

Poverty

Equality Scheme Priorities (Green: Achieved; Amber: In Progress)

Make child poverty everyone's business.

Reduce the proportion of children in child poverty and eliminate child poverty by 2020.

Decrease the number of lone parents out of work.

Work with Troubled Families over the next 3 years to reduce children's absences from school, increase adults working and help reduce anti-social behaviour and youth crime.

Support the registration for, and take-up of, free school meals.

Reduce the number of households in fuel poverty by increasing the number of properties benefiting from improved energy efficiency measures.

Child Poverty: Achievements

Partnership work is underway to tackle poverty in the city . The council together with Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York Press, York CAB, South Yorkshire Credit Union, the York Economic Partnership and the York Community chaplaincy have formed the Poverty Action Steering group and are implementing the poverty action plan.

Along with partners, we have also agreed to two innovative work programmes to address poverty in the city: Financial inclusion (£300k) – to help individuals access appropriate financial services enabling them to maximise their income, manage their money on a day-to-day basis, plan for the future and deal effectively with financial distress. Economic inclusion (£200k) – to help individuals gain the skills and knowledge to take advantage of the job opportunities available to them in the city and the region.

Child Poverty : Areas to Address

Encourage take up of Free School Meals. The % of primary pupils eligible for free school meals at year end as 11.1% a decrease on last years figure of 11.5%. The % of secondary pupils has remained stable at 8.4% for the last two years. However for both primary and secondary school pupils take up of free school meals in York is low compared to England, statistical neighbours and Yorkshire and The Humber.

Tackling poverty in the city will remain a priority. Priorities with focus on take of free school meals, undertaking a campaign on affordable eating, building on the generosity of York's Residents and businesses and explore options in partnership with the faith and businesses in the city to develop a York Poverty Action fund. This fund could be used to supplement funding to York Consortium and support anti poverty through a Call to Action. The potential to set up a York Giving/Fairer York accreditation scheme for local businesses that support the York Poverty fund with an optional extra charge on their goods/services will be explored.

A Child Poverty local needs assessment has been undertaken and the Child Poverty strategy has been refreshed which has been rated as outstanding by NCB.

An extra £50k of Council funding was added to the DWP funding to create the York Financial Assistance Scheme and £80k EIF funding was pledged to support the successful joint Big Lottery bid with CAB to develop closer partnership working with information and advice partners and increase the level of skilled benefits and money advice in the city.

Localities with the greatest poverty are targeted through the Citizens Advice Bureau 'Small Change Project' on family budgeting.

Following representation from the Youth Council to increase uptake of free school meals, a campaign has been implemented. The application process has been revised to make it easier for parents to claim and a cashless system for paying for meals in schools has been introduced to remove the stigma associated with claiming free school meals.

A new integrated family support service (IFS) has been established and also the Troubled Families Partnership Board. During 12/13, 112 newly identified families engaged with support, of these 99 are eligible for Payment by Results on achieving the agreed outcomes set by government.

IFS Families meeting the Troubled Families criteria for being out of work have action plans supporting them to make progress into work. Six families have achieved this since the service was launched in January; a number of others are well on the way to being employed

York's Performance status compared to others Green Better - Red Worse

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	Target	Trend	GB	Yorkshire & Humber
Number of lone parents out of work	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%		Decreased	1.2%	1.3%
	01/11/2009	01/11/2010	01/11/2011	01/11/2012	01/01/2013				
% of children living in worklessness households	6.8%	10.0%	9.6%	10.1%	6.1%		Decreased	14.9%	16.9%
	Jan-Dec 2008	Jan-Dec 2009	Jan-Dec 2010	Jan-Dec 2011	Jan-Dec 2012				
% in Child Poverty - national definition	13.3%	12.9%	12.5%				Decreased	20.10%	21.10%

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	13/14	Trend	Trend	GB		
% of children who are eligible for a free school meal in the primary sector - exc Danesgate (% of those eligible taking a free meal shown in brackets)		12% (76%)	11.6% (76.3%)	11.2% (75.4%)	10.3% (76.8%)		Decreased	18.10%	18.60%	
% of children who are eligible for a free school meal in the secondary sector exc Danesgate (% of those eligible taking a free meal shown in brackets)		8.5% (79%)	8.7% (80.4%)	8.75% (76.3%)	8.6%(76.3%)		Decreased			
Number of families identified (since the start of the programme) who meet the criteria for Troubled Families as set out in the Financial Framework (government estimate)				112	309		Increased			
Number of those identified troubled families started to work with (government target across the 3 years = 263).				99.00	251		Increased			
Fuel Poverty : Achievements							Fuel Poverty: Areas to Address			
The Council received funding to pilot an innovative community energy switching scheme in the city. The scheme is targeted in particular to areas experiencing fuel poverty although it will be open to anyone in York. £447k of DECC funds was awarded to install heating and insulation in the homes of fuel poor vulnerable residents.							Excess Winter deaths in those aged 85+			
Photovoltaic panels have been installed on over 400 Council homes with a target for a further 380 homes.										
CERT funding has also helped residents receive over 1200 energy efficient measures within their homes worth £341,000 and the Council has also received £123,000 to trial insulations for solid walls										

A new Home Energy Support Coordinator is now in place to offer practical, simple advice on fuel and money saving actions.

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	Target	Trend	GB	Yorkshire & Humber
1.17 - Fuel Poverty			11.0%		Awaiting Information			10.90%	10.97%
4.15i - Excess Winter Deaths Index (Single year, all ages)		19.2%	23.5%	14.6%	Awaiting Information			16.12%	15.47%
4.15ii - Excess Winter Deaths Index (single year, ages 85+)		28.4%	27.6%	29.6%	Awaiting Information			22.85%	23.69%

Food Poverty : Achievements

Food Poverty : Areas to Address

Residents suffering food poverty has been increasing. As part of the poverty strategy, cabinet have agreed funding for an affordable food campaign. The Council are working with York Press to deliver this campaign in the city in autumn 2013. This will consist of a leaflet delivered to target residents, in the press and at York food festival.

Tackling food poverty will remain a priority

A second food bank has been set up in Tang Hall with support from the Council. The first food bank was set up at The Gateway Centre in Acomb last year, run by registered charity The Trussell Trust and York Food bank. The Council provided £15,000 in funding towards fitting out the store, staff training and running the food bank

Teaming up with The Press in the crusade against poverty the York Harvest campaign took place during September. People across the city donated food to ensure that the city centre charity, Carecent were able to stock their shelves for a further 12 months. Additional collection points included Council offices at West Office and Hazel Court and The Press office.

City of York Council also support Edible York encouraging communities to establish edible community gardens across York one of which is located within the grounds of West Office the Council building.