



ANNEX 1

Raise York
Your Family Hub Network

Young People Belong in York

York's Youth Strategy
2024-2028

Delivered in partnership with:



Our strategy on a page

We have developed this strategy together with youth partners and young people.

Our Ambition

York is a place that young people belong. Young people in York have places to go, things to do and someone to talk to.

Why we need a strategy

Young People tell us they feel they don't belong in York and that there is a stigma towards young people.

We need to attract more money to the city to help grow youth provision and make it more sustainable.

York has some great youth provision but we know some young people miss out.

How we will deliver this strategy

Over the next three years we are investing £120k (£40k per year) to build a Local Youth Partnership and to deliver youth provision. The Local Youth Partnership will:

Build York's Youth Sector

- Develop a youth partnership that helps us to work together.
- To attract investment for youth work into the city and build sustainability.
- To create a city where young people feel they belong and feel safe.

Build the workforce

- Equip youth workers with the skills and knowledge they need
- Create trusting relationships with young people and between partners.
- Develop standards to enable the delivery of exceptional services for young people.

Joined up youth offer

- Understand what youth services young people need.
- Work together to deliver our local youth offer.
- Young People and families know what is available and how to access it.

What this means for young people

Our Priorities

Young people have safe places to be with their friends.

Young people have a range of activities they want to do.

Young people are supported by people with the right skills.

Our journey to success – How will we know



Our Local Youth Partnership is created.

This attracts more resource to build youth provision.

Young people shape the youth offer.

New youth provision is created and existing provision is more sustainable.

More young people know what is available.

Young people tell us they have safe places to be with their friends.

Why do we need a youth strategy?

Every young person deserves to grow up in a place where they feel safe, supported, and inspired to achieve their dreams. We want York to be a place where young people know they belong. We believe in the power of youth work and the importance of having places to go and things to do, all supported by people who genuinely care. Young people should have a vibrant youth offer, fit for the 21st century that:

Connects them with their communities

Offers young people opportunities in safe environments to take part in a wide range of activities

Supports the personal, social and economic development of young people

Improves young people's physical and mental health, and emotional wellbeing

Raises young people's aspirations, builds their resilience, and informs their decision-making

Promotes inclusion and diversity for all young people.

The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to 'secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient provision of educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people, and to make sure young people have a say in the local offer'. (Education Act 1996)

The YMCA has highlighted the national challenge faced by local authorities in ensuring sufficient youth provision. Research undertaken by the YMCA shows that nationally the level of spending on youth services by English local authorities in 2022/23 is 73% lower than in 2010/11. York is not immune to these challenges and like other areas are looking to find new ways of working to help meet the needs of young people.

Partnership working and the need to deliver place-based provision underpins the vision and ambitions that are set out in this strategy. Working with the York Youth Network, we have set ambitious plans to develop a Local Youth Partnership for the city, led at the local level with the goal of bringing together, supporting and sustaining youth work delivery. The partnership will take collaborative action to improve outcomes for children and young people by enabling access to high-quality provision locally.

The Youth Strategy reflects the city's drive for an early intervention and prevention approach, providing engaging and diversionary opportunities reducing the need for more expensive targeted provision.

Did you know in York...

There are

34,612

children and young people living in York

10,167

are 0-5 years old

9,771

are 6-10 years old

14,673

are 11-17 years old



The majority (**86%**) of secondary/sixth-form pupils said that they have someone they can talk to if they have a problem or were worried about something.



66.05% of the Talk About Panel agree their local area is a good place for children and young people to grow up.



The things that secondary/sixth-form pupils report worrying about the most are 'what might happen to them in later life' and 'their appearance and how they look'.



Around a quarter of secondary/sixth-form pupils reported that they had self-harmed in the past year and **46%** of those said that they had never asked anyone for help or support.



The majority (**91%**) of secondary/sixth form pupils said that they have a social media account. Around a fifth reported using the internet for more than 6 hours on a normal school day, rising to **37%** on a normal weekend day.



71% said that they had received messages from people that they don't know online and about a quarter said that they had been asked to do something that they didn't want to do online.



About a **quarter** of secondary/sixth-form pupils said that they have taken money without permission to spend on gambling.



A **quarter** of secondary/sixth-form pupils said they have used/use e-cigarettes. Around a **fifth** said that an adult in their home smokes.



A **quarter** of secondary and sixth-form pupils reported that they have been bullied because of how they look. Around a fifth of pupils said that no one helped them deal with being bullied.



In July 2024 **1.4%** of young people in Year 12-13 are not in education, employment or training



There is a **23.6%** disadvantage gap between those who were eligible for Free School Meals and non- Free School Meal pupils at 15, attaining a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19, 2022/23.



There is a **43.6%** disadvantage gap between disadvantaged pupils (eligible for FSM in the last 6 years, children in care and adopted from care) and their peers achieving 9-4 in English & Maths at Key Stage 4, 2022/23.



There were **1.7** conceptions in those aged under 16 (per 1,000 females aged 13-15).



There were **160** first time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 (per 100,000 10-17 year olds in York)

What's it like to be a young person in York?

The Youth Council helped us to develop this strategy. Their input has been really important in making sure our strategy is something that young people have shaped and help us to deliver.

The Youth Council welcomed the strategy and shared they felt it was really needed.

- They liked the idea of everyone in the city working together.
- The Youth Council want young people to have a seat at the table when decisions are being made and in holding partners to account for delivering the strategy.
- They shared the experience of young people sometimes feeling marginalised and they want the strategy to promote inclusion and belonging.
- Young people said the strategy needs to link with transport and that moving to different parts of the city can be difficult. They shared they feel transport is designed to support commuting and not connecting communities.

The Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (SWEMWS) was used to measure the mental wellbeing of secondary/sixth-form pupils in York. The Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (SWEMWBS) is a simple questionnaire designed to measure how people feel about their mental health and well-being. Think of it like a happiness and life satisfaction quiz that helps people understand how they're doing mentally and emotionally. The minimum score on the scale is 7 and the maximum score is 35. If someone scores high, it usually means they feel happy, relaxed, and satisfied with their life most of the time. If someone scores low, it might mean they're feeling down or stressed and could benefit from talking to someone or finding activities that help them feel better.

- York secondary/sixth-form pupils scored 14.9 out of 35.
- Boys reported a slightly higher mental wellbeing score (15.7) compared to girls (14.1).
- There were very little differences between the age groups.

Our Ambition

Our ambition through this youth strategy is that York is a place that young people belong. That young people in York have places to go, things to do and someone to talk to.

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How we will deliver this strategy

Value young people

We know that some young people feel stigmatised and don't feel they truly belong. This can make them feel isolated and undervalued. We need to change this by valuing young people as an important part of our city, both now and in the future. By recognizing their contributions and supporting them, we can create a community where every young person feels included and appreciated.

Work Together

To make our youth strategy a success, we need everyone to work together. This includes the youth sector, the police, schools, local communities, local businesses/employers and the council. By working together, we can create a supportive network that listens to and values young people. With the combined efforts of these partners, along with health services, local businesses, and families, we can build a stronger, safer, and more exciting future for all young people in York.

We will create the pathways that allow young people to move from positive experiences, to gaining skills that can help lead to further opportunities to be engaged in the city through volunteering and building our cultural assets.

Building and sustaining our offer

Working together also means being brave in sharing the resources that each partner has. We will work together to make shared bids to different grants and funding opportunities.

By moving away from a traditional funder-provider model to one of true partnership and collaboration, all partners can work together to grow and sustain our capacity to meet the needs of young people.

Investing in building York's Youth Partnership

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Build the workforce

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Joined up youth offer

- Understand what youth services young people need.
- Work together to deliver our local youth offer.
- Young People and families know what is available and how to access it.

At the beginning of this strategy we are in the early stages of developing our youth partnership. This is something we are committed to doing together and recognise will take time.

How will we know this is making a difference?

Young people tell us they have things to do and places to go.

Our Local Youth Partnership is established and has attracted new funding to York.

The Youth Partnership is sharing resources across the city to support positive activities for young people.

We reach and engage children who are missing out on support now.

Communities see young people positively and we reduce reported anti-social behaviour.



Raise York
Your Family Hub Network

If you would like this document in an alternative format, please contact:



(01904) 551550



ycc@york.gov.uk



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It is available in the following languages:

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

Publication date: October 2024

For further information: West Offices, Station Rise, York YO1 6GA