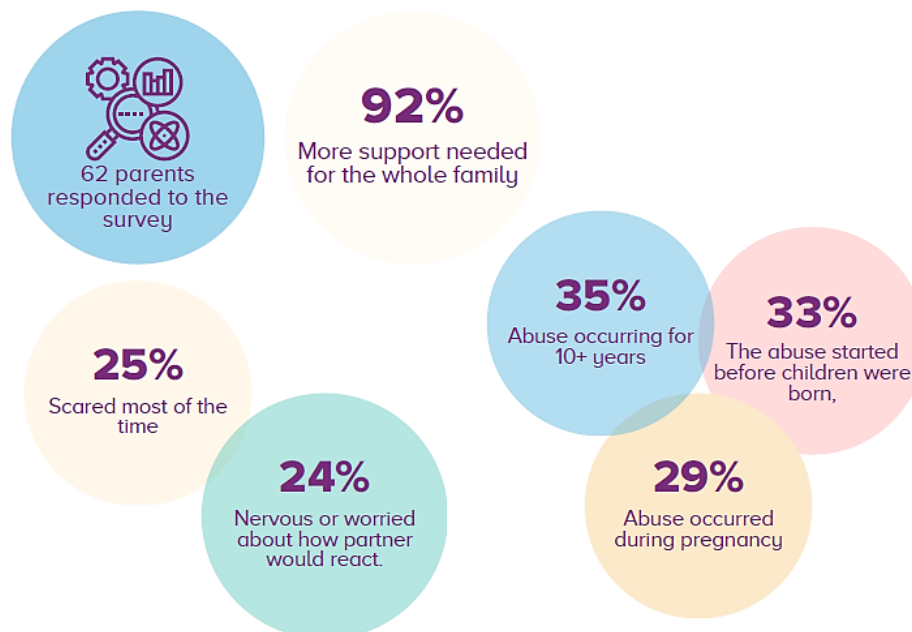
## Existing Interventions

This section provides a snapshot of some of the current practice within York and North Yorkshire to show the range of existing interventions and their impact.

### Domestic Abuse Whole Family Approach

DAWFA is an innovative intervention that works with both the family and partners to deliver effective support, keeping families safe and breaking the cycle of abuse. A multi-agency approach has been used to provide a case-based approach to develop strong partnerships. Practitioners work collaboratively with adult and child services with an emphasis on prevention and early intervention.

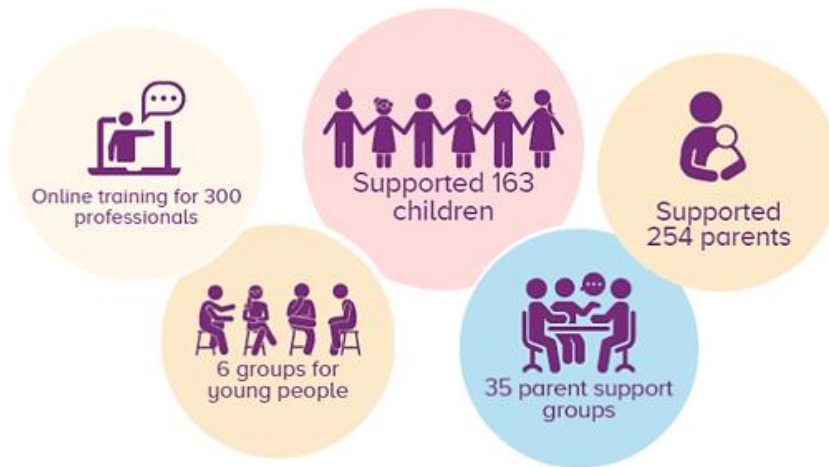
Research conducted between July 2021 and July 2022, undertaken by 62 parents, highlighted the following behaviour:



The research highlighted gaps in the way in which domestic abuse identification and support was being provided. It found that domestic abuse needs to be identified sooner to enable early intervention, language needs to be domestic abuse informed, children should have age-appropriate support, support should be consistent, and finally that perpetrators must be held to account.

