

The Priorities

Economic Wellbeing:

Ensuring that York enjoys good economic growth, decreasing the number of people on benefits, tackling inequality in employment and training, and addressing precarious employment (such as zero hour contracts), particularly for women, lone parents, BME communities, older people, young people, disabled people and those with a mental health condition.

Through our economic strategies we will also focus on reducing the gender pay gap, increasing adoption of the 'Living Wage' and continuing to tackle poverty particularly the number of children living in poverty.

Employment

To better connect York residents to economic opportunity the council's **Economic Inclusion Fund (EIF)** totalling £28.5m over a five-year period to 'kick start' initiatives that support York's economy, create jobs and secure investment has been created. This has helped support job Fairs in the City attracting over 1800 attendees.

York Business Week, now in its fifth year, has regularly attracted 7,000 business people to more than 20 events taking place in the city, and held events to encourage students into enterprise, through special school assemblies and enterprise competitions

A number of key business have located in York including Hiscox bringing 500 skilled jobs and flagship stores, including the John Lewis partnership bringing 300 jobs. Anaplan a fast-growing IT firm and Parsons Brinckerhoff, a global engineering consultancy are also setting up bases in York.

The number of people out of work in York has fallen over the last year to better than pre-recessions levels. (13/14)

Working age population 16-64 claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) has decreased. There has also been a reduction in young people 16-24, females, and BaMe applicants claiming

Centre for Cities, City Outlook 2014 ranks York 5th out of 64 of the largest cities and towns in the UK with the lowest JSA claimant count.

The EIF fund together with funding from the Leeds City Region has funded **The Head Start 18-24** programme This programme provides a one to one, intensive and customised programme of pre-employment and in-work Job Coaching and Mentoring support for longer term unemployed 18-24s, lone parents and ESA claimants in the same age group; The programme is funded until September 2015 and aims to support 98 young people into work.

Lone parents out of work at 0.6% is significantly below both national and regional figures at 1.2% and 1.3%.

Youth unemployment decreased by 50% one of the lowest proportions on record and has returned to pre-recession levels.

Work continues to improve working opportunities for young people with learning difficulties. Work is underway with Blueberry Academy (who provide specialist support for people with learning difficulties) to provide work experience opportunities and links to pre-apprenticeship programmes.

Adults with Learning disabilities in employment includes Supported employment (less than Min. Wage) has increased to 45.4% from 38.5%

Progress pathways into employment for those **recovering from mental health problems** have been developed.

The Umbrella Café, an employment project led by the Community Recovery Team at Sycamore House (a community resource centre for people recovering from mental health conditions) has won an award from Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust for 'Positive Experience' the Café offers specialist support to develop vocational skills enabling progression to enter or return to the work environment.

However ... The percentage of people in full time employment has decreased and is below both national and regional figures; while part time working has increased. York has a high proportion of part time female workers in the country.

% in full time work decreased from 67.7% (12/13) to 65.9 % (13/14)

% in part time work increased from 32.1% (12/13) to 33.6% (13/14)

% of Females working part time 52.5% ,higher than England at 41.7% and Regional figures at 43.4%

Long term unemployment (% of Job Seeker Allowance 16-64) claimants has been reducing. However some areas in York account for 54% of long term unemployed.

Four wards, Westfield, Heworth, Holgate and Clifton, account for 54% of the long term unemployed.

Key Actions

Improve access to better quality full time well paid jobs
Investigate why York has the highest proportion of part time female workers in the country
Establish a new employability hub at Rougier Street providing employability programmes and courses to help people move back into work
Support fair and accessible employment initiatives to increase employment opportunities for young people and in particular those with physical and learning difficulty or disabilities and mental health problems and people from BME communities
Develop more targeted programmes to reduce unemployment, with a focus on: Young People, 18-24, including graduates; Older Age, over 50s, workless and low income families, including lone parents
Deliver the Headstart programme for 18-24year olds to develop their employability skills

The pension age is increasing for females rising to 65 in 2018 and to 66 for all in 2020. The Pension age will continue to rise in line with continuing increases to life expectancy. Whilst a higher proportion of people aged 50-64 are in employment in 2013 since 2004, a lower proportion of people aged 65 and over are in employment in York than the regional and national rate.

