

Report of the Cabinet Member for Crime and Stronger Communities

This is the first report of the new portfolio which was created in the Cabinet reshuffle in May 2012.

The new portfolio takes in all of the previous Crime and Community Safety portfolio (including crime reduction, anti-social behaviour, licensing, Safer York Partnership, Youth Offending and York Drug And Alcohol Team), with parts of the previous Communities and Neighbourhoods portfolio (Crematorium, Registrars, Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Food Safety, Animal Welfare etc) and parts of the previous Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion portfolio (Neighbourhood Management Unit, Voluntary Sector, Ward Committees). I have also taken on some small responsibilities passed across from the Corporate Services portfolio and I am now responsible for Corporate Communications and Emergency Planning – including Gold and Silver Command and response to flooding.

With such a wide remit the only way to provide a meaningful report is to try to break it down into sections.

Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Policing in York

Crime Figures

The great unnoticed success story of this administration is the fight against crime in our City. In the last year of the last Liberal Democrat administration, crime increased in York by 5% from 14,480 crimes to 15,199 crimes in 2010/11.

By contrast, crime has fallen dramatically in York since Labour have been in office. During the first year of our administration, under the watchful eye of my predecessor Cllr Fraser crime fell overall by 10.6% down to 13,576 crimes. So far this year under my watch, we are on course to achieve a further 9.8% reduction in crimes, down to a forecasted 12,242 crimes based on our performance from April to October. That is a staggering 19.4% reduction in crime in our first two years of office.

The fall in overall crime is underpinned by reductions in Serious Acquisitive Crime (which also increased in the last year of the Lib Dems), and substantial falls in violent crime (which increased in the last year of the Lib Dems) and criminal damage (which fell slightly in the last year of the Lib Dems).

The fact that crime increased in the last year of the last administration shows that this would not just have happened anyway. By appointing a cabinet member whose specific role it is to focus on tackling crime in terms of Council's services and those of all our partner agencies relating to crime we have made fighting crime a central part of our agenda - and it is working.

We are performing well compared to our family group of authorities (similar local authority areas such Exeter, Macclesfield, Colchester, Canterbury, Warwick and others) in terms of our direction of travel of our crime figures. In eight out of the 12 key measures (serious acquisitive crime, domestic burglary, theft from a vehicle, robbery of personal property, robbery of business property, burglary of a non-dwelling, criminal damage, overall violence) our ranking has improved amongst our family group of authorities. In one measure (cycle theft) we have remained the same compared to the group and in three measures (theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle, shoplifting and fraud) our position has worsened slightly.

However, we are not complacent. The recently undertaken Big York Survey of residents showed that tackling crime is the top priority for the citizens of our City. We are committed to ensuring the Council's priorities closely match those of residents in that regard and make the fight against crime a key measure on which to judge the success of this administration.

Actions from April's Crime Summit and a look forward to the 2013 Crime Summit

The Labour administration introduced to York an annual crime summit, to bring together all partner organisations with an interest in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in the City to see where best practice could be spread and to address issues which cross-over more than one organisation. The first summit was held in April and was very well attended by partner organisations.

A number of key actions emerged from the summit. Progress on those actions is as follows:

- **We will strengthen the links between the voluntary sector, neighbourhood watch and public and private sector agencies** - Neighbourhood Watch are engaged in the Safer York Partnership task groups. We also have support from police volunteers working to assist in delivering specific initiatives for example updating

databases and delivering information. We have set up pub watch and student watch schemes. Safer York Partnership is currently revising the way in which we work with our retail community in York to enhance the service and provide better links between retailers and the police