DAWFA began in July 2021 in York as a pilot, and following the success the support was rolled out to the whole county of North Yorkshire in April 2022.

Impact to March 2023:



### Youth Commission

The North Yorkshire Youth Commission (NYYC) was established in 2015 and enables young people, aged between 10 and 25, to inform, support and challenge the work of the York and North Yorkshire Mayor, North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.



Comprising of up to 35 young people, they are a diverse group who broadly reflect the make-up of the local population, including those who may have direct experience of the police and the criminal justice system. A key part of NYYC's role is to gather the views of other young people across the county through peer-to-peer research in the form of a 'Big Conversation'. This peer-led research process provides a safe environment for young people to talk to their peers about relevant issues.



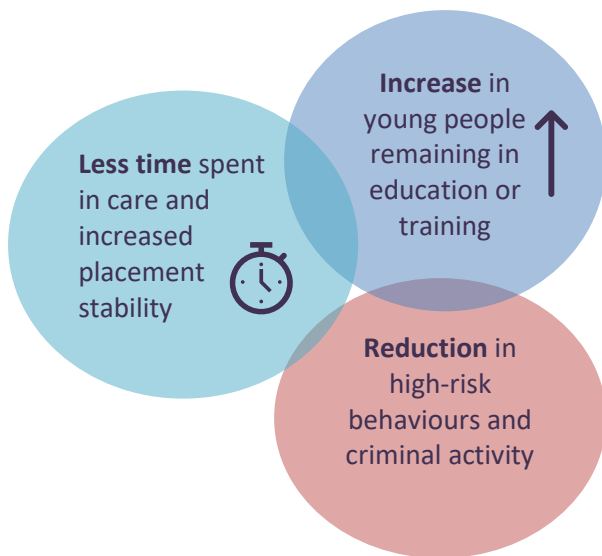
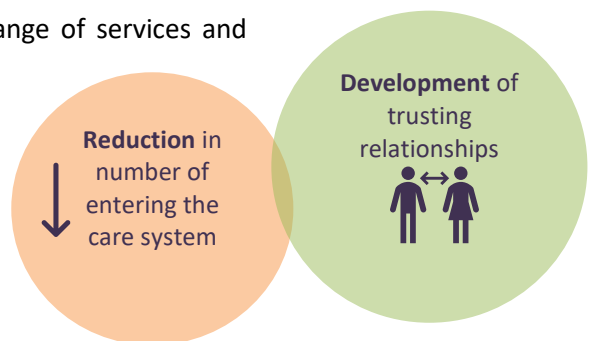
Their latest report is grounded in extensive peer-to-peer research and engagement with 1704 young people across North Yorkshire between March 2023 and January 2024. These conversations were conducted through interactive workshops, one-to-one interviews, and outreach stands.

This report is intended to act as an honest and independent record of what young people have said through the ‘Big Conversation’ process. It is also intended to be a basis for further action on the part of the Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime, North Yorkshire Police, and partner agencies.

### No Wrong Door

NWD is an integrated service and approach to supporting adolescents in or on the edge of the care system. The model combines a range of services and support options, with a team of specialists working together through a shared practice framework.

The goal is to reduce the number of young people coming into care, and to find permanence in a family setting through long-term foster care, reunification with their families or independence.



At the heart of the approach is the key workers relationship with the young person, basing the plan of support around the young person’s needs and aspirations.

Fifty percent of young people with an NWD worker said they would go to them first in a time of crisis.<sup>68</sup>

<sup>68</sup> Social Care Institute for Excellence, *Strengthening Families, Protecting Children*, February 2022

## **Interventions initiated by the Serious Violence Duty**

### Emergency Bleed Kits (York and North Yorkshire)

The aim is to install Bleed Kits across York and North Yorkshire, in order to kit communities to mediate catastrophic bleeds and reduce the harmful consequences of knife inflicted wounds or other violent crimes, whilst medical help arrives. This project is currently in the development stage, establishing potential locations.

