

## **Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 September 2014**

Report of the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods

### **Single Equality Scheme Update and Refresh**

#### **Introduction**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform this scrutiny committee of the progress made in refreshing York's Equality Scheme. Members are asked to comment on the draft priorities and outcomes detailed in the report and advise on which should be focussed on within the revised equality scheme.

#### **Background**

2. York's Single Equality Scheme 'A Fairer York' was approved in December 2012 and is in the process of being refreshed. The purpose of an Equality Scheme is to tackle inequalities, discrimination and disadvantage for those who have characteristics protected (York's Community of Identity) under the Equality Act 2010):
  - Age
  - Disability – physical and mental impairment
  - Gender reassignment
  - Marriage and civil partnership
  - Pregnancy and maternity
  - Race
  - Religion or belief
  - Sex
  - Sexual orientation
  - Carers
  - People living in York's most deprived areas
3. The current scheme, whilst including partnership actions, is very much a council document. It is the intention that the revised scheme will move from being a council document to a partnership document recognising that no one agency can tackle York's inequalities alone. The new

equality scheme is expected to gain the support of partners by December 2014 and will be a key piece of evidence in the Local Government Association Equality Assessment programmed for January 2015 when the council hopes to move from Achieving to Excellent in the Equality Framework for Local Government.

4. Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) have overall responsibility for scrutinising the council's approach to equalities. At their meeting in July 2014, CSMC received a year end report on progress on the council's existing Equality Scheme and considered a long list of issues for possible inclusion in the refreshed equality scheme.
5. CSMC agreed that the issues should be grouped in line with the terms of reference of the individual overview and scrutiny committees and presented at their next round of meetings. Each committee to be asked for their views on which of those issues should be prioritised areas of focus and included in the refreshed equality scheme.
6. To follow on from this to ensure equality issues become embedded into the work of individual scrutiny committees CSMC requested that each committee receive an update on the issues relevant to their terms of reference as part of their ongoing quarterly finance and performance monitoring reports.

### **Emerging Priorities**

7. However, things have moved on from the report that went to CSMC. Year end analysis of key equality measures, Fairness and Equalities Board priorities, council Business Plan priorities, issues arising from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and discussions with Building Strong Communities, Jobs and Economy and Protect Vulnerable People (Council Plan Themed Boards), Corporate Management Team (CMT) and Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee have led to the following 4 draft priorities being identified (full details of which are attached at Annex 1):

- Economic Wellbeing
- Learning and Educational Wellbeing
- Health and Wellbeing
- Community Wellbeing

8. The main area of focus for this committee centres around Community Wellbeing focusing on building strong communities where:

- People from different backgrounds respect each other and get on well together,
  - People feel safe;
  - Hate Crime, bullying in schools (particularly against LGB pupils), Anti Social Behaviour, Honour Crime and Domestic Violence is tackled effectively and prevented.
  - Housing conditions are improved
  - Access to affordable housing is increased for the elderly, disabled people, those with a mental health condition, Gypsy and Traveller Families and young people particularly those leaving care.
9. Some elements of the draft Health & Wellbeing priority also lie within the remit of this committee, with respect to tackling homelessness, improving support for people suffering social isolation to enable them to live independently within the community.
10. Draft outcomes to be achieved are outlined in the table below. The outcomes underlined are those that are currently not reported in the performance updates provided by Safer York Partnership and presented biannually to the committee.

<b>Community Wellbeing Outcomes</b>	
<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
% of people who feel they belong to their local area reported for each community of identity	Number of Hate Crime Incidents reported for each Community of Identity
% of people who agree that people from different backgrounds get on well reported for each community of identity	Number of Anti Social Behaviour incidents
The number of Hate Crime Reporting Centres.	Incidents of Honour Based Violence
% of people who agree that York is a safe city to live in reported for each community of identity	Domestic Violence Incidents
% of people who feel that ASB is not a problem broken down by Community of Identity	Repeat Incidents of Domestic Violence
% of people who feel that Hate	Numbers of Children with a Child Protection Plan
	% of children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time
	% of pupils who reported frequent

<p>Crime is not a problem broken down by Community of Identity</p> <p>% of children ceasing to be the subject of a Child Protection Plan who had been the subject of a CPP continuously for two years or longer.</p> <p>Number of homes built in York especially affordable homes</p> <p>Decency in the Private Sector</p> <p>Increase the number of Landlords accredited with Landlord Accreditation Scheme</p>	<p>verbal bullying incidents in primary and secondary schools</p> <p>% of LGB pupils in secondary schools who reported frequent verbal bullying</p> <p>Young people sentenced to custody (rate per 10000 10-17 year olds in York) (New definition from 2013/14 - rolling 12 month cohort )</p> <p>Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders aged 10 to 17 (New definition from 2013/14 - set 12 month cohort, cumulative)</p>
<b>HEALTH &amp; WELLBEING OUTCOMES</b>	
<p><b>Increase</b></p> <p>Number of households for whom positive action has prevented homelessness</p>	<p><b>Decrease</b></p> <p>Number of homeless households in temporary accommodation</p> <p>Number of 16-17 year olds accepted as homeless</p> <p>Numbers formally presenting as homeless</p> <p>Number of households accepted as homeless.</p>

11. Performance against each of the above is attached at Annex 2. Year end figures for domestic violence show an increase on the previous year 2,476 to 2,823. A Domestic Violence Implementation plan is in development and a needs assessment is currently underway. Year end figures show a slight increase in Hate Crime incidents from the previous year of 95 to 98. The highest incidents recorded for Hate Crime are in relation to Race. Of the 43 children ceasing to be the subject of a Child Protection Plan during Q1, 5 had been subject to CPP for more than 2 years (11.6%) above the target of 2.1%. It is anticipated performance will improve over the next year as a new Panel has been introduced to scrutinise CP Plans over 18 months in duration with a view to ensuring robust reflective challenge prior to the 2 year mark. 6 of the 34 children

becoming the subject of a Child Protection plan during the quarter were re-registrations, mainly comprising two sibling groups, which together account for 5 of the 6 children.

12. The Get York Building programme is underway to increase the number of homes in the city and the number of affordable homes . Overall the council has managed to reduce homelessness figures during 13/14 against a backdrop of high housing costs and the impact of welfare reforms. The Housing Options service together with partner agencies will keep a sustained focus on tackling homelessness through early intervention. The council's Landlord Accreditation Scheme goes from strength to strength , 97 landlords , managers and letting agents have signed up to the scheme. In total 386 properties have been registered.

### **Consultation**

13. Results of the Big York Survey, research in the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and feedback from the Fairness Equalities Board and Council Plan themed boards have informed the emerging priorities.

### **Council Plan**

14. These proposals relate to the Council's corporate priorities of building strong communities and protecting vulnerable people, as set out in the Council's Plan 2011-15.

### **Implications**

15. As a progress report there are no implications as this stage.

### **Recommendations**

16. The Scrutiny Committee are requested to note progress made in the refresh of York's Equality Scheme and:
  - i. Comment on:
    - a) The draft priorities as detailed in Annex 1 and;
    - b) The draft outcomes relevant to this committee, as tabled in paragraph 10.
  - ii. Advise whether these priorities and outcomes should be the area of focus in the revised equality scheme or are there any others that should be considered.

Reason: To help ensure that relevant equality issues are reflected in the revised Equality Scheme.

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Wards Affected:

All



**Specialist Implications Officer(s):** None

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

**Background Papers:** None

**Annexes**

Annex 1: Draft Equality Scheme Priorities

Annex 2: Performance data on outcome measures