

Single Equality Scheme priorities

The refresh of York's Single Equality Scheme is underway. As part of strengthening our partnership arrangements the document 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 (LGA) Equality Assessment programmed for January 2015. There is a number of inequality issues that need to be tackled summarised in the following priorities:

Economic Wellbeing: focuses on ensuring York enjoys good economic growth which tackles employment and training inequalities, particularly for women, lone parents, Black and Minority Ethnic (BaME) communities, young people, and disabled people, those with a mental health condition. Our economic strategies also focus on reducing the gender pay gap, increasing adoption of the 'Living Wage' and continuing the work on poverty particularly reducing the number of children living in poverty.

Learning and Educational Wellbeing : focus on reducing the numbers of people with no formal qualifications and improving educational attainment for children entitled to Free School Meals, Looked After Children , Gypsy and Traveller Children and those with Special Educational Needs.

Health and Wellbeing: focuses on tackling homelessness, health inequalities particularly those within deprived neighbourhoods, tackling alcohol, smoking and substance misuse issues amongst young people and pregnant women, reducing childhood obesity, working to reduce the increasing incidence of food poverty and fuel poverty, increasing the number of physical active adults, improving the support for those with a mental health condition and the increasing number of people with dementia and/or people suffering social isolation whilst enabling them to live independently within the community for as long as possible recognising the valuable contribution carers, young carers and communities make.

Community Wellbeing focuses on: York as a welcoming city, respecting and celebrating diversity.

Ensuring equality information is collected, monitored and used to improve access to services and service provision and tackles negative and discriminatory attitudes from the public and service providers towards BaME, Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT), disabled people, those with a mental health condition and deaf people. Continuing to empower communities to develop their own solutions to local issues enabling them to access, influence, and co-design and commission services to meet agreed outcomes. To build strong communities where people from different backgrounds respect each other and get on well together, where people feel safe and Hate Crime, bullying in schools (particularly against LGB pupils), Anti Social Behaviour, Honour Crime and Domestic Violence is tackled effectively and prevented. Improving housing conditions and increasing access to affordable housing for the elderly, disabled people, those with a mental health condition, Gypsy and Traveller Families and young people particularly those leaving care.