

North Yorkshire Councillor report – July 2026

Jobseekers targeted by sophisticated recruitment scammers

People are being warned that scammers are posing as employers and recruiters to trick jobseekers into handing over money and personal details. The alert comes after a website was found displaying adverts for jobs at North Yorkshire Council.

The site carried listings for an assortment of jobs, including many past their closing date. Anyone clicking on an advert was invited to upload their CV and provide personal information.

Scams of this kind are often designed to gather data for identity theft and fraud, with details sometimes sold on for further criminal use. The advice is simple – never upload personal information, such as your name, date of birth or contact details, to an unfamiliar or unverified website, and be especially cautious about sharing sensitive data such as bank or National Insurance details. If you believe you may have shared information with a suspicious site, contact your bank immediately, change your passwords, and consider using more secure sign-in methods, such as passkeys, where available.

Fraudulent job offers can appear highly convincing, often impersonating well-known organisations or advertising roles that do not exist. Scammers may also pose as recruitment agents, advertising jobs on behalf of employers without authorisation to obtain personal details.

To help tackle this growing issue, residents are being encouraged to use JobsAware – Protecting Worker Rights, a national service supported by the Government, which provides advice and a platform to report suspicious activity. Anyone who believes they have been targeted, or has lost money through a recruitment scam, is strongly encouraged to report it via the national fraud reporting service.

North Yorkshire Council does not use recruitment agencies to fill permanent roles, and all vacancies are advertised directly on its website. Anyone interested in working for the authority is encouraged to visit the council's jobs page, where they can also sign up for job alerts to receive tailored opportunities straight to their inbox.

Members of the public can report phishing websites to the National Cyber Security Centre at www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams/report-scam-website and can report job scams via www.jobsaware.co.uk/report/scam/. Details of job vacancies at North Yorkshire Council are available at www.northyorks.gov.uk/JobSearch.

Greener, healthier communities are at heart of new trees plan

Plans to safeguard and strengthen North Yorkshire's trees and woodlands are set to help protect the environment while creating healthier, greener places for communities to live and enjoy.

NYC's new tree and woodland policy sets out a countywide approach to managing trees, recognising the vital role they play in supporting wildlife, tackling climate change and improving people's quality of life.

The policy will provide a consistent approach to tree management across the county for the first time, helping to improve protection and avoid a patchwork of different practices which existed prior to the launch of North Yorkshire Council in 2023. Recognising the true value of trees - not just as part of our landscape, but as essential to our environment and wellbeing.

Key elements being:

- Protecting trees and green spaces from unnecessary loss.
- Stronger expectations for developers to retain trees and hedgerows.
- Making better use of Tree Preservation Orders to protect valued areas.
- Supporting wildlife and climate resilience through better tree care.

The policy will make processes clearer for residents, with more transparent ways of dealing with tree work, concerns and claims.

Trees are central to tackling climate change - absorbing carbon, improving air quality, reducing flood risk and helping to cool built-up areas during hot weather. Good tree management is about taking a long-term view. This policy will help us protect what we have, plan more effectively for the future, and ensure North Yorkshire's trees continue to support and benefit communities for generations to come.

The plans highlight the need to improve access to green spaces, with a future tree planting strategy expected to focus on areas where it can deliver the biggest benefits for communities and the environment.

Strategy drawn up with aim of improving lives of unpaid carers

Unpaid carers could be given extra support and help to fulfil their crucial roles under a proposed new strategy that is set to be considered by North Yorkshire Council.

The proposed all-age carers' strategy would provide a countywide plan that has been shaped after conversations with unpaid carers about their experiences. The plan sets out a clear ambition to create a North Yorkshire where people who look after family and friends feel valued and listened to.

There are approximately 54,000 unpaid carers ranging from children to pensioners aged in their 90s in North Yorkshire with some providing more than 50 hours of care each week. They play a vital role helping their families and friends to live independently within their own homes and their communities.

However, many still struggle to get the right support at the right time, and some do not recognise themselves as carers, so they miss out on the help completely.

The draft "caring for all" strategy sets out clear priorities that will shape the support which carers of all ages receive. If it is adopted, it will replace the Caring for Carers plan and would focus on four key priorities:

- Collaborative and accessible support for carers.
- Helping carers stay healthy and well.
- Improving identification of carers and recognition of their roles.
- Evidence-based personalised support that is tailored to the needs of carers.

As part of these commitments under the proposed strategy, the council is set to pledge to work together across services to help make sure people who care for family and friends are identified and supported in the same way wherever they live in North Yorkshire.