- **We will work with City of York Council to implement community safety related actions within Community Contracts** – Part of the reason for the creation of my new portfolio was to ensure that one person had oversight of building a thriving voluntary sector, establish good community work such as the community contracts and crime reduction. Safer York Partnership is very much part of Team York and community safety actions have been a key focus for all the community contracts published so far.
- **We will develop the Neighbourhood Watch nominated neighbour schemes to provide support to vulnerable members of the community** - Neighbourhood Watch are working to achieve this and have linked in with those agencies who are engaged with vulnerable members of the community such as Age Concern UK and North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service. I have attended three out of the four York Neighbourhood Watch meetings that have been held since I took on my role, to help strengthen the links between Neighbourhood Watch and the Council.
- **We will empower communities to get more people involved in working with Safer York Partnership to tackle crime and disorder within their own neighbourhoods** - This year the focus has been very much around students as they are very often victims of crime. We have worked closely with both universities and with Neighbourhood Watch to set up a student watch scheme in the city. The new focus of community contracts on community safety should help to empower local communities to play a part in tackling crime and disorder with Safer York Partnership.
- **We will develop links between Safer York Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board to share awareness on common issues and ensure strategies are joined up** – The Council have instigated dialogue between the authors of the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment produced for Safer York Partnership and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment produced for the Health and Wellbeing Board. This has ensured the two documents cross reference and influence their respective strategic plans. The Director of Public Health has also been invited to sit on the Safer York Partnership board.

- **We will improve the quality of Domestic Violence data collection to ensure that robust data and evidence is available to support future funding bids** - Work is still ongoing to improve the quality of data capture in relation to domestic violence. Safer York Partnership's intelligence analyst has produced an in depth analysis (restricted document for internal use by agencies) to provide a broader picture of domestic violence and work is ongoing with North Yorkshire Police Service to address the accuracy of police data. This action is an important priority for the Partnership.
- **We will continue to develop relationships between key organisations working to tackle domestic violence in York** – Safer York Partnership now participates in the York and North Yorkshire Domestic Violence Joint Co-ordination Group to ensure consistency of service across the county and city. They work closely with public and voluntary sector organisations to address domestic violence in York.
- **We will improve communication of our achievements and ensure that agencies are aware of the work that is being developed to tackle domestic violence** - A presentation is being given to the Safer York Partnership board to ensure that statutory partners are fully aware of work to tackle domestic violence in the city. A report is also going to CMT and Cabinet within City of York Council and wider publicity will be sought on the back of that report.
- **We will strengthen the links between Trading Standards and the Business Crime Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) in relation to tackling e-crime** - A Business Crime Task Group has been established which has a wide remit looking across business related crime, including e-crime. Both Trading Standards and the Business Crime PCSOs are involved in the Group and both fall under my new portfolio.
- **We will increase involvement from the business community through the establishment of Business Watch schemes** - We are working to revise the way in which we tackle retail crime in York to provide more localised and relevant information to our respective retail communities. We have also supported the establishment of a radio scheme at Clifton Moor to allow communication between the retailers, police and Monks Cross and are working on wider business watch schemes around the City.
- **We will facilitate the sharing of information from the Business Crime PCSOs to the wider police safer neighbourhood teams** - The Business crime PCSOs also work as part of the Safer

Neighbourhood Teams. They are sharing information specifically around business crime with the wider teams.

- **We will improve communication between Safer York Partnership and new businesses and business partnerships in the city** - We have established better communication links with Clifton Moor and are reviewing and developing the way in which we provide support to the retail community.
- **We will utilise research being undertaken by York University to assist Safer York Partnership in developing a more evidenced based approach to tackling anti-social behaviour** - We have received the results of the survey, which are very positive around perceptions of how the community feels we deal with anti-social behaviour. We are currently revising the way in which we work with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour to adopt a more rationalised approach to meetings and working with North Yorkshire Police Service to focus more closely on vulnerable victims.
- **We will implement the new tools and powers being introduced by Government to tackle anti-social behaviour from 2013** - We are closely monitoring the introduction of these new tools and powers and will be revising our anti-social behaviour strategy accordingly to look at how we utilise them to best effect in the city. We are committed to a robust approach to tackling anti-social behaviour making use of every tool made available to us.
- **We will work closely with all key agencies to strengthen our response to repeat victims** - We have been working with North Yorkshire Police Service to implement a better approach to supporting repeat victims, ensuring that there is consistency in the recording of interactions between key agencies. The Neighbourhood Safety Manager attends police monthly tactical tasking meetings to ensure the sharing of intelligence relating to anti-social behaviour.
- **We will develop a more streamlined meeting structure to ensure the right people are able to attend multi-agency problem solving meetings to tackle anti-social behaviour** - Work is underway to introduce a Multi-agency Problem Solving (MAPS) approach to anti-social behaviour that will see meetings rationalised to one day rather than expecting agencies to attend a range of meetings
- **We will develop mechanisms for early intervention to tackle low level nuisance and prevent it from escalating to more serious anti-social behaviour** - We are working closely with the Safer Neighbourhood Teams to tackle issues of low level anti-

