



Dream •
Again

York's Strategic Plan for Children, Young
People and their Families 2013-2016



No Wrong Door Conference

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Interim Director of
Children's Services,
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City of York Council

Dream Again: The Ambition

“York is a city making history and its children are our future. Every child and young person in York deserves to live their dreams. We will stretch, support, nurture and release them to do so. Working with them and their families, we will make York the best place in Britain in which to grow up.”



The National Context

- austerity – impact on public service
- local government – cuts
- education reforms
- NHS reforms
- police reforms
- benefit changes
- Implications for partnership working?



The plan's five priorities: local context

1. helping all York children enjoy a happy family life
2. supporting those who need extra help at the earliest opportunity
3. promoting good mental health
4. reaching further: links to a strong economy
5. planning well in a changing world

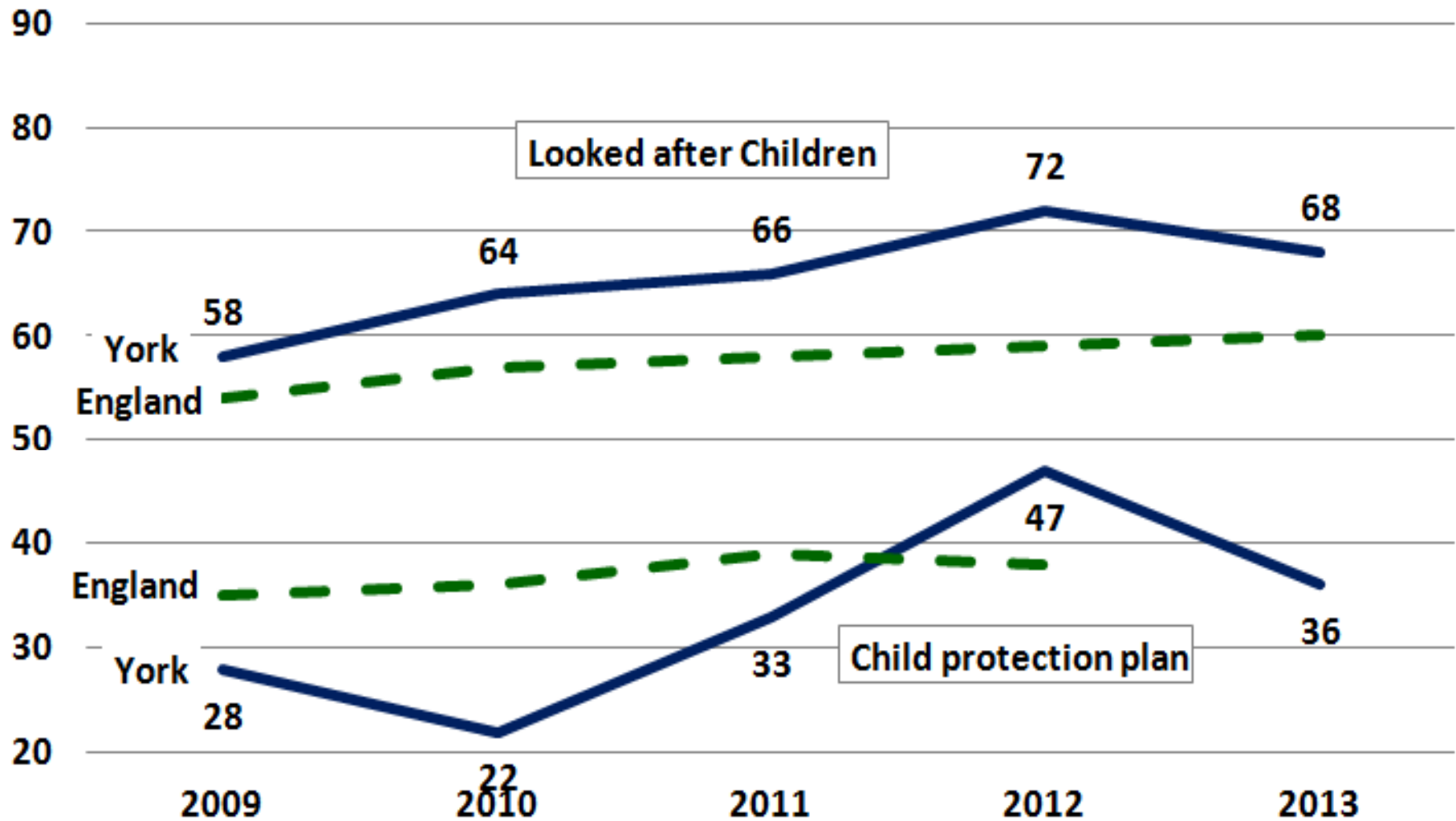


(1) Helping all York children enjoy a happy family life

- strong local safeguarding arrangements
- staying safe – looked after children
- child protection plans
- Children and Families Bill 2013 – Special Educational Needs Reform



