

**Children, Education & Communities Policy & Scrutiny Committee
10 July, 2018**

Report of the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism

Sport and Active Leisure:

Over the last year the YorWellbeing team have developed their delivery of NHS Health Checks, health advice and stop smoking support. The service continues to support the city's community sports clubs, work with schools to encourage active play and extra curricular sport and with individuals and community groups to develop opportunities to live active and healthy lifestyles.

Sport England's latest Active Lives Survey published in March 2018 shows that York has a higher percentage of people who are physically active, 69.4%, compared with the national 61.8% and regional 60.8% averages; this is people doing 150 minutes or more of activity per week. York has only 19.6% of the York adult population doing less than 30 minutes of activity per week compared with the national 25.7% and regional 27.7% averages. This showing a steady increase in those becoming active and a reduction in those not participating.

Region	Active (150+ minutes a week)	Fairly Active (30-149 minutes a week)	Inactive (<30 minutes a week)
National (2016/17)	61.8%	12.5%	25.7%
Yorkshire Region (2016/17)	60.8%	11.5%	27.7%
York (2016/17)	69.4%	11%	19.6%

We have through a collaboration with transport and education colleagues looked at how we can use social media to help to increase this drive in getting people to become more active and have developed Move More York. This is a major new campaign launched this summer to encourage anyone who lives and works in York to move more. We all know the benefits including even a little movement into our daily lives

can make a massive difference to our health and wellbeing. This is why we want to get the whole city to move more. Our aim is; to get more people in York moving, whether that is by joining a sports club, getting out and about on a lunch break or moving more whilst seated; to get the city talking and inspire people to move more and; to get more people visiting our dedicated website and sharing their stories. How it will work; we want the city to move more; we want York to embrace the campaign with residents, sports clubs and communities sharing their stories of how they've moved more; we want employers to get on board, talking about active travel and enabling active lunches. We have recruited move more champions and their case studies can be found on the website www.movemoreyork.co.uk.

Staff in the team are continuing to support corporate projects to develop community facilities and to create new and improved sports facilities where the projects require the relocation of sports clubs or sports grounds. This work includes involvement in the Lowfields development, the British Sugar scheme, York Central and Burnholme Community Hub scheme.

The team have continued to manage the sports facilities at Burnholme Community Hub, offering continued access in the evenings and at weekends throughout the year. The Executive will be asked to decide on 12 July whether to take forward the plans to develop the sports facilities. Consultation with residents, existing users and the wider sports community are planned for week beginning 9 July (for two weeks) with a consultation event at the Centre@Burnholme on 18 July from 4 – 7pm.

The proposals complement the growing range of sports facilities across the city which contribute to improving residents' health and fitness - including mental health – as well as opportunities to build sports skills and to socialise. A £2.45 million investment will allow the facilities to be open for 75 hours a week - up from the current 20 - which will include a fitness gym, with inclusive and accessible equipment and a programme targeting our least active residents. There will be a junior gymnastics coaching programme with opportunities for after school and weekend coaching and pitches will be improved alongside free open access to the grounds.

The sports centre will become the home of the city's GP exercise referral programme and free access for local schools to use the indoor and outdoor facilities will continue.

Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL), which already operates Energise and Yearsley Pool, will work with the council on the refurbishment as part of its management contract and will deliver its HealthWise programme from the hub.

The team have supported GLL Better in producing their Community Sport and HealthWise Development Plan's. More recently, the team have successfully transferred the delivery of the city's GP exercise referral programme to GLL's Better HealthWise programme. The transfer of the programme will mean that service delivery will be maintained within the community as well as extended as part of the Better contract in local authority sports centres.

The Special Olympics Great Britain (SOGB) National Games took place in Sheffield last year (7 August – 12 August 2017). Special Olympics City of York have 30 athletes and 20 coach / volunteers participating as part of the Yorkshire & the Humber squad, which was one of the biggest regional squads that attended the games. York's athletes performed well competing in; table tennis, swimming, athletics, boccia, tennis, carpet bowls and indoor bowls. This year York has hosted the Regional Indoor Bowls and Athletics Competitions at New Earswick Indoor Bowls Club and the University of York Athletics Track (respectively). In August 2018, we have athletes from York attending the Special Olympics Anniversary Games (40 years of SOGB) in Stirling in the sport of Boccia.

Building on the success of the pilot Community Health Champions project initially supported with a grant from North Yorkshire Sport, we have developed and have been successful in a funding application through Nesta and their Connected Communities Innovation Fund, to extend the Community Health Champions programme for a further two years. The funding is worth £54k total. Over the two years we will recruit, train and deploy 65 volunteers as Health Champions within their communities (Year one (18/19) 25 new champions and Year two (19/20) 40 new champions). The programme has a focus on utilising the skills, passions and experience of older people aged 50+, with 80% of the volunteers we recruit being aged 50+. We expect the number of beneficiaries of the programme (number of people supported by Community Health Champions) to be no fewer than 1650 in total.