If the new strategy is approved, carers will find it easier to find information as there will be simpler and more joined-up routes to advice and practical help. The proposed strategy also aims to help carers stay well by enabling chances to take breaks, peer support and approaches that understand the impact of stress and trauma.

The proposals for the strategy, which can change and grow as local needs and policies evolve, is due to be considered by councillors this month (July).

It will then go out to public consultation from Monday, August 3, to Sunday, September 27, inviting feedback from carers of all ages, professional partners and the wider public.

The draft strategy was discussed at a meeting of the health and adult services executive meeting on Friday, July 3, and the report can be viewed or downloaded as a PDF here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/AACS>

More childcare support available for families in North Yorkshire

Hundreds of families are being given extra support and reaping the benefits as North Yorkshire Council has provided more childcare to pupils in the county's schools.

Through the Government's childcare expansion programme, families now have greater access to wraparound childcare provision before and after the school day. With more than 2,000 new places created since April 2024, this is helping parents and carers in North Yorkshire balance work, training and family life.

Wraparound childcare offers supervised care for children during term time, before and after the school day, typically from 8am until the school day begins and from the end of the school day until 6pm.

North Yorkshire Council has helped schools and childcare providers to grow their breakfast and after-school clubs, enabling more families to benefit from affordable and reliable care for their children.

Parents and carers in North Yorkshire say the support they have received is giving them greater flexibility, enabling them to return to work, increase their working hours or undertake training, while knowing their children are in a safe and nurturing environment.

Government funding has been allocated to local authorities to support schools and providers in England over two academic years to create or expand childcare provision on either side of the school day, which parents of primary school-aged children are able to pay to access.

The Government's ambition is that where possible parents and carers of primary school-aged children would be able to access term-time support in their local area usually between 8am and 6pm.

The childcare provision is a paid-for service, but many families may qualify for financial support through Tax Free Childcare. You can find out more at Best Start in Life <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

New highways treatments to be used amid major funding shortfall

New methods of repairing North Yorkshire's vast network of roads are being used to help to counter increasing pressure on the county's highways maintenance budgets, with North Yorkshire Council's highways maintenance teams now employing new techniques for the first time this summer to prevent potholes and defects opening up in roads.

The move comes as the council's highways maintenance budgets have been hit by rising costs due to inflation and pressures on the supply chain, but also the council faces an unexpected multi-million pound shortfall over the next four years after changes in the way funding is allocated through the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

New methods to try and prolong the lifespan of the county's roads and extend the time between resurfacing while reducing the number of defects emerging will see an innovative treatment applied to roads from this summer, called Reclamite treatment. The preventative treatment involves a solution being sprayed on a carriageway that rejuvenates the asphalt. This helps to prevent cracks and defects opening up that can lead to potholes and further damage to a road surface.

Each treatment extends the life of a road by five years and can be repeated. It is quick and easy to deliver compared to resurfacing schemes and is much cheaper, helping to reduce overall costs by as much as 40 per cent. The Reclamite treatment, which is being provided by a company called Roadtechs, is also more environmentally friendly and dramatically reduces both carbon dioxide emissions and waste, while ensuring roads stay in a better condition for longer.

Despite the financial pressures, the council is investing about £28 million on carriageway works on the 5,800 miles of roads in North Yorkshire, which is England's largest county.

Other preventative measures include retexturing, which helps to prolong the lifespan of the carriageways, along with inlay patching to repair defects, which lasts longer and reduces the number of return visits that are needed.

Officers are also working closely with the council's highways company, NY Highways, and its wider supply chain to look at ways of delivering repairs more efficiently, with processes that use recycled material to minimise the impact on the environment.

The rising costs have been compounded by a massive reduction of at least £20 million for highways maintenance in the county over the next four financial years which were voted through in March at a meeting of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

North Yorkshire Council is set to receive £63.8 million for highways maintenance in 2026/27, which will be an increase from £57.8 million in the previous financial year. But due to the changes, the council will see a reduction for highways maintenance of at least £20 million as funding is due to fall over the following three financial years compared to what would have been received directly from the Department for Transport. A total of £4 million in funds which would have come to North Yorkshire Council from the Department for Transport will now be redirected to City of York Council.

Cllr Les and North Yorkshire Council's deputy leader, Cllr Gareth Dadd, both voted against the proposals at the combined authority meeting at County Hall in Northallerton in March. But the mayor, David Skaith, and two councillors from City of York Council, who are also members of the combined authority, all voted for the changes in funding allocations.

