

Recommendation xiii) – Additional Information

The first 'Make it York' Culture Awards ceremony took place on 1 December 2016. The awards were introduced to celebrate excellence in the arts and culture sector and reward outstanding innovation, creativity and quality. The objectives of the awards are to:

- Celebrate and showcase both our uniqueness and our diversity, to help build a confident and creative cultural community
- Encourage York as a city to be more culturally ambitious and working across all boundaries
- Reward and recognise cultural excellence within our city and its surroundings
- Highlight the importance of culture to build and maintain a sustainable economy
- Establish a long term, sustainable, credible event to help promote the city of York to residents, visitors, businesses and students
- By showcasing the city's cultural uniqueness and diversity to make culture more accessible to everyone and to encourage more people to take part.

The winner of the 'Cultural Equality and Diversity Award' in 2016 was Accessible Arts & Media (AAM) for their IMPs Project.

AAM is a charity which creates arts, digital media and training programmes that are tailored to the needs and aspirations of the people it works with, and it has touched the lives of tens of thousands of people, many of them vulnerable or experiencing physical or mental challenges.

The core aim of their IMPs Project was to bring together disabled and non-disabled children and young people as equals. All IMPs members get the chance to make music, develop new skills and build confidence and mutual understanding.

Rose Kent of AAM also won the 'Cultural Champion' category. As Managing and Creative Director of Accessible Arts & Media since 1992, Rose has been and continues to be an inspiration, not just to the arts sector, but to officials working in health and social services. She is energetic in her support for Tang Hall Big Local and in promoting Culture & Wellbeing in York. Her skills as an arts practitioner and specialist consultant have been central to raising Accessible Arts and Media's profile from two small fledgling community arts charities to the award-winning organisation it is today. Thanks to Rose, York is home to a unique range of specialist disability and youth programmes.