social behaviour to prevent escalation and have developed the mediation service using volunteer mediators to assist in this process. This is a good example of the importance of combining the voluntary sector, neighbourhood working and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour into one portfolio.

- **Positive engagement in the local implementation of a new Integrated Family Support Service incorporating the National Troubled Families Programme** – Whilst I personally loathe the term ‘troubled families’, I recognise that there is a significant problem both locally and nationally with a small number of families who for whatever reasons, cause difficulties for a number of agencies and in wider society as well. So we are committed to engaging positively with efforts to reduce this problem. We have been involved in the data analysis work aligned to identifying troubled families and are positively engaged in the development of the programme in the city.

Building on the success of the 2012 event, we will again host a multi-agency strategic crime summit alongside an interactive community safety market for 2013. Whilst last year’s summit was general in its approach as it was the first of its kind in York, we anticipate that future summits will be themed. I have decided that the theme for 2013 will be **alcohol** and we will be asking partner organisations to focus our attention on how we tackle the problems associated with alcohol misuse in our City.

In preparation we have revised the former Nightsafe Task Group to become AVANTE (Alcohol violence and the night time economy). This group will play a key role in the preparation for next year’s event and it is hoped that we will achieve better representation from the business community and the health sector at the event. No detailed plans have yet been produced, but it would be useful to use the event to link the community safety and health and wellbeing agendas and to bring in an external speaker as an attraction to ensure agencies engage with the event.

I am personally very committed to tackling the problems associated with alcohol misuse which I believe is one of the most serious problems that face us as a society. It touches not just on the obvious effects of drunk and disorderly behaviour on Friday and Saturday nights, but it also touches on domestic violence, road safety (through drink driving), theft and burglary (to feed a drink problem), criminal damage, as well as general anti-social behaviour.

Through my work as portfolio holder, one of this administration's key priorities for the coming year will be on tackling this problem.

Changes in policing and Community Safety Partnerships

As will be widely known, there have been some substantial changes to the governance arrangements in policing recently. As an administration we did not support the abolition of police authorities and their replacement by Police and Crime Commissioners along with Police and Crime Panels to scrutinise their work. Whilst we remain unconvinced that the new system will improve policing in our communities or the accountability of police, we are committed to making the new system work as that is now in the best interests of the wider community.

As such, I am committed to working with the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for York and North Yorkshire in helping to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in York.

One potentially unforeseen consequence of the changes is the proposal which has been put before the new PCC to create a single Community Safety Partnership for the whole of North Yorkshire. I have been closely involved in the early negotiations on this matter and I have set out the view from the outset that I believe York needs its own partnership. With around 40% of all of North Yorkshire's crime taking place in York and an established and effective Community Safety Partnership (Safer York Partnership) in place which is renowned for delivering results, it would seem madness to jeopardise the good work taking place because of budgetary pressures elsewhere in the County.

The current proposal is for a 'hub and spoke' approach which has strategic partnerships as hubs and some smaller bodies to act as spokes on local delivery. York is proposed to be a main hub organisation. However, at present I do not feel the need to support any change to Safer York Partnership's arrangements unless it can be demonstrated to me that there is a tangible benefit to fighting crime and building stronger communities in York.

