



## **Notice of a public meeting of**

### **Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee**

**To:** Councillors Nicholls (Chair), Clarke (Vice-Chair),  
Crawshaw, Cullwick, Cuthbertson, Knight, Nelson,  
K Taylor, Waller, and Wilson

**Date:** Tuesday, 1 April 2025

**Time:** 5.30 pm

**Venue:** West Offices - Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

### **AGENDA**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

To receive and note apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 5 - 6)

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

[Please see attached sheet for further guidance for Members]

**3. Minutes** (Pages 7 - 12)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2025.

#### **4. Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

**Please note that our registration deadlines are set as 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at our meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is 5:00pm on Friday, 28 March 2025.**

To register to speak please visit [www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings](http://www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings) to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting, please contact Democratic Services. Contact details can be found at the foot of this agenda.

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During coronavirus, we made some changes to how we ran council meetings, including facilitating remote participation by public speakers. See our updates ([www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy](http://www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy)) for more information on meetings and decisions.

#### **5. York Museums Trust Update** (Pages 13 - 28)

This report provides an update on York Museums Trust's performance during the year 2024-2025.

#### **6. REACH Progress Update** (Pages 29 - 50)

This report provides an update on the work of the York Cultural Education Partnership, REACH.

**7. York Theatre Trust Update** (Pages 51 - 68)

This item provides an update on the work of the York Citizens' Theatre Trust.

**8. Work Plan** (Pages 69 - 70)

Members are asked to consider the Committee's work plan for upcoming meetings.

**9. Urgent Business**

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democratic Services Officer

Reece Williams

Contact Details:

- Telephone – (01904) 55 4447
- Email – reece.williams@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
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- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

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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)

**Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members**

- (1) Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:

<b>Type of Interest</b>	<b>You must</b>
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Disclose the interest, not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related) <b>OR</b> Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) <b>OR</b> Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being: (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest. In which case, speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.

- (2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.
- (3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

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## City of York Council

## Committee Minutes

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Meeting	Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	4 March 2025
Present	Councillors Nicholls (Chair), Clarke (Vice-Chair), Crawshaw, Cullwick [until 7:17pm], Cuthbertson, Knight, Waller, Wilson, Baxter (Substitute for Cllr Taylor) [until 7:19pm], and Merrett (Substitute for Cllr Nelson)
Apologies	Councillors Nelson and Taylor
Executive Members in attendance	Councillor Pavlovic – Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Safer Communities
Officers in attendance	Richard Hartle - Head of Children and Education Finance Pauline Stuchfield - Director of Housing and Communities Susan Wood - Welfare Benefits and Strategic Partnership Manager Jane Mowat - Head of Community Safety
External attendees	Superintendent Ed Haywood-Noble – Police Area Commander for York

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**47. Apologies for Absence (5:32pm)**

Apologies were received from Councillors Nelson and Taylor.

**48. Declarations of Interest (5:32pm)**

Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on the agenda if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. Councillor Crawshaw declared an interest in respect of items on the agenda in that he had a family member who was a member of York Disability Rights Forum.

#### **49. Minutes (5:50pm)**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings held on the 3 December 2024 and 14 January 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **50. Public Participation (5:33pm)**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

#### **51. Finance and Performance Q3 (5:33pm)**

The Head of Children and Education Finance presented the report and noted that within the monitor there was a £1.2million overspend which was an improvement of £200k from November 2024.

In response to questions from members, the Head of Children and Education Finance confirmed that:

- Vacancies which appear would be flagged relatively quickly and a review of the positions needed would take place.
- At the time of writing the report there were concerns about the council's ability to meet its Safety Valve financial targets, but these concerns had eased by the time of this meeting.
- The statutory override that allows for Local Authorities (LAs) to carry significant deficits forward from one year to the next within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was due to end on 31 March 2026 and many LAs would come under pressure – at the time of reporting City of York Council (CYC) was in a better position than many LAs and the DSG was projected to be in a small surplus by the end of 2025/26.
- Schools in York were budgeting for a certain pay award level and were therefore advised to assume that this would be fully funded by the Department for Education (DfE), some more cautious schools had not made this assumption and were subsequently more better off than expected when the funding was received.

The Head of Children and Education received feedback from members in that language surrounding the term “exacerbated by tribunal decisions” should be avoided as these decisions were needed and effort should be made to not put people off them.



Resolved:

That the committee:

- i. Noted the finance and performance information.
- ii. Noted that work would continue on identifying the savings needed to fully mitigate the forecast overspend.

Reason: To ensure expenditure is kept within the approved budget.

## **52. Digital Inclusion Update (5:50pm)**

The Director of Housing and Communities, and the Welfare Benefits and Strategic Partnership Manager presented the report.

It was reported that digital exclusion was most prevalent where skills, access, and connectivity, and deprivation were issues. The Director of Housing and Communities, and the Welfare Benefits and Strategic Partnership Manager noted that there was a Digital Inclusion Co-Ordinator whose role was to find those who were most excluded digitally. Members were also informed that for the first time, the Digital Inclusion Partnership had been able to create a clear set of actions, included within Annex A of the report.

In response to questions from members, the Director of Housing and Communities, and the Welfare Benefits and Strategic Partnership Manager confirmed that:

- Investigations were ongoing into how the LIFT (Low Income Family Tracker) database could be used to explore how different initiatives could be undertaken and where to target intervention.
- The right help for the right people was essential – there was an abundance of donations of desktop computers for the IT Reuse scheme, but more help was required with smartphones.
- Organisations could work with the Digital Inclusion Partnership by contacting: [digitalinclusion@york.gov.uk](mailto:digitalinclusion@york.gov.uk), and via the LiveWellyork website ([livewellyork.co.uk](http://livewellyork.co.uk))
- There was a reluctance to monitor outcomes of the partnership as introducing levels of accountability could deter partners' involvement.
- The partnership would benefit from employing someone full time to strategically pull data together to improve efforts to target intervention, but there was no money or funding available for this as at the time of the meeting.

- Not all digital help was online - there were physical leaflets available with help and advice on, and phone numbers on for people to contact to speak to an advisor for help.

Resolved: That the committee noted the information relating to the ongoing work of the Digital Friendly York Partnership alongside the other digital inclusion work going on in the city.

Reason: So that members were aware of the work undertaken by the Digital Friendly York Partnership.

### **53. Safer York Partnership Report (6:40pm)**

The Head of Community Safety, and the Police Area Commander for York presented the report and discussed the priorities of the York Safety Partnership as detailed within the report.

The Head of Community Safety reported that there was increased scrutiny regarding the Prevent programme following the 2024 Southport stabbings, but that CYC received no funding for this increased focus unlike other LAs. It was also noted that Prevent referrals were the highest ever which was positive as it showed that the system was working.

The Police Area Commander for York reported that there was an increased level of County Lines activity within York in order to ensure intelligence was shared with relevant actors and that work was progressing in the right direction to make people feel safe and reassured.

In response to questions from members the Head of Community Safety, and the Police Area Commander for York confirmed that:

- Numbers of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) had decreased due to budget limits, with some being transferred over to become Police Officers.
- Work was ongoing within different teams, such as with Licensing, to work on responses to drug and alcohol abuse, and anti-social behaviour linked to the nighttime economy.
- The Partnership worked via a three year strategy which was refreshed annually in order to pick up any improvements or amendments that may be needed.

Members discussed the report and provided feedback to officers in that the police force and partnership needed to work more closely with Ward Councillors on issues such as the distribution of knife bins in York.

