

NORTH YORKSHIRE EDUCATION SPENDING - HOW DO WE COMPARE

SOURCE: SECTION 52 ANALYSIS 2008/09

A summary is enclosed of the comparisons derived from the DCSF annual publication of tables of comparative information - Section 52. The comparisons compare North Yorkshire and England as a whole and all (upper-tier) authorities (mainly counties). In addition there are two separate comparisons with authorities similar to North Yorkshire. One group compares North Yorkshire with authorities assessed by the Audit Commission to be similar as Children's Services Authorities (CSAs) and the other is a wider comparison of a largely different group of authorities judged to be similar by examining all services provided by the Authority (corporate neighbours).

The analysis relates to the main headings within the Section 52 albeit with separate presentation of some of the more important sub-sections. The information shown in the Appendix shows spending per pupil. The key conclusions from the analysis are:

- **Total spending** on the **Schools Block** of £3,990 per pupil is slightly higher than similar authorities and all upper-tier authorities but is significantly less than the national average of £4,158 per pupil. These comparisons reflect the level of DSG and other grants. North Yorkshire position would be much worse if it were not for **£14M** (£160 per pupil) added by the Authority from local resources over and above the Government's assessment of its needs. This additional amount continues to be "protected" within existing arrangements for DSG.
- **Delegated School Budgets** (line 1) are higher than the average for all similar authorities and all upper tier authorities. The additional £90 per pupil, compared with similar Children's Services Authorities, represents additional spending for schools of **£7.5M**. North Yorkshire has the highest delegated budgets per pupil of its corporate neighbours and the second highest per pupil of its comparable authorities.
- The extra delegated resources arise because the proportion of the Schools Block delegated to schools in North Yorkshire is 89.2.1%. This is above the average of all the other comparable groups included in the table where the averages range from 87.6% to 88.5%.
- **Special Education, Learner Support & Access** - spending on **Special Education** is similar to other authorities. Spending on **Learner Support**, including **Transport**, is above average. North Yorkshire's spending on **Transport**, of necessity, (£263 per pupil) is significantly higher than all comparative groups including corporate statistical neighbours (£206 per pupil).
- Within Learner Support the Authority spends less than average on **School Improvement** (£43 per pupil) as compared with all groups of authorities including similar authorities (£54 per pupil). Spending on **Access** is similar to other authorities.
- **Youth & Community and Youth Justice** - North Yorkshire spending on **Youth & Community** (£64 per pupil) is less than similar authorities and the national average. Spending on **Youth Justice** is similar to comparable authorities and upper tier authorities.
- **Looked After Children** - North Yorkshire spending on **Looked After Children** (£212 per pupil) is slightly higher than similar authorities (£208 per pupil) but less than corporate statistical neighbours (£225 per pupil).
- **Other Social Care Services** – North Yorkshire spending is less than average on **Children & Young People's Safety, Family Support Services** and is slightly less than the average for other authorities on **Adoption** and other **Family Services**. The authority's spending on **Children's Services Strategy** of £140 per pupil is slightly higher than similar authorities (£136 per pupil) but slightly less than corporate statistical neighbours (£140 per pupil).
- North Yorkshire spending on **Local Authority Education Functions** of £74 per pupil is particularly low as it is £48 per pupil lower than its corporate neighbours – a saving of over **£4M** with a similar saving when compared with all upper-tier authorities.