I hope opposition parties in York will support this stance.

Public Protection

The Public Protection Team continues to go from strength to strength and accomplishes a great deal for our Council and our City. In June Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Licensing, Bereavement

Services were inspected and given the government's Customer Service Excellence Award for a further three years. For the first time Registration and Celebratory Services were included. All our services were found to be fully compliant with the government standard and in many cases they have exceeded the standard.

Changes to Licensing

The implementation of the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011 has introduced changes to the Licensing Act 2003, in relation to suspension of licences for non payment of annual maintenance fees, introducing 'health authorities' as responsible authorities, provision for late temporary event notices (TENs), the facility to place conditions on TENs, making Environmental Health as a statutory consultee for TENs, the provision for licensing authorities to introduce early morning restrictions orders and the late night levy. We are still awaiting an implementation date and regulations regarding licensing authorities setting their own fees.

As part of the Government's Alcohol Strategy, the Home Office have just released a consultation document with regards to delivering the Government's policies to cut alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour. This consultation looks at minimum unit price for alcohol, ban on multi-buy promotions in the off-trade, mandatory licensing conditions, health as a licensing objective for cumulative impact policies and freeing up responsible businesses. As part of my wider focus on alcohol in the coming year, I plan to explore how these licensing changes will affect alcohol consumption in York and how we may be able to take best advantage of the changes to reduce alcohol misuse.

Trading Standards

Trading Standards continue to be a very high performing team and have been taking action against a number of rogue traders targeting York residents.

In one case, a York builder pleaded guilty to making false claims and trading unfairly in the course of his business. He targeted two York householders who paid him tens of thousands to build their extensions. One of them, a conservatory, was so poorly constructed it needs to be knocked down and rebuilt. The builder in question was 'on release' from prison at the time of his offending. He was jailed for eight months, ordered to pay £3,500 compensation and £1,500 in prosecution costs. The BBC television programme, Cowboy Trap, have covered the story

and repaired the problems at one of the houses. The programme is due to be aired in the new year and York's Trading Standards Team was heavily involved in bringing this man to justice.

There are several other cases in progress in which some of the city's most vulnerable residents have been conned out of £1000s. The team's financial investigators are making use of newly acquired 'cash seizure' powers to help recover money for the victims. Our financial investigators have been helping others recover proceeds of crime too. We are taking up a case for Veritau involving benefit fraud. We have also been assisting colleagues in neighbouring authorities, recovering £15,000 for a case prosecuted by East Riding Council. CYC receives a 'pay out' from the Home Office incentivisation fund for any amount recovered by our investigators.

Trading Standards officers have led a project, funded by the Safer York Partnership, to indelibly mark catalytic convertors. Many trader's vehicles have been targeted as the convertors contain precious metals (the catalytic convertors on vans are more easily accessible than on cars). 185 vehicles have been marked, including 10 from Parcel Force who have reported no more thefts since the markings were made.

We have also been working closely with the Citizens Advice consumer helpline who now provide 'first line' advice to customers on consumer issues (in place of Consumer Direct since 1 April 2012). We also helped Citizens Advice in York and North Yorkshire obtain funding for a coordinator to ensure the local bureau and the trading standards services in the area are working closely together i.e. raising awareness of the latest scams and how to avoid them, signposting people to the specialist help with their problems. If this pilot project is successful, Citizens Advice anticipate rolling the project out.

Scambusters

Yorkshire & the Humber Trading Standards Group Scambusters team (based in York's Trading Standards Team) have successfully prosecuted two large scale frauds following lengthy Crown Court Trials.

One case concerned a mobility company who pressure-sold and mis-sold products such as mobility scooters and bath aids to hundreds of very vulnerable and elderly victims. Three directors were all sentenced to lengthy prison sentences (two were sentenced to five years and the third was sentenced to two years). Examples of their practices included conning 90 year olds into 10 year credit agreements and selling a

mobility scooter to a blind man.

