

Financial Inclusion

York's Vision / Approach





Economic and Financial Inclusion

Wider Context

 Economic growth: helping disadvantaged individuals move from benefits into sustainable employment and a living wage.

 Assisting the unemployed and those in low paid work with specialist financial support packages.





What does Financial Inclusion mean?

- 1. Manage money on a day-to-day basis effectively, securely and confidently
- 2. Access to a bank account
- 3. Access to affordable credit
- 4. Access face-to-face debt and benefits advice



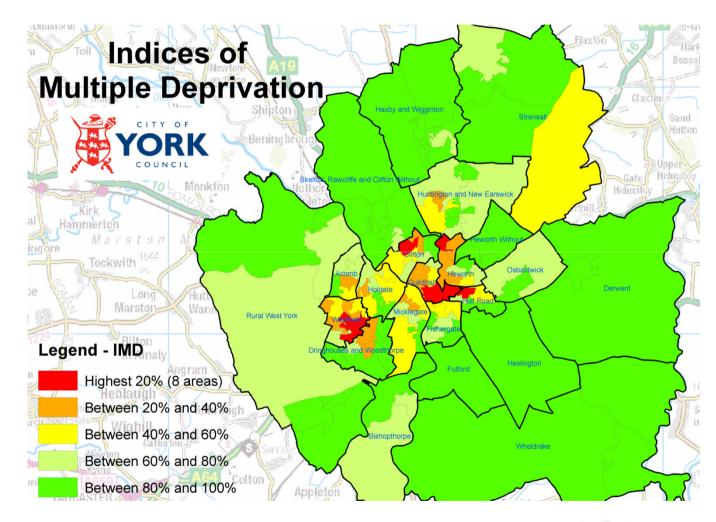








Extent of disadvantage in York







Financial Exclusion: Knock-on Effects







Financial Exclusion: The impact in York

- Resident Bank charges: £2.4 million leaving the local economy
- Increase in Doorstep Lending: Peachy.co.uk
 16,381% APR
- 13.3% of children in York currently living in Poverty.
- 24% non take up of free school meals.





Where are we now?

- Helping the most marginalised families through the Catalyst Initiative
- Child Poverty Strategy
- Outreach in Lindsey, Carr Estates
- Debt Recovery Protocol
- Future Prospects specialist support
- Audit and mapping of Council / City wide activity



Where are we now?

- Advice in Pubs, GP Surgeries
- Specialist support for ex-offenders, homeless, mental health issues.
- Money Management with Aviva
- YourHome, Housing Debt Workers
- CYC Benefits Advisors Door Knocking
- CAB Lottery Funding





Where do we want to be?

 Creation of a Citywide safety net for most financially excluded.

 Personalised financial information, advice and signposting available for all residents.

Co-ordination of existing good practice: CAB.
 Future Prospects, CYC, Welfare Benefits
 Unit, Housing Associations, Credit Union etc.





Why is this a challenge?

Traditionally hard to reach customers.

 Likely to access information through third parties rather than engage directly with CYC.

 Success requires a high level of co-ordination across the City.

 Early identification of vulnerable customers – early implementation of support mechanisms in schools, surgeries, with CYC debtors etc.





How will we get there?

Policy Statement and Action Plan which considers:

- Citywide financial advice and access points, targeting all residents but particularly the most vulnerable.
- Identification of a programme of proactive outreach campaigns in areas of specific need.
- Embedding Financial Inclusion within all council strategies and all directorates / service plans.





Breaking the Mould



Digital Connectivity

Community Bulk Buy Schemes

Food and Fuel Co-operatives

Travel to work loans







Long Term Vision

Levels of debt in York significantly reduced.

 Financial support services are easy to access and effectively co-ordinated.

 Everyone plays a part in the City's prosperity and feels they can benefit from it.