Libraries take centre stage to support a summer of reading

Libraries are hoping to strike the right chord with pupils when a music-themed reading challenge launches over the school summer holidays. From Saturday, July 4, North Yorkshire libraries will be encouraging children aged between four and 11 to read six library books over the summer holidays, winning stickers and prizes as they progress.

This year's theme is Read to the Beat, inspiring children to explore the connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music ignite creativity. The book collection features musicians, characters discovering music, cultural traditions, rhythm and creative expression.

The aim is to make stories come to life, increasing a child's ability to understand emotions and improve their language skills.

The council is supporting the National Year of Reading, which looks to combat the decline of reading for pleasure and inspire people of all ages to read more.

Hundreds of often free activities will be taking place in libraries with musical partners where children can try making music for themselves, including rap workshops, drumming and singing.

Full details of the events can be found on individual library Facebook pages or on North Yorkshire Council's website at www.northyorks.gov.uk/src

There is still time for volunteers aged between 13 and 24 to come forward to help run and promote the challenge. Volunteers will register children onto the challenge, help them to choose books, talk to them about the books they have read, award prizes, and assist with library activities.

To find out more about volunteering and to apply, go to or contact your local library. For more information on the Read to the Beat challenge, visit the website at www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Devolution and community empowerment at the heart of new plans

Communities across North Yorkshire could be given the chance to take on greater responsibility to run key facilities and services with a proposed countywide approach to promoting grassroots democracy. The proposed community transfer policy would bring together and formalise existing arrangements that have operated since the launch of the unitary authority in 2023. It would also introduce transitional arrangements for parish, voluntary and community organisations involved in the double devolution pilot.

North Yorkshire Council is set to work with organisations involved in the double devolution pilot to finalise their proposals by March 31 next year. In cases where this is not possible, groups would be invited to submit an expression of interest under the community transfer policy.

Proposals to adopt the community transfer policy are due to be considered by members of the council's executive when they meet on Tuesday (July 14).

This approach reflects the commitment to being England's most local large council by empowering communities to get things done in their area.

Plans to adopt the community transfer policy demonstrates a commitment to giving greater control to parish, voluntary and community organisations. This blueprint will empower communities, giving them greater control over key local assets, and making decisions that best reflect local priorities.

The report can be viewed or downloaded as a PDF here – [Community Transfer Policy](#)

Strategy planned to keep children in care local and supported

Young people in North Yorkshire could benefit from a new strategy to help children in care grow up close to their families, friends, schools and communities under plans due to be considered by councillors. The proposed homes for children sufficiency strategy sets out how North Yorkshire Council would ensure there are enough of the right homes in the right places to meet the needs of children in care and care leavers over the next three years.

The plans, to be considered by members of the council's executive on Tuesday (July 14), are built around a simple ambition to ensure that children should be supported to remain close to the people and places that matter most to them, wherever possible. This would mean helping children to maintain important family relationships while staying connected with friends, continuing to attend their schools and remaining part of their local communities.

The proposals come at a time of increasing pressure on children's services. As of February this year, 613 children were in the care of North Yorkshire Council – a nine per cent increase over the previous 12 months and a rise of almost 40 per cent since 2019.

More children are also requiring support for increasingly complex needs, including trauma, neurodiversity, disability, emotional wellbeing needs, adolescent risk and exploitation. But the vast rural nature of North Yorkshire, which is England's largest county, has also added to the challenges.

The proposed strategy recognises that children achieve the best outcomes when they experience stable, loving homes and can maintain the relationships and connections that are important to them.

However, national and local shortages of foster carers and specialist residential provision mean that too many children can be cared for further away from home than anyone would wish.

To address these challenges, the planned strategy is accompanied by a proposal to earmark up to £20 million from within existing council financial reserves which could be called upon to invest in the availability of local care options across North Yorkshire. Detailed spending proposals would be brought forward for consideration by the council's executive at a future date.

This would include recruiting and supporting more foster carers, developing specialist and advanced fostering arrangements, expanding supported accommodation and creating additional local residential homes and strengthening emergency and crisis provision.

The proposals are intended to increase the number of homes available in North Yorkshire, improve how children are matched to homes, strengthen stability of care and ensure that care arrangements better support children's long-term wellbeing, education and future life chances.

The planned strategy also proposes strengthening the council's in-house fostering service, improving local planning and forecasting, and working more closely with care providers to ensure sufficient high-quality provision is available across the county.

If approved, the strategy would provide a clear framework for developing local homes and support services that enable more children to remain in North Yorkshire, helping them to sustain lifelong relationships and giving them the best possible chance to flourish into adulthood.

The report can be viewed or downloaded as a PDF here: [Executive report on homes for children sufficiency strategy](#)