In another case, seven individuals and a company were prosecuted for conspiracy to defraud their customers in the process of selling cars and other vehicles. The business, based in Halifax, gave misleading information about vehicle histories such as falsely stating mileages, falsifying service histories, and 'covering up' accident damage. Customers who complained were subject to verbal abuse and threats of violence.

The team have been bolstered by the addition of the National e-crime investigation team who are responsible for investigating frauds and scams emanating over the intranet. In their first case, the team are investigating a complex fraud involving the mis-selling of internet advertising to businesses across the UK (including nearly 20 York based businesses). Hundreds of businesses have complained about paying hundreds and in some cases thousands of pounds for the promise of work which never materialised.

In the summer, the team seized hundreds of fake Olympic medals, and last month thousands of fake batteries. This latter case was followed by the Watchdog Daily programme was broadcast last week.

Food and Safety

Environmental Health Officers work very hard with local businesses to help them meet their legal obligations. I recently spent the day out and about with the team and I have seen at first hand the effectiveness of their work.

However occasionally, despite their best efforts, some businesses will not (or cannot) comply and formal action has to be taken against them.

There have been two prosecutions involving breaches of food hygiene requirements, including poor standards of cleaning and management failures. The case involving the Jumbo Chinese buffet attracted fines of over £40,000. A director of the company was prohibited from operating food businesses. The second case relates to Saffron Desi, an Indian restaurant on Micklegate, 'where Prince William once ate'. The business pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay over £10,000 in fines and council costs.

One health and safety investigation has resulted in a prosecution. In 2011, two workmen were using ladders to fit a new sign at the Mitre pub

in Rawcliffe. Because they weren't using the correct equipment, such as a scaffold tower, one of the men fell from his ladder and badly broke his leg. The company pleaded guilty at York Magistrates' Court and was ordered to pay over £5,000 in fines and costs.

Noise Patrol

Since 1st April this year, the Noise Patrol Unit has taken 851 calls from members of the public, which is an increase of 4% on last year. They have made 401 visits to premises, issued 20 formal noise nuisance notices, recorded six breaches of notices and made four seizures of property.

In response to public concerns, I approved additional Noise Patrols during Euro 2012, both university freshers' weeks, Halloween and bonfire night (these figures are not included in the above). Anecdotal evidence seems to suggest these additional patrols have been useful in helping to reduce noise problems at those times, when we know there have been problems in the past.

Elvington Park Limited, Elvington Events Limited and John Christopher Hudson were found guilty of causing statutory noise nuisance on 7 August 2011 and 16 October 2011 in breach of the previously served noise abatement notice. The three defendants were each fined £3,500 and costs of £14,500 were awarded. An appeal is pending.

Neighbourhood Working

Since May 2012 there have been considerable changes to neighbourhood working in City of York Council. In that time we have:

- Implemented a new staffing structure for the Neighbourhood Management Unit: This is now in place and delivering annual savings of around £275k.
- Successfully procured Your Consortium to administer the Council's voluntary sector funding: In the first year of the Community York Fund it has funded 14 organisations (the majority funded for the first time) to deliver projects ranging from informal education engaging disadvantaged communities to an initiative that empowers young people to inspire their communities to tackle the issues that face them through creative arts and media campaigns.

- Implemented new arrangements for ward funding: Directing funding to ward priorities.
- Introduced Community Contracts: Focusing on the action plans these are getting the right partners round the table at ward team meetings to tackle ward priorities.
- Implemented informal ward committees: Providing Ward Councillors with support to engage with local residents on a range of issues linked predominantly to the ward priorities.
- Provided a range of leadership training opportunities for members
- Launched the York Equality Scheme: York's vision for an equal, inclusive, and welcoming council and city accompanied by the development of plans with our community of identity.
- Secured £1m worth of 'Big Local' funding for Tang Hall over the next ten years.