Resolved: That the committee noted the information relating to delivery of the Community Safety Strategy.

Reason: To update Members on the performance of the Safer York Partnership and facilitate contribution to development of future strategy.

#### **54. Work Plan (7:44pm)**

Members discussed the committee's work plan and it was resolved that:

- i. A report on the Neighbourhood Policing Review would be requested for 1 May 2025.
- ii. A report on Clear, Hold, Build would be requested for 1 May 2025.
- iii. A report on 2025 Library Needs Assessment (containing data from the Early Engagement Consultation) would be requested for 1 May 2025.
- iv. An update of the Neighbourhood Model would be requested for 5 June 2025.
- v. That the Children Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report originally scheduled for 4 March 2025 would be requested for 5 June 2025.

Reason: To keep the committee's work plan for the upcoming municipal year updated.

Cllr Nicholls, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.32 pm and finished at 7.54 pm].

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**Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee**

1 April 2025

Report of the Director of Housing and Communities

**Yorkshire Museums Trust (YMT) Scrutiny Update Report****Summary**

1. This report provides members of the Children, Culture and Communities scrutiny committee an annual update from the Yorkshire Museum Trust (YMT) on the performance during 2024-25.

**Recommendations**

2. The Committee is asked to note the information provided on performance by YMT's update report at annex 1.

Reason: So that members are aware of the work undertaken by YMT, the positive outcomes and future outlook.

**Background**

3. YMT has been operating since 2002 in partnership with the City of York Council in order to ensure the long-term stability and prosperity of the Cities' museums and collections.
4. The last YMT update report to the Children, Culture and Communities scrutiny committee was on 9 April 2024.

**Consultation**

5. Not applicable.

**Options & Analysis**

6. As this report is for information, there are no options and related analysis to consider.

## **Council Plan**

7. The City of York Council's Plan (2023-2027) includes the four core commitments which are relevant for this report and the work of YMT. The breadth of YMT's activity shown in annex 1 meets all four of the commitments, as can be seen in the mission, values and priorities.

## **Implications**

8. There are no implications for members to consider as there are no decisions to make as it is a report for information.

## **Risk Management**

9. The YMT update report does raise a number of risks including financial and property issues, however Council officers are working closely with the senior management team of YMT to address these and provide mitigations where possible.

## Contact Details

### Author:

**Andrew Laslett**  
**Strategic Services Manager**  
**Housing & Communities**  
01904 553370

### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

**Pauline Stuchfield**  
**Director of Housing & Communities**

**Report**  
**Approved**



**Date** 21 March 2025

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** None

### Wards Affected:

**All**



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

### Background Papers:

[Agenda for Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 9 April 2024, 5.30 pm](#)

## Annexes

Annex 1: YMT update report

### List of Abbreviations Used in this Report

YMT – Yorkshire Museums Trust

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**YORK MUSEUMS TRUST****CYC Scrutiny Committee Report  
1 April 2025****Our Vision**

Connecting and inspiring people with the stories, history, art and culture of York and North Yorkshire.

**Our Mission**

Championing curiosity, inspiring creativity and creating opportunities for people to flourish as we collaborate to tell stories about our collections and places.

**Our Values**

- We value curiosity, creativity, generosity and responsibility equally and together.
- We are curious - We ask questions, we don't assume, we learn and we encourage different perspectives to be heard.
- We are creative - We have fun being creative, driving positive change and exploring potential.
- We are generous - We care for people, collections and places inviting everyone to develop knowledge, to take delight in and enjoy our spaces.
- We are responsible - We make informed decisions today for a better tomorrow and for a sustainable future.
- We are supportive - We collaborate and seek connection to grow a thriving community where we celebrate one another, cheer on progress and are heartfelt with feedback.

**Priorities**

Building and sustaining a flourishing organisation by:

- Delivering innovative public programming supporting an audience-focused, inclusive, visitor-first approach;
- Driving visitor income, meeting and exceeding enterprise and fundraising targets, managing expenditure;
- Identifying, developing and delivering a Masterplan and associated capital projects;
- Investing in our people ensuring we recruit, retain and develop a high performing team which celebrates diverse experiences and voices.
- Tackling climate change, understanding our carbon footprint and making incremental changes towards a net-zero future.
- Raising our profile through cultural leadership and partnerships working locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

**Outcomes**

1. We have a sustainable business model for the future and have sufficient resources to thrive.
2. We attract and welcome large numbers of people regardless of background and engage with them all in some way. York and North Yorkshire communities and visitors are inspired to be curious and creative.
3. YMT's employees, volunteers, contractors and creative practitioners have positive wellbeing and better reflect the diversity of the population - we provide a platform for people to develop their potential.

4. People, businesses, local government, key stakeholders, customers and funders invest in YMT.
5. City of York collections and buildings are managed and cared for into the future and become environmentally sustainable. They support new programming, participation, knowledge and research.
6. People who visit or work with YMT feel engaged with art, culture and a sense of place/identity.

### **Performance – 2024/25**

After the difficulties of 2023/24, brought about by the discovery of RAAC, expectations for **York Castle Museums**, were set low for 2024/25, not least because RAAC continued to impact on the museum through to the autumn of 2024 (when the upper half of the Female Prison reopened). With all the roof work completed, the entire museum was able to reopen for visitors and since then we have had a very strong footfall at Christmas and February half-term, proving that although visitor numbers continue to decrease overall, there is still strong interest in our offer, despite the adequacy of the facilities that support them.

Recognising that the main draw to the museum is Kirkgate and that customers find the experiential side of the offer to be the most rewarding, we have recently appointed an Immersive Interpretation Producer, whose role will be specifically aimed at ensuring Kirkgate, as well as other areas of the museum, are appropriately animated with engaging performances.

The work done to remedy RAAC has an expected life of 10 years and so we need to ensure that the offer at the Castle Museum is as strong as it can be for as long as possible because it remains by far our most popular venue in terms of footfall and income generation from ticket admissions.

In addition to our permanent exhibitions, we collaborated with Museumand, the National Caribbean Heritage Museum, for an exhibition at the Castle: *70 Objeks & Tings*, which told the stories of the Windrush Generation.

At the **Yorkshire Museum** we launched a new exhibition: *Star Car: Life after the ice*, an interactive exhibition that explored what life was like in North Yorkshire shortly after the last ice age, 11,000 years ago. This exhibition was complemented by an active public engagement programme, including a free living history recreation of a Mesolithic house in the gardens.

The phenomenal success of the Monet exhibition at **York Art Gallery** has shown us what our potential can be at that venue. We welcomed over 70,000 visitors to the gallery during the run of the exhibition, becoming the most successful we have ever held. The exhibition was accompanied by free family garden trails, activities and a wildflower garden in the Museum Gardens.

Working alongside partners we hosted *Reignite*, 'Culture Makes Places', events at the Yorkshire Museum and York Art Gallery in support of the creative industries and media arts and York's UNESCO City of Media Arts Designation.

We launched a full programme of school visits from September 2024 and we have engaged with most schools in the City. A list of these schools and extent of engagement is attached at Annex A. We have also included a list of the community groups we've been working with in 2023/24 at Annex B.

All of York's children continue to benefit from free admission, along with those on Universal Credit, are seeking sanctuary or within the asylum process, or members of our community participation card scheme. All of our sites participate in York's residents weekend annually.

Using the Association of Independent Museums' *Economic Impact Toolkit*, for the calendar year 2024, YMT contributed nearly £18m of economic value towards the City of York.