Looked After Children and Child Protection Plans (Rate per 10,000 children)



(2) Supporting those who need extra help at the earliest opportunity

- integrated working – increasing referrals
- increasing demand for services and critical contribution from voluntary sector
- Integrated Family Service & the Troubled Family Initiative
- teenage pregnancy
- targeted childcare provision
- focus on “narrowing the gap”



(3) Promoting good mental health

- Voice of young people
- headteachers' conference / Healthy Schools Programme / SEAL
- Health and Wellbeing Board - young carers & carers' charter
- October 2013 Action Plan for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

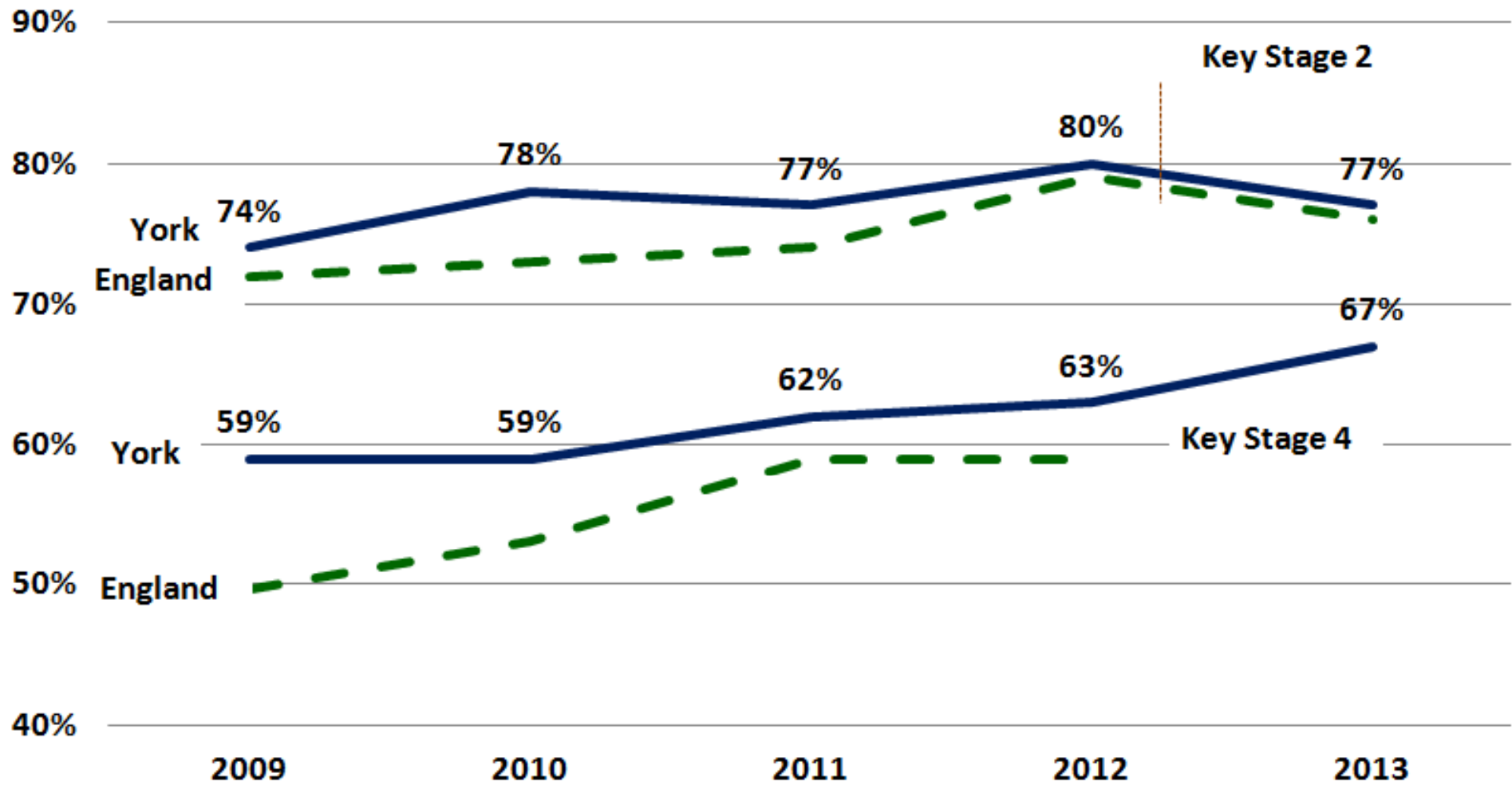


(4) Reaching further: links to a strong economy

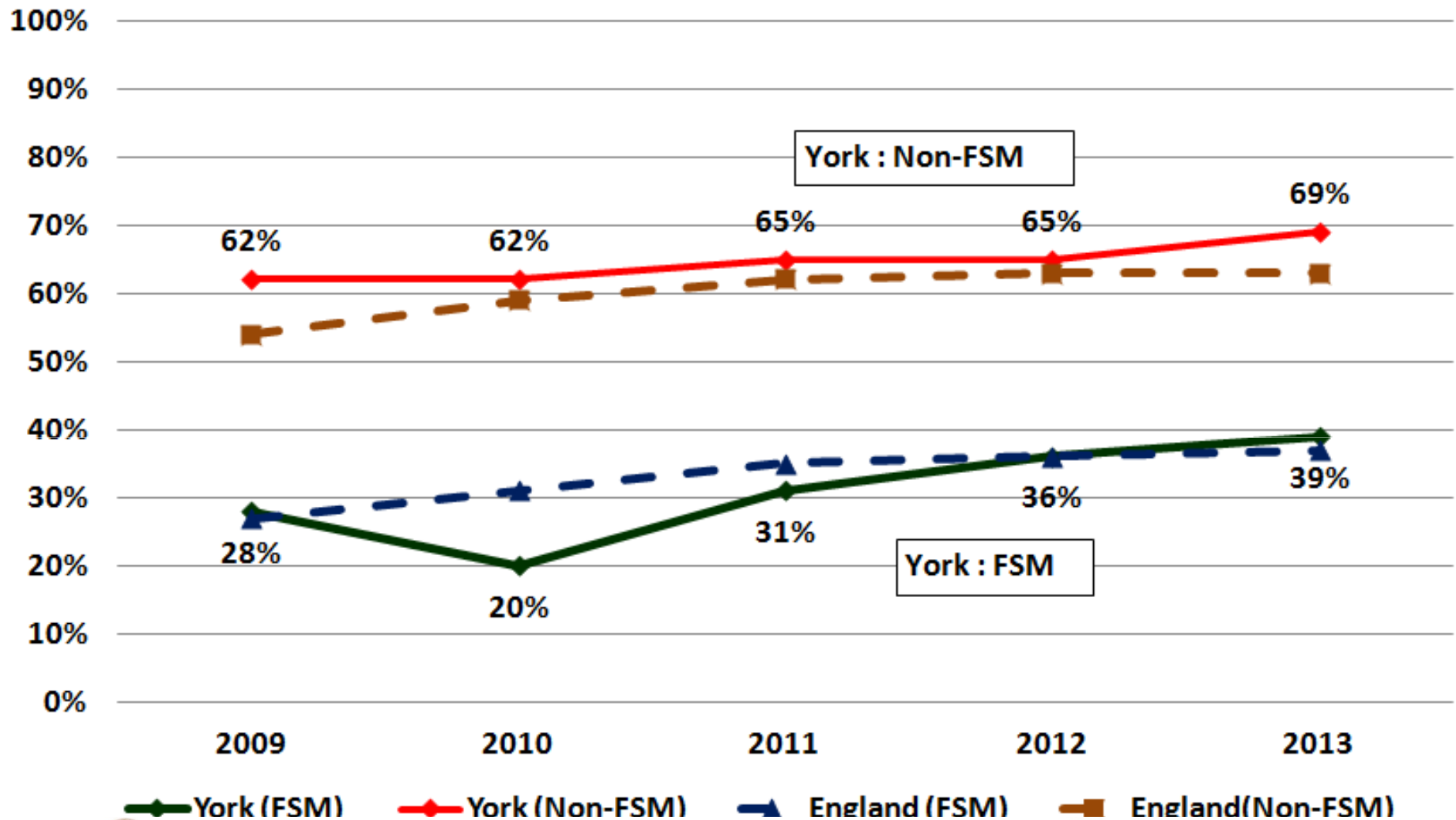
- tackling poverty
- the York economy – a changing city
- education – enjoying and achieving
- Raising Participation Age / new opportunities
- Skills Strategy



Historical Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 Results



% of 'Free School Meal' and 'Non-Free School Meal' pupils achieving 5+A*-C including En + Ma



(5) Planning well in a changing world

- demographic change and challenge
- securing sufficient high quality childcare places
- securing sufficient high quality school places
- further integration of services - financial challenges – universal v targeted provision



“Professionals who work in the same locality need to talk to each other. Services are under intense pressure because of cuts and scrutiny, because of performance targets and reorganisation. Therefore colleagues have retreated behind their professional boundaries. It’s said that there’s no time for multi-disciplinary work: in fact it’s an essential, core task. Talk about children, good practice, politics, or XFactor – that’s how trusting, understanding relationships are created, how boundaries are broken down, how problems are shared. Relationships are the oil that makes the system work smoothly. That’s why someone, someday, will find it easier to pick up the phone and say, “This little boy, I’m worried, what do you think...?””



Abe Laurens, Social Worker



Our greatest strength in York is our partnership working. This strength of partnership derives from a shared determination across colleagues in all agencies to ensure that no child slips through the net.