Ward Committees

Significant changes to ward committees and ward committee funding have taken place in the last few months. A move to more informal structure for committees is being trialled in a number wards.

In my own ward in Westfield this has proved quite successful as we have seen the numbers of people attending the last committee in November increase substantially compared to recent previous meetings.

However, I am aware that the feedback from other ward committees is mixed. I will be the first to nail my colours to the mast and say that we have yet to get ward committee working quite right. This is work in progress and this Council is very committed to getting ward committees working well in the future.

Community Contracts

As with ward committees, community contracts are a work in progress. First draft versions have been produced in 19 wards across the City and represent a good first step in creating a local contract between the Council, elected members and communities. We have received a considerable amount of feedback from residents and councillors about the contracts and whilst it is clear that they are welcomed, it is equally clear that the first drafts have not nailed it quite yet.

We always said that the contracts would be evolving documents and so Neighbourhood Management Unit officers are now working on the second iterations of the contracts, taking on board feedback from the first drafts. The new versions will be shorter, less generic, more localised and more focussed on promoting volunteering and making engagement meaningful in the community.

Voluntary Sector

Progress towards a thriving voluntary sector

Challenge was opened up to the voluntary sector in June to produce an initial draft of a voluntary sector strategy. Following two voluntary sector forum meetings, a draft has been produced and will provide a basis for further discussion with a report coming forward for the Cabinet to consider in January 2013.

Community York

Following the restructure of ward committee funding we asked Your Consortium to manage the process of third sector organisations bidding to the Council for funding to provide services in our communities. The new fund we created is called Community York.

Community York brings together a number of existing funding streams for voluntary sector organisations in the city. The aim of this new approach is to ensure that CYC investment in voluntary sector grant funding is managed in a cohesive and transparent manner which ensures the greatest impact and value for money for residents of York

The fund has two distinct aims:

1. Provide high quality additional services to York residents in line with four “Community York” themes: Healthy, Engaged, Inclusive and Prosperous Communities
2. Support voluntary sector organisations to deliver outcome-focused services with demonstrable impact

It is fair to say that the process has ruffled a few feathers in the sector. However, I believe the process that has been put in place is absolutely the right way forward, asking organisations to focus on deliverable outcome focussed results and the ability to evidence those outcomes so that Council Tax payers can see what they are getting for their money.

In total 45 applications were received, seeking funds to the value of £417,968.98. I'm delighted to say that 14 organisations were successful

(four large & 10 small). The organisations and the schemes they were funded for are:

Peasholme Charity – Healthy communities

Peasholme Charity delivers services to homeless people so they are empowered to realise their aspirations and achieve their full potential. Their services include supported accommodation and floating support that prepares people for independent living, prevents homelessness occurring, provides access to training and education and prepares people for employment.

This project will fund the Charity's continued delivery of resettlement training to homeless people, providing access for 30 people to undertake a range of health and wellbeing related activities. These will include personal development, steps to better health courses, drug awareness workshops, money management sessions and health eating including cookery programmes.

Gateway Action – Engaged Communities

Gateway Action aims to help build a stronger community by providing facilities and programmes which impact positively on the wellbeing of individuals and families. It does this primarily by providing fully inclusive facilities at The Gateway Centre in Acomb where people can access information, advice and guidance and by organising activities that bring people together, encourage friendships, develop skills and offer support in dealing with life's challenges.

This project aims to establish a food-bank which provides emergency food supplies to people in crisis. This application is for funding for the pilot phase, which will see the first distribution point opened while the structure and capacity is created to support a city-wide initiative with several distribution points, in association with the Trussell Trust.

York CAB – Prosperous Communities

York CAB aims to provide the advice people need for the problems they face and to improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives. Their mission is to empower clients by giving them the information that they need to decide how to resolve their own problems.

