

Projects and service update - City Of York Registration and Celebratory Services.

1. Civil Funerals (funerals with no religious content) were offered in 2004. We conducted 4 in that year, 8 in 2005, 16 in 2006 and 22 so far this year. Very well received by the bereaved families, wonderful feedback, Funeral Directors are on board and promoting the service, hence the increasing numbers year on year.
2. Hospital sub-office opened 2006 and operates every afternoon to register deaths. Service now being expanded to register Births.
3. The success of the ASDA sub-office has been tempered with problems encountered with Registration on line (RON) and the connectivity at the store. We are now looking to open another sub-office at the Mothercare Store on Clifton Moor in January to take the place of Asda.
4. RON was introduced in March 2007. It crashed nationally after 2 weeks. Authorities are coming back on line in a gradual process. York is scheduled for January 2008.
5. Citizenship Ceremonies are a regular monthly occurrence at the office. They are attended by the Mayor and/or Sheriff and are very well received by all who attend. We welcomed 101 and 17 children in 2006 and 104 and 24 Children so far in 2007.
6. Nationality Checking Service is a partnership between the Home Office Immigration and Nationality Directorate and local councils. We are currently investigating the possibility of offering the application processing for British Citizenship from the Register Office. There is a cost involved to register and train staff, and insurance is required, but it is an additional service that customers are likely to demand.
7. The production of an equivalent to the Deed Poll Service offered by solicitors, to enable people to officially change their name. This is something that we can offer as a purely Council Service. The Register Office is ideally placed to offer this, as we receive all the enquiries about changing names, and although the birth entry can never be changed, another document can be drawn up to prove a change of name. Again the Council can set the fee.