

A vision for York as an Inclusive Recovery City

York, as an Inclusive Recovery City, wants every individual to have the acceptance and resources to thrive after experiencing problems with drugs and alcohol or other addictions.

We are committed to removing stigma by connecting people, building good relationships and celebrating every recovery journey. Together, we're building a city where recovery from addiction problems is visible, valued, and accessible for all.

As York's businesses and major employers, educational institutions, statutory services and community groups, we collaborate to create a city that strengthens and empowers people on their recovery journeys through social networks, safe housing, benefits advice, meaningful activities and pathways to volunteer opportunities and employment. Workplaces and media narratives will encourage people to seek treatment and support with dignity.

We want York to be a place where:

- Treatment and recovery support services and groups are available and accessible to all across our diverse community.
- Every family knows where to find help for substance use disorders or other addictions free of charge, both for the person directly affected and for the wider family.
- Our workplaces, VCFSE organisations and statutory services raise awareness of and facilitate access to support needed by people with addictions, and are sensitive to the needs of people in recovery.
- Our hospitality businesses and other local organisations create fun environments and activities for alcohol-free socialising and connection.
- People in recovery, together with their family, friends and colleagues, proudly present hope to others and celebrate recovery through major city events such as the Dragon Boat Race, Christmas Market, York Pride, Aesthetica etc
- Our local media ensures that any story touching substance use disorders or other addictions creates understanding of the conditions and the range of treatment and support available so that fear and stigma can be replaced by kindness and support.
- Our universities and schools help young people know they are not alone, not the cause or cure of their parents' problems and get the support they need, whether that's around their own or someone else's substance use.
- People with a history of a substance use disorder or other addiction are welcomed into employment and volunteering opportunities based on their individual suitability, as anyone should be.

*VCFSE: voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations