

Appendix 1 –

Notes of the meeting between Council Management Team and equality community groups on 10 December 2010

Needs for future investment as put forward by the community groups attending the meeting

City Strategy

1. A Council HQ that is fully accessible to all.
2. Support for vulnerable groups to participate in the local economy. A city-wide disabled people employment policy. More employment opportunities for people with learning difficulties. Need to work more with businesses to encourage assisted employment.
3. Subsidised bus services for young people.
4. Wheelchair accessible buses. Bus passes (concessionary travel) that start before 9am to ensure people with learning difficulties can attend placements and other disabled people hospital appointments.
5. Quality public toilets – important for older and disabled but also important as a tourist city. Encourage businesses, tourist attractions and others to also provide Changing Places facilities
6. More/better-managed city centre parking spaces for disabled people.
7. More fully accessible community meeting spaces

Corporate Business Support Services and Office of the Chief Executive

1. Equality standards in procured service that are the same as in council services.
2. Budget – safeguard community groups that provide support to vulnerable people and council front line services
3. Improved access to council and partner services, starting with minimum standards for accessible written communication. Improve the council switchboard voice-recognition system. More face to face access for older people.

4. Benefits advice for older people

Adults, Children and Education (ACE) –General

1. When commissioning external services, contracts should include specific clauses about inclusive employment and service delivery practices.
2. Keep community facilitators. They perform an invaluable role linking up provision in the city.
3. Ethnic make up of York is changing fast – council needs to work with voluntary organisations to provide more support.

ACE - Children and young people

1. Support children from an ethnic minority background and raise awareness of cultural differences in schools
2. Tackle homophobic bullying in schools/the community and in adult sheltered housing.
3. Support for young carers. Need a Young Carers Card Scheme.
4. Deal with child poverty. Benefit changes and the withdrawal of Education Maintenance Allowance will exacerbate this.

ACE – Adults

1. A council policy to employ older people. A lot of hidden unemployment as they do not sign on.
2. Support people with mental health problems to access employment or to retrain. Council needs to lead by example as an employer
3. Deal with older people isolation. Closure of day centres and replacement with individual packages means people have lost their friendships.
4. More information about services for carers and a carer drop-in centre.
5. Improve access to services and information for adults with learning difficulties who cannot read – e.g. by using DVDs. Provide more and dynamic employment and training opportunities for them.
6. Lack of respite care for carers is a big issue. Are the hotels that are used safe? Have the packages been designed well? People with autism don't want to go to a hotel – one size doesn't fit all in terms of respite care.

7. Personal budgets that provide a wide of choices.
8. Mental health: recognise that it affects a lot of people. More information about it. A centre or number to ring for people with mental health problems.

Communities and Neighbourhoods

1. Safe, open, shared areas to play and congregate.
2. Community buildings that stay open 7 days a week.
3. Support Black and Minority Ethnic communities to stop feeling isolated and visible.
4. Support third sector to participate in procurement opportunities.
5. Strengthen and develop the relationship between the council and the voluntary sector.
6. Intergenerational activities and festivals that promote diversity
7. Better transport to activities e.g. to special Olympics training (York Wheels don't work after 5pm)
8. Safe and accessible pavements and footpaths
9. Accessible information about services
10. Co-ordinate information about affordable warmth