Alongside our activity in our museums and galleries, we also expanded our offer in **York Museum Gardens**, to include the Futuresounds festival, a series of concerts that took place over a weekend in July. These proved very popular and profitable and we are working again with Futuresounds on a new festival for the summer of 2025.

And behind the scenes, YMT secured funding from NLHF to develop its future masterplan, the beginnings of a forward-looking piece of work that assessed the viability of the estate.

### Visitor numbers

	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast
<b>York Castle Museum</b>	209,235	234,650
<b>Yorkshire Museum</b>	75,749	74,350
<b>York Art Gallery</b>	121,030	77,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	406,014	386,500

By the close of financial year 2024/25, we expect that around 58,000 of our visitors will be child visits.

### Finances

The 2023/24 financial year finished with a small deficit of £54k and a budgeted deficit was set for 2024/25 of £208k, which has been revised down in the year to £111k.

The budget for the 2025/26 financial year has been set at £321k. This budget recognises that our visitor numbers are continuing to fall and despite the successes of our programming (Monet, our Christmas offer, for example), without considerable investment into the buildings and infrastructure, YMT's attractiveness to visitors will continue to decline because its overall offer doesn't meet modern standards (accessibility, facilities etc.).

With continued deficits, our reserves are less than 2 months of our operating costs and we are relying on the CYC letter of credit of £1m, which is supporting us as a last resort, to ensure we satisfy our going concern requirements with our auditors. The current iteration of the letter of credit will expire in April 2026.

It is clear that YMT is at a critical juncture in its existence. Although it generates almost 75% of its total funding itself through ticket admissions and through commercial operations, the remaining 25% of funding is reliant on CYC and Arts Council support. CYC provides £300k per year to YMT, down from £600k in 2015/16 and from £1.1m in 2014/15. YMT is confident that with the significant investment in its estate and an updating of facilities, it can generate more than 75% of its funding profile through its own means and thus achieve financial sustainability but until that investment is secured, YMT will need continued financial support from CYC.

Through monthly meetings with CYC, and further quarterly in-depth conversations, CYC and YMT are working together to look at YMT's funding model as well as the critical areas that need investment to ensure all the venues can continue to meet the expectations of visitors and protect the generation of income.

**Capital Programme**

We do not carry sufficient reserves to invest in our estate and the condition of our buildings in our care is of increasing concern. The roof works done on the Castle Museum in 2023/24 have extended the useability of the roof there for a further 10 years. The roof at the Yorkshire Museum is in urgent need of re-roofing and we were not successful in securing the £5m funding from Arts Council's MEND fund. Investment is also needed at the art gallery, in the humidity controls and CCTV, and each year we need to invest increasing amounts into our IT infrastructure given the changing nature of the visitor offer to being more experiential, as well as to replace our supporting digital systems.

**Kathryn Blacker**  
CEO

**York Museums Trust**  
March 2025

**Annex A****YMT CoY School Visits: April 2024-March 2025**

Between April 2024 and March 2025, the following CoY schools visited one of our sites:

1. All Saints Roman Catholic School
2. Applefields School
3. Archbishop of York's Church of England Junior School
4. Badger Hill Primary School
5. Burton Green Primary School
6. Clifton Green Primary School
7. Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School
8. Copmanthorpe Primary School
9. Dringhouses Primary School
10. Dunnington Church of England Primary School
11. Elvington Church of England Primary School
12. Fishergate Primary School
13. Headlands Primary School
14. Hempland Primary Academy
15. Heworth Church of England Primary School
16. Hob Moor Oaks School
17. Lakeside Primary School
18. Lord Deramore's Primary School
19. Naburn Church of England Primary School
20. New Earswick Primary School
21. Poppleton Ousebank Primary School
22. Poppleton Road Primary School
23. Scarcroft Primary School
24. St George's Roman Catholic Primary School
25. St Lawrence's Church of England Primary School
26. St Paul's Church of England Primary School
27. St Wilfrid's Roman Catholic Primary School
28. Wigginton Primary School
29. Woodthorpe Primary School
30. Yearsley Grove Primary School
31. York High School

A total of **70** visits were made by these schools, with a total of **2806** pupils participating.

Yorkshire Museum – CoY School Visits – April 2023 to March 2025				
Date	School	Type	Pupils	Visit
10 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Applefields School	Special	5	Self-guided
17 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School	Primary	70	Self-guided
10 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	New Earswick Primary School	Primary	26	Self-guided
5 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Lord Deramore's Primary School	Primary	33	Time Odyssey
7 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Lord Deramore's Primary School	Primary	33	Time Odyssey

14th June 2024	St Lawrence's Church of England Primary School	Primary	25	Time Odyssey
28th June 2024	St Wilfrid's Roman Catholic Primary School	Primary	32	Self-guided
3rd July 2024	Lord Deramore's Primary School	Primary	62	Self-guided
10th July 2024	Woodthorpe Primary School	Primary	30	Time Odyssey
10th July 2024	St Wilfrid's Roman Catholic Primary School	Primary	32	Self-guided
11th July 2024	All Saints Roman Catholic School	Secondary	60	Self-guided
12th July 2024	Woodthorpe Primary School	Primary	30	Time Odyssey
4th October 2024	Scarcroft Primary Academy	Primary	55	Self-guided
9 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Yearsley Grove Primary School	Primary	51	Discover: Prehistoric Yorkshire Pilot
11th October 2024	Lakeside Primary School	Primary	32	Time Odyssey
15th October 2024	Dringhouses Primary School	Primary	30	Discover: Roman York Workshop
16th October 2024	Dringhouses Primary School	Primary	30	Discover: Roman York Workshop
17th October 2024	Dringhouses Primary School	Primary	30	Discover: Roman York
22nd October 2024	Dringhouses Primary School	Primary	45	Self-guided
23rd October 2024	Dringhouses Primary School	Primary	45	Self-guided
22nd November 2024	New Earswick Primary School	Primary	23	Discover: Prehistoric Yorkshire – Workshop Pilots
4th December 2024	Clifton Green Primary School	Primary	30	Self-guided
5th December 2024	Clifton Green Primary School	Primary	30	Self-guided

10th December 2024	Poppleton Road Primary School	Primary	59	Discover: Roman York
25th February 2025	St George's Roman Catholic Primary School	Primary	24	Self-guided
25th March 2025	Lord Deramore's Primary School	Primary	32	Discover: Prehistoric Yorkshire Workshop
27th March 2025	Lord Deramore's Primary School	Primary	32	Discover: Prehistoric Yorkshire Workshop
28th March 2025	Lord Deramore's Primary School	Primary	32	Discover: Prehistoric Yorkshire Workshop

York Castle Museum – CoY School Visits – April 2023 to March 2025				
9th April 2024	Elvington Church of England Primary School	Primary	24	Self-guided
1st May 2024	Clifton Green Primary School	Primary	60	Self-guided
10th May 2024	Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School	Primary	86	Self-guided
8th July 2024	Headlands Primary School	Primary	88	Self-guided
30th July 2024	York High School	Secondary	45	Self-guided
1st October 2024	Scarcroft Primary School	Primary	55	Self-guided
14th October 2024	Hob Moor Oaks School	Special	7	Self-guided
15th October 2024	Archbishop of York's Church of England Junior School	Primary	96	Self-guided
16th October 2024	Lord Deramore's Primary School	Primary	30	Self-guided
18th October 2024	Hob Moor Oaks School	Special	16	Self-guided
21st October 2024	Hob Moor Oaks School	Special	8	Self-guided
5th November 2024	Dunnington Church of England Primary School	Primary	35	Self-guided