The volunteers will undertake 'Impact Volunteering' – working to identify and understand challenges and barriers that are negatively affecting the health and wellbeing of people in their communities and work to develop and implement solutions. This will be through health promotion activities,

directing people into existing local activities and developing programmes and projects where no provision exists.

The YorWellbeing service has continued to run in partnership with the York City Knights Foundation. Each session incorporates 45 minute educational workshop and a 45 minute strength and conditioning session delivered by York City Knights first team aiming to engage with those individuals wanting to become more physically active and improve their health. The educational workshops topics include: incorporating physical activity into your daily lifestyle; meal planning and healthy diet choices; negative effects of smoking and alcohol on the body and promoting positive mental wellbeing. 11 men completed the first course with a combined total weight loss of 20.7kg, combined total waist circumference loss of 40.5cm and 6 individuals lowered their resting blood pressure. The second course saw 8 men complete in January 2018 with a combined total weight loss of 18kg.

The service also continues to support community sports clubs to develop their facilities, assisting with project planning, writing funding applications and where funding is available, supporting the projects with Section 106 developer's outdoor sports contributions. We have been, and continue to, support Bishopthorpe White Rose Football Club with developing a planning application and gaining investment for new football pitches and a pavilion on land opposite the Askham Bar Park and Ride. In total 8 new football pitches will be developed and a funding bid to the Football Foundation worth £500,000 has been submitted. The total project costs will be £1.3m. In addition we are supporting Wigginton Grasshoppers Football Club with developing their existing site which will result in a number of 5v5, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11 pitches. This will also include the development of a new pavilion which will include a community space. The club are in the process of completing a football foundation application and have submitted a planning application, which was due to go to planning committee on 4th July. Estimated total project cost £600,000.

The service continues to attract new participants into physical activity and has delivered numerous Walk to Jog, 3 – 7km and 5 - 10km running groups. Over the last year, these schemes have encouraged 92 new participants into running. We have also delivered six Learn to Nordic Walk courses encouraging 66 new participants into this popular physical activity.

The officers working in the West of the city have continued to develop the sport of Boccia. Having supported more community groups to take up the sport they recently delivered a Tournament at Acomb Explore Library where 12 teams including local resident associations and local councillors attended.

The team have commissioned a Built Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy, which will form part of the evidence base for the city's Local Plan. We hope to have the strategy documents in Autumn / Winter 2018 and then produce an overarching Sport and Physical Activity Strategy to take forward the development of the city's voluntary and community sports clubs and to increase participation, moving York forward to become one of the most active cities in England.

The service is continuing to target activities to those who participate the least and those who will get the most benefit from physical activity and sport.

The Community Stadium Project:

Work continues apace on the New Stadium and Leisure complex at Monks Cross. The superstructure for the leisure building, main East stand, Cinema and commercial building are now complete with roofs and cladding walls now being applied to all.

Foundations on the North, West and South stands are now in, with the steel structures starting over the next few weeks.

Partner agreements continue to be progressed for both the lantern unit above the leisure centre and the commercial unit next to the cinema and will be announced once signed, with further restaurant and retailers in the commercial area to be announced over the coming months.

The scheme continues on programme and within budget and on target for a Summer 2019 opening.

Plans are also progressing on a bid to use York and the new stadium as one of the host Cities for the 2021 Rugby League World Cup, a great showcase for an award winning scheme. This bid will also utilise facilities already provided by the project at York St John University and the University of York, highlighting further the quality of the sports developments York has to offer.

A more detailed public update regarding all positions within the Stadium and Leisure Facilities Project will be made through an Executive Report presented at the September 2018 Executive meeting.

Volunteering - *People Helping People*:

The Council, in partnership with York CVS, launched a new Volunteering and Social Action strategy for the city in November 2017 entitled *People Helping People*. The strategy adopts the international 'Cities of Service' model of impact volunteering where citizens are mobilised alongside the public and private sectors to help address shared city priorities. The strategy identifies three challenges; addressing loneliness and isolation, promoting health and wellbeing and supporting children and young people to reach their potential. A number of impact volunteering initiatives are being developed to match volunteers to these challenges. These include Growing Green Spaces, Community Health Champions, GoodGym, Befriending schemes and a variety of mentoring and social action programmes for young people, including the work of York Cares, the University of York, the Archbishop of York Youth Trust, and volunteering programmes supported by the Council through Local Area Teams.

A further People Helping People event took place to launch Volunteers month in June 2018 where local groups, organisations and citizens showcased the progress of respective impact volunteering initiatives, with some truly inspiring stories, linked to strategy priorities. A mapping exercise has also identified over 4,000 volunteers taking part in social action throughout June.

The People Helping People partnership has also been successful in securing external funding to help deliver aspects of the strategy and contribute to wider policy development. This has included funding from the Nesta Connected Communities Innovation Fund and Office of Civil Society (OCS) Enabling Social Action programme. York will be one of two initial Enabling Social Action Partnerships working directly with OCS to explore how we can embed social action within commissioning frameworks and support the development of stronger and more resilient communities.