This project will create an Advice Hub at Tang Hall Community Centre to pilot an innovative, multi-disciplinary approach to providing the advice residents need, under one roof. Led by CAB but with workers from Housing Options, North Yorkshire Credit Union, Future Prospects and an experienced CAB adviser, the project will provide advice on claiming in and out of work benefits, prepare residents to meet the challenges and

opportunities of Universal Credits, resolve debt problems and money management including budgeting, financial planning and making informed decisions.

Tang Hall Community Centre has been chosen as it will compliment their plans to establish a Health and Wellbeing Centre, with York Mind and a whole series of sport and social activities located at the Centre.

York Racial Equality Network – Inclusive Communities

York Racial Equality Network is primarily a BME-led specialist equality infrastructure and frontline service organisation providing information services to remove barriers to accessing services. Specialist support is also provided to support victims of hate crime.

This project will enable YREN to play a major role in contributing to inclusion in the city by informing debate and decision making at strategic levels, enabling participation and offering an information and support service to statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors ensuring everyone has access to specialist information and support about issues such as hate crime and discrimination.

The project will undertake and act on research to understand the issues faced by BME groups in York. Through the provision of education and training the project will dispel myths and challenge stereotypes of groups identified as having Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

York Unifying and Multicultural initiative (YUMI)

YUMI's aim is for an integrated and cohesive York. To do this they create events, activities and projects that bring together the "host" community with people who have come to live in York from other cultures, supporting those from other cultures to become active in the community by sharing their skills and taking positions of responsibility and leadership in it.

This project will be a celebratory, international family day created and delivered by York's diverse ethnic communities. It will launch a series of international activities and events in YUMI's International Community Garden in Fulford Cross and in Parliament Street, aimed at bringing international activities to annual attendees of in excess of 15,000. The day is part of a structured five-year plan to engage more people from ethnic communities in activities, to strengthen community cohesion.

Stretch

Stretch delivers informal education projects that engage disadvantaged communities who have fallen out of mainstream education and through

the welfare net. They aim to use the arts to act as a catalyst for future community involvement to change marginalised communities' lives for the better.

This project will deliver arts workshops leading to Arts Awards using qualified teacher artists at a residential children's care home in York. Children will be taken on trips to cultural centres to inspire ideas for the project work on the theme of prejudice to be decided by the young people. During the project the participants will create scrapbooks, photo/video/audio diaries and "feeling" boxes. At the end an exhibition will be held to celebrate the work. The overall aim is to help looked after children develop aspirations to succeed, overcome low self-esteem, find passion and talent in the arts and culture and to provide them with skills and qualifications that can aid their progress in terms of future careers and emotional development.

NYBEP

NYBEP is an education business partnership, with the specialist capability to nurture talent for successful futures. They bring together communities within schools, colleges, higher education and businesses. Programmes are tailored to match the aims and interests of employers and other organisations to achieve real outcomes and benefits for young people.

This project will create an engaging family learning event to promote different cultures and communities, educating the city's residents, encouraging greater understanding and combating negative perceptions.

Working with cultural organisations such as YUMI, Japanese Families Association and the Mind BME project, the event will be for two-days during Spring Half Term week. Two host secondary schools will be identified and young people and their families from each school (and their primary feeder schools) will host one day each.

Activities will be interactive and designed as family experiences (using themes such as digital literacy, media, diet and cuisine, music, art and dance) not only to celebrate diversity and challenge perceptions but to promote new skill acquisition.

Older Citizens Advocacy York

Older citizens Advocacy York aims to enable older people to achieve their goals and take control of the issues that affect their lives by providing advocacy, peer support, independent information, signposting and equal access to services.

This project will provide support by helping people to express their views, make informed choices and achieve their goals. Advocates help

develop older people's self-confidence and skills and make a contribution to society.

York Mind

York Mind empowers individuals to recover from mental ill-health. They achieve their goal by providing a variety of person-centred projects designed to promote recovery, independence and mental wellbeing. This project will help prevent individuals with chronic mental ill-health from becoming stuck in mental health services by providing direct support to help them move on into paid or voluntary work – either directly or via further training or education externally.