5th November 2024	Copmanthorpe Primary School	Primary	67	Self-guided
19th November 2024	Naburn Church of England Primary School	Primary	24	Self-guided
19th November 2024	St Paul's Church of England Primary School	Primary	23	Self-guided
4th December 2024	All Saints Roman Catholic School	Secondary	10	Self-guided
10th December 2024	Applefields School	Special	2	Self-guided
19th December 2024	Wigginton Primary School	Primary	29	Self-guided
14th January 2025	St Paul's Church of England Primary School	Primary	22	Self-guided
10th February 2025	Burton Green Primary School	Primary	31	Self-guided
10th March 2025	Badger Hill Primary School	Primary	28	Self-guided
19th March 2025	Heworth Church of England Primary School	Primary	40	Self-guided

York Art Gallery – CoY School Visits – April 2023 to March 2025						
10th 2024	May	Poppleton Primary School	Road Primary	Primary	60	Self-guided
15th 2024	May	Fishergate School	Primary	Primary	85	Self-guided
13th 2024	June	Scarcroft School	Primary	Primary	53	Self-guided
14th 2024	June	Clifton Green School	Primary	Primary	40	Self-guided
20th 2024	June	Hempland Academy	Primary	Primary	60	Self-guided
21st 2024	June	Burton Green School	Primary	Primary	22	Self-guided
26th 2024	June	Fishergate School	Primary	Primary	60	Self-guided
27th 2024	June	Fishergate School	Primary	Primary	30	Self-guided
28 <sup>th</sup> 2024	June	Yearsley Grove School	Primary	Primary	61	Self-guided



28th June 2024	Clifton Green Primary School	Primary	30	Self-guided
3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024	St Wilfrid's Roamn Catholic Primary School	Primary	30	Self-guided
17th July 2024	Burton Green Primary School	Primary	49	Self-guided
23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024	Yearsley Grove Primary School	Primary	99	Self-guided
24th October 2024	Yearsley Grove Primary School	Primary	46	Self-guided
25th October 2024	Yearsley Grove Primary School	Primary	49	Self-guided
Friday 25th October 2024	Yearsley Grove Primary School	Primary	57	Self-guided
6th November 2024	St George's Roman Catholic Primary School	Primary	30	Self-guided
8 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	York High School	Primary	18	Self-guided
13 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Burton Green Primary School	Primary	31	Self-guided
13 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Poppleton Ousebank Primary School	Primary	52	Self-guided

## **Annex B**

### **Engagement Activities and Projects**

Creation of Community Participation and Engagement Framework

Participated in Our City Festival

Co-produced exhibition YCM – 70 Objekts and Tings

with MuseumNext and National Caribbean Heritage Museum

York Travellers Trust Store Visit 7 people

MamaKula – tour of Objekts and Tings 12 people

Dementia Forward – Time Out Together site visits – 30 people

Black History Month events – Soundsystem on Kirkgate, 50 people

Wellbeing project partnership with Cultural Health and Wellbeing Alliance and Dementia Forward (50 people engaged)

Supported International Day for Older Persons with use of Gardens and free workshop at YAG

York LGBT History Month – Hosted launch on Kirkgate, partnered with University of York BA

History for research project

York Social Prescribers hosted at YCM and YAG

### Masterplan

Heritage Hunters – Museum Gardens – 13 residents

HERStory.York project – Women of the Gardens – 4 volunteers

<b>Play and Wellbeing in the Gardens</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of people</b>
Eco-Therapy x3	St Nicks Group	Art Gallery/Gardens	65
Eco-Therapy x 3 sessions	Sketchbook Circle group	Art Gallery/Gardens	68
Forest School	York Inspirational Kids York Mosque Scouts group MamaKula	Gardens/Pavilion	22
Art for Wellbeing	Foss Park Acute Mental Health Hospital	Gardens/Pavilion	25
Sketchbook Circle x2	St Nicks Group	Yorkshire Museum/Gardens	55
Dosti Picnic	Various diverse groups, including wider community & tourists	Gardens	375 plus
Walking tour of Gardens x2	Krya	Gardens	26
Wellbeing and play workshop x2	York Inspirational Kids	Offsite at YiK hub	18
Walking tour of Gardens	Ad Astra	Gardens	3
Community Cinema Club	York Chinese Community	TA Hall	46
Storytelling and Play	York Mosque Scouts	TA Hall/Gardens	19
Community Cinema Club	Ukrainian Society	TA Hall	36
Bulb planting	Kyra	Gardens/Pavilion	3
Bulb planting	One Adoption	Gardens/Pavilion	24
Community Cinema Club	York Mosque Fourth Avenue Mosque York Indian Cultural Association	TA Hall	22
Storytelling and Play	RAY	Gardens/Pavilion	55
Community Cinema Club	York Inspiration Kids	TA Hall	43
Community Cinema Club	York Carers Alzheimer's Society	TA Hall	21

**ANNEX 1**

York Castle Museum tour x2	RAY Bradford Association	York Castle Museum	95
Community Cinema Club	Kyra	TA Hall	32
York Castle Museum tour x2	Ad Astra	York Castle Museum	13
Loan Box and Festive card workshop	RAY	TA Hall	42
Tour of Museum Gardens	York Carers Walking Group	Gardens	22
Community Cinema Club	National Young Carers Group	TA Hall	45
Community Cinema Club	One Adoption	TA Hall	33
Tai Chi x13 (to Sept 2025)	Open to the public	Gardens	390

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## **Children, Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee**    1 April 2025

### **REACH Progress Report**

#### **Summary**

##### **Introduction**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the members of Scrutiny with an update on the work of the York Cultural Education Partnership, REACH.
2. The arts, culture, and creativity are at a pivotal moment, with a growing body of research reinforcing their essential role in education. Reports from the Government, the Cultural Learning Alliance, the Campaign for the Arts, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Centre for Social Justice all highlight the significant impact of arts, culture and creativity education on young people's cognitive development, well-being, and future prospects (see Annex 1).

##### **Background**

3. Over the past five years, REACH has worked in partnership with York's creative and cultural sectors to embed arts, culture and creativity into the city's educational landscape.
4. REACH is York's Local Cultural Education Partnership and is the delivery partner for the children and young people's element of York's Creative Future: York's Culture Strategy 2020 – 2025. This aims for York to be a city where children and young people have an entitlement to the arts, culture and creativity, particularly children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with additional needs and/or disabilities.
5. Putting cultural opportunities and creative skills within reach of every child and young person is a central aim of York as a UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts, linked as it is to the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

## REACH Projects and Programmes

6. Over the last six years, as the partnership struggled to secure funding, REACH supported and implemented a number of exciting projects across the city, all targeted at children and young people likely to miss out on the opportunities the arts, creativity and culture have to offer.

- Bags of Creativity with IVE, Arts Council England Bridge Organisation for Yorkshire and the Humber;
- Bags of Creativity with the University of York's 'Festival of Ideas';
- Creative Doodle Books with York St John University
- UNESCO/Viborg 'Draw with Denmark' Campaigns
- 50 Creative and Fun Things to Do in York before you are 12!

Feedback on these projects was fantastic but REACH recognised that more needed to be done.

