Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 15**

Finance and Resources Committee

19 May 2026

Sickness Absence

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise Members of the current level of sickness absence within the National Park Authority staffing establishment.

Recommendation

2. That the report be noted.

Strategic Framework

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and support the strategic planning framework:

   - Corporate Plan Objective 30:
     Plan and manage the Authority's work so as to make the most effective use of its resources, including generating sufficient income to maintain expenditure at the same level as 2014/15 in real terms across the extended National Park area.

Background

4. Analysis has been undertaken of sickness absence data covering all staff employed by the Authority during the fourth quarter of 2025/26 (1 January to 31 March 2026). The data has been categorised by individual Directorates and is attached as an **Appendix** to this report. Information is provided both in terms of the percentage of time lost and then what this means in actual days lost, to illustrate the proportionate and absolute size of sickness absence.

Method of Calculation

5. As with previous reports, the Appendix presents data for all staff based on a five day working week, taking into account vacant posts, bank holidays, and an average annual leave and flexi leave entitlement, to give 'actual' working days available for both full and part-time staff. The following data is provided:
   (i) Number of staff in post as at 31 March 2026 (Full-Time Equivalent)

(ii) The total number of days lost due to sickness within the reporting period
(iii) The total number of working days available within the reporting period
(iv) Each Directorate's lost time rate, being the percentage of lost days compared with the number of days available, is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Total Number of Days Lost}}{\text{Total Number of Days Available}} \times 100$$

The Authority's lost time rate for the quarter ending 31 March 2026 was **2.5%.** The rate for the previous quarter to 31 December 2025 was **2.3%.** Also provided within the Appendix are details of the quarterly lost time rates over the last five years.

Performance Indicator results

6. The Authority uses a Performance Indicator to report the proportion of working days lost due to sickness absence. Rather than reporting the annual lost time rate, sickness absence for Performance Indicator purposes is calculated and expressed as the number of days' absence per Full Time Equivalent (FTE) member of staff, as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Aggregate of lost working days}}{\text{Average number of FTE staff}} = \text{X days per FTE}$$

Calculated by reference to the start and end of the financial year

The situation as at the end of the fourth quarter (ending 31 March 2026) using the Performance Indicator methodology (as opposed to the 'lost time rate', percentage-based approach) yields a figure of **1.3 days per FTE** for that quarter. The cumulative total is 4.8 days per FTE.

Financial Implications

7. There are no financial implications this quarter.

Legal Implications

8. None

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

9. None

Caszandra Peterson
Payroll and Insurance Officer

Appendix

Sickness Absence Levels – 1 January – 31 March 2026

Directorate	Full Time Equivalent in Post as at 31.3.26	Total No. of Days Lost	Total Days Available	Lost Time %
Corporate Services	27.1	41	1463.4	2.8
Conservation & Community	46.6	68	2516.4	2.7
Park Services	55.5	65	2997.0	2.2
Total	**129.2**	**174**	**6976.8**	**2.5**

Notes

1. Of the 68 days lost in Conservation & Community, 32.4 days relate to two members of staff, who have since returned to work.
2. Of the 41 days lost in Corporate Service, 30 days relate to one member of staff, who has since returned to work.
3. Of the 65 days lost in Park Services, 35 days relate two members of staff, one member of staff has since returned to work, the other has left the organisation.
4. Taking out the periods of long-term sickness absence (defined here as any instance lasting for more than ten working days), the Authority's lost time rate would be **1.1%** and the days of absence per FTE would be **0.6** days.

Analysis of Sickness Levels (Lost Time Rate) at Quarterly Intervals for the Period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2026. From 1 April 2023 Figure in brackets shows Analysis of Sickness Levels minus Long Term Sickness Absence.

1 April 2022 – 30 June 2022	1 July 2022 – 30 September 2022	1 October 2022 – 31 December 2022	1 January 2023 – 31 March 2023
2.4%	2.0%	2.9%	1.6%

1 April 2023 – 30 June 2023	1 July 2023 – 30 September 2023	1 October 2023 – 31 December 2023	1 January 2024 – 31 March 2024
2.5% (0.9%)	2.5% (1.09%)	3.9% (1.2%)	2.7% (1.3%)

1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024	1 July 2024 – 30 September 2024	1 October 2024 – 31 December 2024	1 January 2025 – 31 March 2025
2.4% (0.8%)	3.2% (1.1%)	3.1% (1.3%)	1.5% (1.2%)

1 April 2025 – 30 June 2025	1 July 2025 – 30 September 2025	1 October 2025 – 31 December 2025	1 January 2026 – 31 March 2026
2.1% (1.4%)	2.0% (0.7%)	2.3% (1.4%)	2.5%(1.1%)

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