Cultural Strategy

I note that you have a detailed update on this elsewhere on the agenda. I am delighted that this work is now progressing and look forward to it delivering a plan for provision in York that will both meet the needs of residents as well as making people sit up and take notice once again of what is going on in York.

I hope members of this committee will give their views on the emerging ideas when the opportunity arises in September.

Make it York:

The Council is in the process of putting a new service level agreement in place with Make It York for the next three years.

This will see Make It York playing a leading role in the Cultural Strategy work and well as undertaking a refresh of York's tourism strategy. The latter will include a plan to improve visitor information at the gateway sites.

I'm pleased to see the developing events programme with Make It York supporting 21 festivals in 2018. Bloom! has kicked off and promises to be a great success. I am also excited by the international quality of the programme for Mediale that is now starting to be revealed.

I am also pleased to see the Annual York Culture Awards going from strength to strength.

In the area of tourism, key indicators on the Council's open data platform show a year on year increase in visits to attractions and in Parliament Street footfall.

The latest Visit York analysis for May this year shows that the city was busier this May than last, with more people in the city centre, more hotel guests and more visits to the city's attractions. City centre footfall was 8% higher than this time last year.

Hotels across the city reported a 5% decline in the percentage of rooms occupied when compared with May 2017 (which was the highest ever May since our records began); however, this is against a backdrop of a 10% uplift in the number of available rooms, with 300 more hotel rooms in York coming online in the last 12 months. In fact, 2,900 additional room nights were sold in May 2018 (+4% vs May 2017) across all of York's hotels.

Total visits to attractions were 12.2% higher than in May 2017. Nine of the eleven big attractions reported growth in visits and seven of these nine reporting an increase in visits of at least 10%.

The new visityork.org is receiving more users and more sessions (up 8%). More time is spent viewing a greater number of webpages on the site; page views increased by 37% year-on-year compared to the old version of the site. Since the launch of the new website in April, the mobile share of sessions has increased from 43% of total sessions to 53%, making the majority of sessions on visityork.org now made on a mobile (phone and/or tablet) device rather than a desktop PC.

Key indicators were:

- 77.2% of hotel rooms occupied
- £112.80 average hotel room rate
- 308,947 visits to attractions (provisional)
- 7,799 visits to attractions using a York Pass
- 82,252 sessions on www.visityork.org (including on the mobile site)
- 32,913 customers through the Visit York Information Centre

Libraries:

This committee received a detailed report on Explore's performance at its last meeting.

I am very impressed by their performance in key areas, especially in:

- Book issues
- Book acquisitions, and
- Visits

I am also delighted to be able to congratulate Explore on achieving Accreditation Status for the city's archive service.

Our partnership with Explore continues to develop excellent new facilities:

- On 23 June I was delighted to attend an event marking the opening of the new Centre@Burnholme in Heworth. This is a truly excellent new facility incorporating reading café, learning spaces, local history service, free access to the internet and wifi, lending

and reference library as well as space for community groups. The Centre is also home to Burnholme Nursery; Tang Hall SMART, Activity Base services for adults living with a learning disability - moving from Burton Stone Community Centre - and York Community Church

- The new Gateway Library at the Folk Hall in New Earswick opened to the public on 29th May where Joseph Rowntree started the village's very first library in 1908. Allowing Explore to use the whole building in a variety of ways will create a truly accessible and sustainable service including outside of library opening hours.
- Haxby Library: The City of York Council and Trustees of the Memorial Hall met in March to discuss the status of the 'Library to the Memorial Hall' project and assess whether the project was still viable. A joint decision was reached that unfortunately at this time the project to relocate the library to the Memorial Hall as planned jointly by the Trustees and approved by the Council could not be delivered due to lack of funds available to the trustees for their part of the scheme. We are now working on alternative locations for the library, continuing to look for a suitable location that is co-located with another community activity or building.

I would like to thank this committee for your input to creating a really robust comprehensive assessment of need. This will underpin the Council's specification in the forthcoming re-tender exercise and ensure that York residents get the library service that they want, and one that continues to improve over the next 15 years.

York Learning:

I am pleased to note that York Learning is performing well against its strategic plan. Particular issues to highlight are:

- The service's performance in supporting SEN students and in the development of its general programme which has resulted in a fourth year of growth for the service with increases in income over the period of £500k; this despite contracts with a total value of over £250k coming to an end in this period
- The service has also been successful in procuring 2 new ESF contracts to support some of the most vulnerable people across the city. Respectively called "Action Towards Inclusion" and "Positive Progressions", these two programmes offer high levels of support to individuals over a significant period of time, allowing

individuals to gain confidence, raise their self esteem and gain qualifications to prepare them for work.

- Numerous examples of work with very vulnerable individuals which has significant positive affects on their life chances and on their general health and well being.
- The service was successful in retaining its Matrix Accreditation, which is a national quality framework for information, advice and guidance to learners
- The service continues to provide significant levels of support for those learners who need to improve their English, maths and employability skills and this remains a key focus for the service.
- There has also been a significant increase in demand for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses which has resulted in the service offering more courses.