7. In 2022, REACH submitted a Partnership Investment Bid and received £50,000 from IVE, with £25,000 match funding from City of York Council. It is important to note that without the match funding from the City of York Council, none of the impact and outcomes detailed in this report would have been possible. With this funding we have:

- Developed the REACH 'Make it York' Directory – an on-line platform connecting artists, creatives, and cultural organisations offer with schools.
- In 2023, REACH worked with Dr Federico Pendenza and Dr Liz Haddon from the University of York: School of Arts and Creative Technologies to research Schools' Engagement with Creative and Cultural Education. (see Annex 2)
- In consultation with the Assistant Director of Education and Skills at the City of York Council, REACH identified a target group of schools to work with. These schools have between 20% and 41% of children on free school meals; three of these schools are 'well below' national average in reading, writing and maths [in line with the lowest 10% schools in England]. The vast majority of the schools have higher than the national average of children receiving SEN support and three of the schools have between 10% and 13% of children whose first language is not English.

- Our target schools were:
    - York High School
    - Inspire Alternative Provision
    - Hob Moor Oaks Academy
    - Burton Green Primary School
    - Clifton Green Primary School
    - Haxby Road Primary School
    - Hob Moor Community Academy Primary School
    - St. George's RC Primary School
    - St Lawrence's CE Primary School
    - Tang Hall Primary School
    - Yearsley Grove Primary School
8. To enable the schools to develop new ways of working and to establish new partnerships with the cultural and creative sector REACH provided the schools with two grants.
- Grant 1 – £250 per school: to book one creative activity with an organisation which is new to the school, using the REACH directory on the 'Make It York' website  
<https://www.makeityork.com/culture/reach-young-people-hub/>
  - Grant 2 - £500 per school: to develop a mini project which strengthens cultural and creative provision in school. It is for activity which takes place in school and includes direct delivery with the schools' target group of young people.
9. Eleven professionals, ranging from freelance creative practitioners to representatives from both York's leading and emerging arts organisations, were involved in the programme as REACH Champions (Annex 4). Each Champion was partnered with one of our target schools. Their role was to support the schools during the programme, helping them to understand the high-quality arts, creative and cultural sector in York and how schools can develop sustainable and impactful partnerships with the sector. Each Champion brought sector expertise into the programme which in turn meant that each partnership was entirely unique.
10. REACH was given a Concessionary Day at the Barbican on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The event aimed to celebrate York's children and young people and their achievements. It was an opportunity for children and young people to share their creativity, and what they've learned and enjoyed through the REACH programme, with their teachers, peers, parents and carers and invited guests. The Mini Projects were completed by June 2024 and the impact of these

activities was showcased at the REACH Celebration Event at the Barbican Centre.

11. In 2024, REACH worked in collaboration with York St John University, in a research and development project led by Sarah-Jane Gibson and Murphy McCaleb, and funded by The Institute of Social Justice. This research project aimed to work with school leaders to understand what prevents effective arts, culture and creativity education being on offer to everyone and how we can help design and deliver a new strategy for effective arts, culture and creativity education for all in the City of York. This work is on-going.

### **Next Steps**

12. REACH has continued to develop targeted outreach where we can make a difference. We are continuing to develop programmes such as Bags of Creativity, Doodle Books and Draw with Denmark, which focus on encouraging children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, those eligible for free school meals, and young people with additional needs to experience storytelling, art and design, dance, drama and music!
13. Through the following projects, REACH is continuing to share 'what works', developing new partners, partnerships and collaborative activities and will engage and connect with more education and community partners.
  - REACH has established new partnerships in the city between schools and creative and cultural organisations, with children and young people benefitting directly from delivery in schools which supports their mental health and wellbeing, employability skills, sense of belonging and enjoyment of school. It is important that these relationships can be sustained so that schools can continue to develop their provision of the arts, cultural and creative education.
  - We have an opportunity in the City of York to do things differently, working with providers across the City of York, and looking at the national and international research, we want to develop an essential/ creative skill set which will better equip our young people for life and success in the world of work and help them improve their attendance, their mental health and well-being, their behaviour and their school work. The skills framework would focus specifically on progression and outcomes for young people. It would focus on young people's development and how we can develop the skills and abilities that research suggests creates happy, healthy, safe and increasingly successful young people as



they navigate their way through school, community and into work and adult life. (see Annex 5)

- REACH is working with a group of our schools and youth groups to support many more children and young people to be part of this year's 'Draw with Denmark' campaign – this year's theme is 'Angels of Hope' and looks for children and young people's responses to the opportunities and challenges facing the world. Pilot activity has been carried out at Lord Deramore's Primary School, Ralph Butterfield Primary School and with Strensall's Young Artists group supported by ward funding. (see Annex 6) The initiative will be launched after Easter to schools and youth and community groups.
- We have been working with students at York College who have developed a 'Green' Bag of Creativity. This is currently at the planning stage, but will focus on the environment, climate and sustainability. We are talking with colleagues at Portakabin about supporting this programme. (see Annex 7)

14. Our aim is to research, innovate, and challenge schools to think differently about how arts, culture and creativity can drive improved outcomes, tackle poor attendance, enhance health and well-being, and build the essential/creative skills young people need to thrive at school, at work and in their lives generally. Looking ahead, we have no funding, but we are preparing bids for:
- Arts Council funding to develop stronger and more creative links with Viborg in Denmark. We hope to secure funding for a group of teachers, creatives and academics to visit Viborg.
  - Arts Council funding for a two-year "Essential/Creative Skills" project – to develop a coordinated, research-driven approach to developing the essential/creative skills at the heart of the arts, culture and creative education in a targeted group of schools, improving outcomes, attendance, mental health and well-being and life chances.

### **Some Questions**

15. REACH is York's Local Cultural Education Partnership and is the delivery partner for the children and young people's element of York's Creative Future: York's Culture Strategy 2020 – 2025. Going forward:
- We need to find a new home for REACH.
  - We need to secure funding for REACH to continue to make a difference where it matters.
  - We need letters of support for the bids outlined above.

- We need to know how the City of York Council sees the role of REACH.

### **Consultation**

16. Not applicable.

### **Options**

17. Not applicable.

### **Analysis**

18. Not applicable.

### **Council Plan**

19. Not applicable.

### **Implications**

20. Not applicable.

### **Risk Management**

21. Not applicable.

### **Recommendations**

22. Members are asked to note the work done by the York Cultural Education Partnership.

Reason: So that members are aware of the work undertaken by York Cultural Education Partnership.

## Contact Details

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**Chief Officers Responsible for the report:****Maxine Squire**

Assistant Director, Education and Skills

**Report  
Approved****Date** 19 February 2025**For further information please contact the author of the report****Wards Affected:** List wards or tick box to indicate all**All** ☒**Background Papers:** None.**Annexes:**

Annex 1: Supporting Research

Annex 2: Schools' Engagement with Creative and Cultural Education

Annex 3: REACH Projects

Annex 4: REACH Champions

Annex 5: Essential/Creative Skills Framework

Annex 6: Made in York 'Angels of Hope'

Annex 7: Bags of Creativity

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## Supporting Research

The importance of this work is shown in the following research and reports:

- 'Plan for Change: Milestones for Mission-led Government
- 'Report Card 2024' Cultural Learning Alliance;
- 'The State of the Arts' Campaign for the Arts;
- 'Crea-Tech' The Royal Anniversary Trust and Department for Culture, Media and Sport;
- 'Lost Boys' The Institute for Social Justice;
- 'RAPS Researching the Arts in Primary Schools' University of Nottingham, School of Education;
- 'Culture and Heritage Capital: Monetising the Impact of Culture and Heritage on
- Health and Well-Being Department for Culture, Media and Sport;