### Knife Drop Bin (York and North Yorkshire)

There is currently one knife bin installed in the Harrogate area from the pilot project, which has collected 1630 from January 2023 to September 2024. A further 20 knife bins have been ordered through the Serious Violence Duty funding and will be rolled out across the county from January 2025 onwards.

### Op Night Safe (Selby)

A project initiated and led by North Yorkshire Police, implemented to engage with Licenced Premises and provide additional deployment, in order to reduce potential serious violence or disorder linked to the Night-Time economy within the Selby area.

Police and Town Safety Officers have been deployed every Saturday evening in July, August and September, between the hours of 22:00 – 05:00hrs. A local venue is in use as a place of safety for anyone in need during the Night-Time Economy, and monthly Selby Pubwatch meetings are continuing.

### Op Reach (York city centre)

A project initiated and led by North Yorkshire Police, has engaged with over 70 different licenced premises in York City Centre, as well as taken pre-emptive action to reduce potential serious violence or disorder linked to the Night-Time economy in the area. For example, a multi-agency operation with City of York council and York BID was implement for the weekend of Ebor races.

Between April to September, a total of eight deployments have brought about 9 arrests for offences including drunk & disorderly, criminal damage, sexual assault and drink driving, and 7 dispersals.

The deployments have seen an increased partnership working with door staff in York city centre. Door staff at multiple venues were engaged with and spoken to about the operation and the support the police can provide.

### Snickelway Lighting (York city centre)

This project is improving and enhancing main passageways / 'snickelways' in York to increase the feeling of safety particularly on dark nights, improve the locations appearance and deter criminal activity / ASB. Research and location identification has been conducted with partners, Civic Trust and University of York, as well as liaison with Op Reach. York University have completed a historical analysis of the chosen snickelways to determine interpretative themes for the history trail, which will focus on lost buildings, market city, and Medieval York. As partners emphasised the history trail materials should be more visually attractive and engaging than text-heavy information panels, it will take the form of graphic panel murals. The artist brief is in development and local creative design consultants have been hired to manage the curation.

The BID have directly contacted the 20 businesses connected to the snickelways, to get permission to install lighting infrastructure and cigarette bins, and to repaint rough infrastructure. Heritage and

Conservation consultancy company have been commissioned and are in the process of submitting listed building consents and heritage statements for lighting installation in all snickelways apart from Finkle Street (where the installation does not affect listed buildings).

There are grounds for a potential legacy project with York Civic Trust, offering guided tours. There has also been additional interest from other historical tour guides, who have offered their support for the project and who aim to launch a walking tour of the snickelways shortly.

#### She Was Walking Home (York and North Yorkshire)

She Was Walking Home is providing education-based workshops, performances and wider engagement to raise awareness of those with lived experience. The aim is to amplify the voices of local women, whilst also prompting conversations around 'What is it we can do in making women in our community feel safer?'

Casting and full rehearsal process has been completed. Performances and workshops either have been or will be held at ten schools across North Yorkshire. Conversation Cards have now also been designed and printed so that they can be taken home to allow for conversations to continue.

Direct positive feedback has been received and the positive impact of the project has resulted in a group of inspired young women writing a letter to their local MP on what change they would like to see in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

#### Halo Project – Behind Closed Doors film (York and North Yorkshire)

The production of a professional, North Yorkshire specific film featuring black and minoritised victims of cultural harm. The intent is to educate and inform students and young people around the realities of cultural harms by releasing it to educational settings.

Following scoping, writing and production, the film was premiered at a private launch on the 12<sup>th</sup> September at the Everyman Cinema in York. A social media campaign has been designed and finalised for area promotion, which will follow the supply of the film to area schools, and colleges with a lesson plan.

#### Just B - Emotional Wellbeing Support (York and North Yorkshire)

From April 2024, an emotional wellbeing support service has been provided for vulnerable children and young people in two alternative provision secondary schools (in Selby and Harrogate), which have limited mental health provision. The support aims to help students to manage their heightened emotions and regulate their feelings in difficult situations and experiences, to teach tools and strategies to help them process their anger and consider the consequences of their actions. In turn, reducing possible acts of violence and the impact of violent and aggressive behaviour that they either demonstrate or are exposed to.