The project will provide intensive mentoring, encouragement, guidance and signposting to clients. These clients will usually have spent several months with the charity and this project will enable individuals to overcome the daunting prospect of moving out of the supportive environment and progressing with their lives.

In addition, the project will provide for six anti-stigma/awareness raising events at key locations/employers within the City. These events will raise understanding and start a conversation about how mental ill health need not be a barrier to successful employment.

Family Matters York (York Community Family Trust)

Family Matters aims to make a positive, demonstrable difference to the lives of all families in need across the city of York, unlocking potential to live life to the full.

This project will run four "Time Out for Parents" courses across the city of York. The courses will be open to all parents who have children in school year's 2 – 6. Each course will consist of five sessions lasting for two hours. The courses aim to give parents the tools to raise their children's self esteem, improve their relationship with their child, set and maintain reasonable boundaries and to keep their children safe.

Inspired Youth

Inspired Youth empowers people to inform, challenge and inspire their communities to tackle the issues that face them through creative arts and media campaigns. This project will be in partnership with the Jack Raine Community Foundation (JRCF) provide a mix of education, health, welfare and inclusion activities on a minimal budget to some of York's most vulnerable and excluded communities.

The project will create an arts and media campaign that presents strong community role models and increases positive physical and mental wellbeing through raising awareness of the Jack Raine Community Foundation.

The model works by placing former service users at the heart of the delivery. Professional artists will create a lasting mural to be displayed in a community venue run by JRFCF, work together to develop themes and approaches for a poster campaign and a short film to raise awareness.

Millers Yard CIC

Millers Yard is in the Centre of York and aims to promote and operate inclusive activities for local residents enabling people to live more positively. Services are aimed towards improving people's wellbeing, employment and training opportunities and raising awareness of issues surrounding these.

This project will provide a regular Saturday session (once a month for six months) for carers residing in York to have the opportunity to have time for themselves by coming to Millers Yard for free treatment or taking part in a health and wellbeing class. Sessions in counselling, massage and other therapies will be on offer from therapists and students taking part in diploma level training to become Massage and Reflexology practitioners. Other opportunities include yoga, pilates, drama, art, sewing and knitting.

The Bike Rescue Project CIC

The Bike Rescue Project recycles thousands of unwanted bicycles each year using salvage and refurbishment processes as a vehicle to train and empower members of the local community, giving them confidence and life skills as well as industry recognised qualifications. This generates a local, environmentally friendly manufacturing base that offers long term employment and valuable volunteering opportunities. Over the past six years Bike Rescue has been building their teaching capacity, working with deprived groups. They have now set up a Velotech Training workshop and want to increase community benefit by taking our knowledge and skills out into the community. This project will develop a mobile teaching operation so that it can be taken to youth clubs and Bootham Hospital, to run short courses that engage young people, their families, intergenerational groups and those with serious mental health issues. This will facilitate long term relationships with these groups of people who will assist with refurbishment of bikes for delivery to disadvantaged families in time for Christmas.

Age UK York

Age UK York aims to enable older people with limited resources to engage with the world of IT and take best advantage of the modern commercial and social world by helping them to learn to use IT equipment, receive advice on when and how to acquire equipment and

service deals and have a constant reasonable back up support service delivered by people with an understanding of the needs of older people. This project aims to enable the older people of York on low fixed incomes to improve the quality of their lives through a variety of outcomes. They will be able to learn at a suitable pace and venue best suited to their needs and abilities. They will learn how to communicate with the commercial world such as shopping and banking. This will improve their access to more economical opportunities for food, other goods and clothing. This will also have an impact on feelings of being in control of their lives and reduce social isolation.

Councillor Dafydd Williams JP
Cabinet Member for Crime and Stronger Communities, December 3rd,
2012