*“Arts and music bring people together and are enjoyed by communities across the country. We want every child and young person to have equal opportunities to access a high quality arts and music education, to ensure creativity can be explored by all and not just the privileged few.” Lisa Nandy Secretary of State for Culture, Media and the Arts*

*“This bold innovation will nurture England’s next generation of creators, performers and audiences, levelling the playing field for all young people whatever their background. Subjects like art and design, dance, drama and music are central to every child’s education. They come with the added bonus of equipping young people for life by boosting their creativity, their confidence and their social skills.” Darren Henley CBE, CEO of Arts Council England*

*“We need an entitlement to expressive arts learning for every child as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.” ‘RAPS’ Report*

*“Education reform is needed to build a robust skills pipeline, starting with the integration of creative and technical subjects from primary to secondary school education and progressing through targeted, CreaTech-specific programmes in further and higher education.” ‘Crea-Tech’ Report*

*“Arts education has a proven role in contributing to better outcomes for children and young people, developing crucial skills like teamwork, empathy, problem-solving, self-confidence and creativity. Arts education equips people of all ages with valuable skills and knowledge, supports personal development and fosters social cohesion. For some it is also an essential precursor to flourishing careers in the arts.” ‘The State of the Arts’ Report*

*“This report by Frontier Economics, commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), represents an important step in demonstrating the profound impact of culture and heritage on health and wellbeing. For instance, the study highlights how cultural engagement can benefit adults’ general health, how arts activities can improve children’s self-esteem, and how singing in choirs can improve the health of older adults.” DCMS Report*

*“Our education system is not working for boys. While it is well known that boys and girls develop at different rates and have different preferences and abilities, it is clear that large numbers of boys are failing to reach their potential at school, and this will have far reaching consequences for society and the economy.” ‘Lost Boys’ Report*

*“The Arts are important for the individual, for schools and for society. Expressive Arts subjects have an important, evidenced and unique role in contributing to improving outcomes for children and young people, providing them with positive, memorable experiences, and with skills for life and skills for work. They make a powerful contribution to children’s and young people’s personal, social and creative wellbeing, and have an important role to play in contributing to the relevance and inclusiveness of the school culture and joy of learning, preparing young people to thrive as active citizens. School should be a place where aptitudes and interests can be discovered, developed and encouraged. A rich Arts education, as an integral part of a broad and balanced schooling experience, supports the development of many desirable skills and capacities which are valued by young people – and by employers.” ‘Annual Report Card 2024’*

#### Cultural Learning Alliance Research Findings

‘Arts education is not a luxury, it’s a necessity. It’s really the air many of these kids breathe. It’s how we get kids excited about getting up and going to school in the morning. It’s how we get them to take ownership of their future.’ Michelle Obama

1. Participation in structured arts activities can increase cognitive abilities by 17%.
2. Learning through arts and culture can improve attainment in Maths and English.
3. Learning through arts and culture develops skills and behaviour that lead children to do better in school.
4. Students from low-income families who take part in arts activities at school are three times more likely to get a degree.
5. Employability of students who study arts subjects is higher and they are more likely to stay in employment.
6. Students from low-income families who engage in the arts at school are twice as likely to volunteer.
7. Students from low-income families who engage in the arts at school are 20% more likely to vote as young adults.
8. Young offenders who take part in arts activities are 18% less likely to re-offend.
9. Children who take part in arts activities in the home during their early years are ahead in reading and Maths at age nine.
10. People who take part in the arts are 38% more likely to report good health.

You can read the Key Research Findings in full at:

[www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk/evidence](http://www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk/evidence)

## Schools' Engagement with Creative and Cultural Education

To find out more about the challenges facing schools and teachers, in 2023, REACH worked with Dr Federico Pendenza and Dr Liz Haddon from the University of York School of Arts and Creative Technologies. The report they produced has helped us to identify and understand issues concerning engagement with cultural and creative education in specific primary and secondary schools within the City of York. The questionnaire was distributed among selected primary and secondary schools in the City of York in July 2023 and in September 2023. The findings in this report offer valuable insights into our current understanding of creative and cultural education, and are being used to guide future development of REACH's work with schools.

The key findings were as follows:

- Connections between schools and local providers of cultural and creative education should be established to tackle limited awareness of the potential cultural and creative offer available across the City of York.
- Cultural and creative initiatives aimed at developing the curriculum offer, with cross-subject collaborations across the curriculum, should be developed to promote cultural and creative education across different subjects and support students' learning and development.
- Hands-on activities should be prioritised to spark and enhance learning. These activities should include practical outcomes to boost children's motivation.
- Priority should be given to disciplines such as Visual Arts, Theatre and Performance, Digital Music, Music and Sound, Dance, Storytelling and Creative Writing.
- The provision of cultural and creative education should address and support the requirements of students with additional needs.
- To tackle accessibility and inclusion issues, extra-curricular activities should also be offered, but cost may need to be minimised and provision should ideally be within curricular hours.
- Specific work with target groups of students should be developed to enhance their confidence, self-esteem, and well-being. However, aims and feasibility may need to be discussed with the individual schools to mitigate potential frictions with school ethos and regulations regarding parity and equity.
- CPD on cultural and creative education for staff should be offered to help staff embed cultural and creative education into the curriculum. It is recommended that schools' interests are sought prior to discussing potential benefits and content.
- A REACH Schools Network could be developed to provide training opportunities for school staff and enhance networking between schools and local cultural organisations and providers. A hybrid approach (in-person/online) could be offered, with meetings taking place once a term and during twilight hours. Nevertheless, the feasibility of establishing a digital network via social media platforms (such as Facebook or Instagram) may require individual discussions with schools due to the limited consensus on this matter.

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## REACH Projects

The table below indicates how each school utilised their grants.

School	Champion	Creative Activity	Mini Project
St Lawrence's CE Primary School	CF	Org: Mediale Art form: Digital Arts	New after-school club Orchestra in the Age of Enlightenment
St George's RC Primary School	LD	Org: York Theatre Royal Art form: Puppetry	Jewellery making/Crafts
Clifton Green Primary School	KN	Org: Mediale Art Form: Digital Arts	Inclusion Exhibition Karen
Hob Moor Community Primary Academy	BH	Dance (details tbc)	TBC
Yearsley Grove Primary School	LH	Org: Mud Pie Art Form: Storytelling	Shadow Puppetry
Hob Moor Oaks Academy	ES	Org: Hannah Turlington Art Form: Visual Arts	Visual Arts Curriculum
Burton Green Primary School	KC	Org: Mud Pie Art Form: Storytelling	Grand Opera House Project
Tang Hall Primary School	JO	Org: Mud Pie Art Form: Storytelling	Digital Arts
Haxby Road Primary School	MS	Org: York Theatre Royal Art Form: Creative Writing	Digital Storytelling
York High School	OOS	Percussion (details tbc)	Art of Protest- Street art Project
Inspire	SOB	Org: Hannah Turlington Art Form: Visual Arts	Mural Painting
Totals	11 champions	11 creative workshops 6 different providers	11 school projects

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## REACH Champions

Eleven professionals, ranging from freelance creative practitioners to representatives from both York's leading and emerging arts organisations, were involved in the programme as REACH Champions. Each Champion was partnered with one of our target schools. Their role was to support the schools during the programme, helping them to understand the high-quality arts, creative and cultural sector in York and how schools can develop sustainable and impactful partnerships with the sector. Each Champion brought sector expertise into the programme which in turn meant that each partnership was entirely unique.