Support Workers have been able to shape their support so they can 'meet the young person where they are at'. Good results have highlighted the importance of making young people feel heard, listened to and understood, regardless of their experiences.

#### Inspire Youth York Bus (York locality)

This community-based youth provision, has been operating weekly from the mobile youth base, providing 8–16-year-olds a safe space, refreshments, games and sports alongside information

education around a multitude of topics e.g. showing respect, keeping safe, emotional wellbeing, smoking and vaping awareness, impacts of violence, etc.

A full week of 'Crucial Crew' has been delivered in Selby, and to a total of over 35 different primary schools in the York locality, with approximately 760 young people engaged with on the topics of Drugs and Alcohol awareness. The delivery of the Selby holiday provision covered two locations for a full day of events over the summer holiday period. Young people are now seeking staff out to engage with.

#### Inspire Youth Yorkshire (IYY) (Harrogate locality)

This community-based youth provision, has been operating weekly in the Knaresborough, Ripon, Boroughbridge and Harrogate areas, providing 8–16-year-olds a safe space, refreshments, games and sports alongside information education around a multitude of topics e.g. showing respect, keeping safe, emotional wellbeing, smoking and vaping awareness, impacts of violence, etc.

IYY continues to attend and be involved in various partnership meetings, to discuss for example, raising awareness of the service, possible challenges ahead in the winter months, as well as referrals for the delivery of group interventions. The total number of young people engaged (aged 24 or younger) is 1480.

#### Libby Girls (Scarborough)

This project run by St Giles has taken learning from their successful existing Liberty Links project, to provide grassroots community engagement with young women and girls in Scarborough's highest crime area. This includes speaking to young women and girls on the streets but also engaging with local business owners and concerned members of the public. They provide a wide form of support from individual assistance to providing activity courses, sports funding and engagement at key locations such as at a local school, a hostel, and key public spaces attended by young women and girls.

Pro-active work is being done to raise awareness of serious violence amongst young women and girls and professionals in the local area. Trusted relationships are being built with young women and girls in the local area.

Reports of impactful interventions and support with the young women and girls continue to be received.

For further information on interventions and funded projects please visit: [Commissioning Services webpage](#) on the Office for Policing, Fire, Crime and Commissioning website.

## **Non SVD funding interventions addressing Serious Violence Priorities**

### Clear Hold Build

Clear, Hold, Build is an innovative framework, developed by the Home Office, to help police forces tackle serious and organised crime. It reclaims and rebuilds neighbourhoods affected by organised crime, makes areas safer and increases public confidence in the police and partner agencies.

In the North Yorkshire Police area, the first two Clear, Hold, Build projects were publicly launched in March 2024 at:

- Clifton in York
- Barrowcliff in Scarborough.

### Choose Respect, No Regrets Campaign

York City Council's latest campaign, which commenced in the summer 2024, focuses on courteous behaviour at night. The campaign's themes include anti-littering, using respectful language, drinking in moderation, river safety, rail travel, public urination and street noise. The messaging can be found on shop wraps, bollards, planters, cigarette bins, etc.

### Just a Kiss

October 2024 saw the release of a nine-episode series name 'Just a kiss' One Kiss – One Obsession' covering the story of a young university fresher who, having met a man on a night out, becomes the victim of stalking. It has been produced to raise awareness of Stalking, and how to report stalking to services.

For further information please see [OPFCC website](#).

### Stepping Up (OPFCC funded)

Stepping Up is an early intervention project targeting young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system using mentoring and sport as a diversionary tool. It currently working with Year 6 to Year 9 students, with focused work on students transitioning from primary to secondary school. They work closely with North Yorkshire Police and partnership agencies, receiving referrals across the county. Currently they are predominantly providing support in Scarborough, Selby and York.

## **On the Horizon**

National guidance for the SVD will be changing from April 2025. The full details of this are expected to be confirmed late 2024/early 2025.