	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Discipline</b>
1	Dr. Liam Herringshaw (LH)	York's Hidden History Yorkshire Fossil Festival	Lead/Co-Director	Archaeology / STEAM
2	Louise Dwyer (LD)	Freelance	Curator and Jeweller	Crafts
3	Karen Newell (KN)	Toy Like Me	Co-Founder	Play / Media
4	Cherry Fricker (CF)	National Centre for Early Music	Director Finance and Operations	Music
5	Kelly Culver (KC)	Grand Opera House	Creative Learning Producer	Performing Arts
6	Julian Ollive (JO)	York Theatre Royal	Head of Creative Engagement	Performing Arts
7	El Stanage (EL)	Next Door But One	Creative Engagement Manager	Applied Theatre
8	Marnie Simpson (MS)	Mediale	Assistant Producer	Digital Arts
9	Oli O'Shea (OOS)	Pilot Theatre	Associate Director	Performing Arts
10	Rebecca Hill (RH)	National Railway Museum	Schools and Families Manager	STEM /STEAM
11	Dr. Sarah O'Brien (SOB)	York St. John University	Associate Head: Performance	Performing Arts

REACH Champions worked directly with their partner school, meeting with their School Leader every half term. The Champions acted as critical friend, providing support and guidance so that schools could engage effectively in the pilot programme. Champions have been providing schools with expertise on:

- Inclusion, focusing specifically on additional needs and disabilities
- Costings for how to engage professional artists
- Funding opportunities for schools
- Teaching science through creativity
- How to engage with Digital Arts and Media in school
- Visiting organisations and creative opportunities for schools
- Access to Higher Education

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## Essential/Creative Skills Framework

We have an opportunity in the City of York to do things differently, working with providers across the City of York, and looking at the national and international research, we could develop a unique essential/creative skill set which will better equip our young people for life and success in the world of work and help them improve their attendance, behaviour and school work. The skills framework would focus specifically on outcomes for young people, would focus on young people's development and how we can develop the skills and abilities that research suggests creates happy, healthy, safe and increasingly successful young people as they navigate their way through school, and into work and adult life.

We know from research, evidence and experience that these skills can be powerfully developed through culture and the arts and sport and the latest research suggests that we should:

- Do a lot of things... the more the better!
- Do a lot of different things... dance, sing, play, create and perform.
- Start young... the younger the better!
- Be coercive... "young people don't know what they don't know"!
- Be professional... quality matters!
- Ask young people what they think!

## KEY PRINCIPLES

The Creative Skills Framework is informed by some key principles, including:

- Every young person has talent, ability and magic and it is our job to find and develop it!
- A holistic, young person-centred approach nurtures creativity and imagination;
- We should build on what young people can do rather than 'solving problems' and focusing on what they can't!
- We should engage young people as active partners in their learning and development;
- Every child should have access to these skills and not just the lucky ones!
- We should recognise and reward skills in the same way we recognise and reward academic achievements;
- Coaching and mentoring are key aspects to developing these skills.

## DRAFT CREATIVE SKILLS FRAMEWORK

### CHARACTER SKILLS

- Responsibility,
- Confidence,
- Resilience

### CORE SKILLS

- Communication,
- Digital skills,
- Creativity

### WORK SKILLS

- Planning,
- Problem solving,
- Teamwork

Using the draft skills framework and the associated skills booklet, we could establish a working group to develop an enrichment programme for targeted young people in a carefully selected school(s) and evaluate the impact and outcomes over the first year, with a view to further developing it and then rolling it out across the City of York.

Made in York 'Angels of Hope'  
(A Viborg UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts Initiative)

### 'MADE IN YORK'



Draw with Denmark started during the Covid pandemic in 2021 and moved from a Danish charity event to a UNESCO Global campaign focused around creative and positive messages of hope. Draw with Denmark has involved children and young people in 45 countries and in cities from all continents across the world, and has released a very special magic along with thousands of drawings. The programme has caught the imagination and featured on BBC News and BBC Look North. There have been exhibitions, involving drawings by children in York schools, at the National Gallery in Copenhagen, and at the UNESCO Creative Cities' Annual Conference in Braga, Portugal and in Cali, at the UNESCO Conference in Paris, and in Wuhan, in China and in York.

From 2025 the focus for 'Draw with Denmark' will be 'Angels of Hope' and [REACH](#) (York's Cultural Education Partnership) now invites children and young people in York to take part in this global drawing campaign! Children and young people are being asked to create drawings of Angels that will send messages of hope around the world. There are 20 drawing challenges and children can take part by creating a drawing, collage, painting, or animation (e.g. GIF) analogically or digitally. To further develop the initiative, this year we are encouraging schools to ask children to accompany the drawings by stories or poems.

The Danish campaign is running from now until the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and York schools can send their drawings to us by half term in the Autumn term. We hope you decide to encourage some of your children and young people to join the 'Angels of Hope' campaign so that we can help send messages of hope around the world.

## Drawing challenges



1. Draw what an angel looks like to you.
2. Draw an angel that symbolizes something important in your life.
3. Draw an angel watching over you.
4. Draw an angel flying over the city or your house, releasing HOPE everywhere.
5. Draw an angel blowing away bad dreams.
6. Draw an angel who protects or comforts you.
7. Draw an angel who brings peace to the world.
8. Draw an angel who helps especially you. What should this angel be able to do?
9. Draw an angel who judges something or someone.
10. Draw an angel who is your best friend.
11. Draw what you would ask an angel for if you met one.
12. Draw how you can be angels for each other.
13. Draw a flock of angels carrying hope forward.
14. Draw the wildest angel.
15. Draw an angel that carries good memories.
16. Draw an angel of love.
17. Draw the angel of hope embracing the world.
18. Draw an angel who watches over you at night.
19. Draw an angel or several that can dissolve anger, fear and pain.
20. Draw an angel as a superhero.

**NOTICE:** When it says "draw" it could be drawing, painting, water color, illustration, graphic work by hand or digitally. It could also be a small animation, stop motion or gif...



## How to submit drawings and deadlines



If drawings are to be potentially used in 2025 media arts and animations productions by Viborg UNESCO Creative City they must be submitted at latest by 1st of June 2025 to:

[creativecityviborg@viborg.dk](mailto:creativecityviborg@viborg.dk)

The Danish campaign is running from now until the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and York schools can send their drawings to us by half term in the Autumn term. We hope you decide to encourage some of your children and young people to join the 'Angels of Hope' initiative so that we can help send messages of hope around the world.



## Bags of Creativity

Evidence suggests that the skills required for success at school, at work and in life are those at the heart of creativity, culture and the arts. We know that participation in creative activities can improve attainment in English and maths and that children who take part in arts activities at home during their early years do better at school as they get older. There are compelling reasons for ensuring that all children and young people, wherever they start in life, benefit from rich and rewarding creative and arts experiences.

In these challenging times we need to find ways to help young people in the City of York to sing, dance, act, make music, perform, design and create. Over the last five years, the REACH Bags of Creativity initiative has done just that for some very special children and young people! The need for new and creative ways of engaging and enriching young people's lives, particularly those who are harder to reach, is even more important. REACH aims to continue to support schools and community groups by obtaining and distributing ideas and resources through the Bags of Creativity initiative..

The bags are free to targeted children and young people and contain activity postcards designed by local artists, students and organisations and all the materials needed to do the activities. This enables children and young people to do age appropriate creative activities at school, at home and in community centres.

We aim to produce bags on key themes to distribute to children and young people throughout the city. The themes we are exploring at the moment are:

- Get Creative;
- Angels of Hope;
- Xmas in York;
- Going Green.

The cost of bag will vary depending on the theme but we estimate that they will be between £5 and £10 each.

## **AND REMEMBER THAT CREATIVITY MATTERS**

There is increasing understanding that creativity should lie at the heart of the offer we make every child and young person. They don't simply need to revise their literacy and maths, and get active, they need to read, sing, tell and write stories and poems, draw, paint and dance!

**AND REMEMBER THAT ESSENTIAL/CREATIVE SKILLS MATTER**

The more children and young people read, sing, tell and write stories and poems, draw, paint and dance the more they develop the core skills employers want and are needed to thrive and succeed at school, at work and in later life.

**AND REMEMBER THAT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING MATTERS**

There is strong evidence and research showing that arts and creative experiences help all of us and that children and young people's mental health and emotional well-being is improved.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

Chris Edwards

Chair, REACH

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07740942181

York Citizens' Theatre Trust update and presentation

# York Theatre Royal: Creative Engagement



## Our Mission:

To enable our community to live creative lives through projects and programmes in our building and out in the community that uses theatre as a tool to unleash each person's potential.

## Our Vision:

To provide opportunities for every member of our community regardless of circumstance to engage with us in a creative environment that is safe, welcoming and compassionate.

# Three principle areas of our work

1   Participation	2   Community	3   Education
Providing opportunities to engage and participate in drama and theatre led classes in paid-for activity.	Make contact, build relationships and deliver funded creative projects with individuals and groups who are under-served in our community.	<p>Providing opportunities for C&amp;YP to perform on our stages</p> <p>Offering practical drama and theatre-based approaches to teaching and learning</p> <p>Offering mentorship and training opportunities to gain insight and real-world experience in theatre and theatre-making</p>

# Numbers at a glance...

- 300+ - regular weekly participants.
- 19 - term time employed freelance staff.
- 32 - active partnerships with education and community organisations.
- 3 - national partnership projects engaged with.
- 5 – community spaces worked within weekly.

# Participation



## Youth Theatre

- 15 weekly groups for ages 5-19yrs
- Three funded referral Access All Areas groups

## Crafty Tales

- Weekly crafting and storytelling for pre-schoolers

## Leaps & Bounds

- Weekly dance sessions for toddlers and parents

## Adult Theatre Workshop

- Adult acting classes

## Holiday activities

- Various provision across schools holidays



# Community



## Wings

- Weekly female-identifying only group
- Arts-led group working towards participation in Sweet Legacies.

## Shakespeare Nation

- Weekly drama session with adults experiencing poor mental health
- Community arm of our partnership with the RSC
- Using *Hamlet* as stimulus towards a Spring sharing

## The Hut

- Monthly drama session with charity supporting adults with learning difficulties

## Chatty Mondays

- Monthly coffee morning with craft activity
- Supported by Age Concern

## Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF)

- Creative workshops and food provided for children on free school meals

# Education



**Year-long partnerships:** 4 CYC primaries

**RSC Associate schools programme:** 7 schools

**NT Connections:** 11 schools/companies

**Playhouse:** new plays project with 5 CYC primaries

**YSJ TakeOver:** May 22 - 27

**Work experience / Placements**

# Recommendations

Members are asked to note the work undertaken by York Theatre Royal.

Reason: So that members are aware of the work undertaken by York Theatre Royal.

# Annexes

Annex A: Sweet Legacies document

# SWEET LEGACIES



# SWEET LEGACIES

Sweet Legacies will work alongside *His Last Report* by exploring and sharing the Rowntree family's history and legacy through the perspectives of diverse groups across York.

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The project aims to make York's heritage and creative sectors accessible and personal. Culminating in a series of summer showcase and preserved as a digital asset to illuminate the Rowntree legacy for today's society.

Sweet Legacies will provide an accessible community-driven solution for individuals and groups who may otherwise find the community production out of reach at this point.

# SWEET LEGACIES OBJECTIVES

## **Engaging Diverse Groups:**

To involve marginalized individuals who might not typically engage with YTR.

## **Fostering Creativity and Expression:**

To empower participants to explore and express personal connections to the Rowntree legacy through creative mediums such as music, theatre, dance, film, and cooking.

## **Creating Lasting Impact:**

To preserve participants' contributions as a digital asset, ensuring the stories and creative outputs continue to illuminate the Rowntree legacy for future generations.

# PROJECT TIMELINE

- **Outreach workshops** - conduct workshops to introduce the project to the community.
- **Forming long-term groups** - establish dedicated groups to foster deeper engagement.
- **Developing creative responses** - collaborate with practitioners to shape creative outputs.



# PROJECT TIMELINE

- **Sharing the work** - organise events to showcase the community's creative responses. Use exhibits, performances, or digital platforms to amplify voices.
- **Experiencing** - take participants to see *His Last Report*.
- **Evaluation and reflection** - gather feedback from participants and partners and assess the project's impact and identify future opportunities.
- **Building a legacy** - share documentation of the project to inspire others and establish pathways for ongoing community engagement and creative work.



NIGHTLIGHT



Theatre of Connections



PAC-UK  
Adoption and Permanency Support



JRHT  
JOSEPH ROWNTREE HOUSING TRUST

explore  
Libraries and Archives



# PROJECT PILLARS

- Free activity
- Adaptable
- Accessible – funding for BSL interpreters, support workers, language interpreters
- Offer training in cultural awareness to all YTR staff that will work with volunteers
- Makes the community production accessible and open

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
01 April 2025	1. York Museums Trust Update 2. York Theatre Trust Update 3. REACH Progress Update
1 May 2025	1. Finance & Performance Q4 2. Neighbourhood Policing Review 3. Clear, Hold, Build Report 4. 2025 Library Needs Assessment Report (containing data from the Early Engagement Consultation)
5 June 2025	1. Neighbourhood Model Update 2. Children Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report <i>[postponed from 4 March 2025]</i>
3 July 2025	1. Finance & Performance Q1
4 September 2025	-
2 October 2025	1. Finance & Performance Q2
6 November 2025	-
4 December 2025	1. Finance & Performance Q3
22 January 2026	-
5 March 2026	1. Finance & Performance Q4
16 April 2026	-

### **Agenda items for consideration**

- Updates from Task & Finish Groups (detailed below).
- Update from York Centre for Voluntary Services (CVS).

### **Task & Finish Groups**

- Food Insecurity Task & Finish Group: Members = Cllrs Knight, Nelson.
- Education, Health, and Care Plan Task & Finish Group: Members = Cllrs Clarke, Cuthbertson, Wilson.

Committee Remit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop &amp; maintain close working with Corporate Parenting Board and York Schools &amp; Academies Board and deliver complimentary agendas where appropriate</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's Social Care</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Virtual School for children in care</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Years and childcare</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School effectiveness and achievement, including school attendance and school safeguarding</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School services: School place planning and capital maintenance; School transport; Admissions; The School governance service and SENDIASS; Behaviour and attendance; Elective home education; Children missing education</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEND services &amp; Educational Psychology</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills, including monitoring of York Skills Board; York Learning</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Area Teams, Neighbourhood Working, Community Centres</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People &amp; Neighbourhoods Strategy &amp; Policy</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Safety including Safer York Partnership, Substance Misuse, Anti-Social Behaviour</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early intervention, prevention, and community development</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Services</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture, including York Theatre Royal, Museums, Music Venues Network (&amp; elements of MIY?)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary Sector</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Libraries &amp; Archives</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital inclusion strategy</li> </ul>