The Council’s Economic Inclusion Fund has been used to commission ‘**Experience Work 50+**’ the delivery of this ‘age’ specific back to work support programme is delivered by York College in conjunction with National Careers Service and referrals from Job Centre Plus. The programme is funded until March 2015. To date 120 people have enrolled on the programme with 92 completions of these 22.5% have gained employment, 11.6% have gone onto further training and 2.5% are self employed.

To provide working opportunities for York’s ageing population it is important that the city adopts strategies to enable those older people who want or need to be in employment to do so.

Key Actions

Develop Strategies for older people to remain in the workforce
Continue to deliver Experience Work 50+ programme

Whilst initiatives have been implemented to enable people with learning difficulties and those suffering from mental health issues into work the percentages in work have reduced.

Adults with learning disabilities in paid employment reduced to 7.7% from 8.7%.

Adults in contact with secondary mental health services in paid employment reduced to 10. 3% from 11.9%

Key Actions

Work collaboratively to understand areas of under-representation in York’s workforce profile and develop strategies to address areas of under representation
Review the needs and ‘support offer’ to increase the employment chances and opportunities for the city’s most vulnerable adults and excluded groups
Support Fair and Accessible employment initiatives to increase employment opportunities for young people and in particular those with physical and learning difficulty or disabilities and mental health problems and people from BAME communities
Deliver the Route to Success Training Programme for Young People 16 -18 for those with high support needs to gain employment
Investigate the development and implementation of a ‘thumbs up’ or ‘diversity’ kite mark for York employers to support the most vulnerable adults and young people

Implement a Job Carving Pilot to support employment opportunities for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities

Apprenticeships

The York Apprenticeship Brokerage Service (funded by City Deals through Leeds City Region) is developing high quality professional Apprenticeship opportunities with SMEs that have not previously taken on apprentices.

The **100 Apprentices in 100 days 2014** campaign outstripped 2011 outcomes with 164 pledges for new Apprenticeships.

However ... Apprenticeship Starts have reduced to 1580 (2013/14) from the previous years figure of 1,668.

Key Actions

Through York's apprenticeship hub seek to increase apprenticeships for 16-24 year olds over the next three years, primarily with small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)

Support the 100 Apprentices in a 100 Days Campaign

NEET

In York the number of 16-18 year olds not in any form of education, employment or training (NEET) has been reducing. However, this is not the case for young people who have learning disabilities or difficulties, those finishing their YOT supervised order or Gypsy and Traveller Young People.

Key Actions

Focus targeted work on young people at risk of NEET as identified through joint work with schools.

Pay

Average earnings Gross Weekly pay at £523 has remained stable over the last two years. This figure is higher than Great Britain at £518.10 and the Regional figure of £479.10.

However ... The gender pay gap has continued to increase over the last 3 years in York and the difference between men and women's pay for 2013/14 was £96.90.

To tackle in work poverty as part of the largest living wage alliance York was the first council in the region to pay a 'Living **Wage**' benefiting 570 staff, working to encourage public and private sector employers in the city to pay the same so we can become a Living Wage City. The living wage has been implemented by Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Aviva, York St John's University, York CVS and York Citizens Advice Bureau and Nestlé

However ... Despite many organisations adopting the 'Living Wage' in York, 20% of employees in the city are still paid below that level. York CAB has carried out research showing that people on zero-hours contracts are being forced to take out payday loans. As well as continuing to encourage employers to adopt the 'Living Wage' we need to look at initiatives 'Beyond the Living Wage' to tackle in work poverty.

Key Actions

Encourage organisations to adopt the 'Living Wage' and develop 'Beyond the Living Wage' initiatives to tackle in work poverty and the gender pay gap.

Child Care

Good quality available childcare allows many people to go out to work. Over the last year good progress has been made in implementing the statutory requirement that an early education place is available for eligible 2 year olds. There has been significant progress in delivery of Phase 1 with the parents and carers of all 308 eligible for free child care places under phase 1 being contacted and 78% eligible 2 year olds having taken up funded places. Collaborative working has ensured there are sufficient high quality childcare places available for Phase 1. A successful recruitment drive around new childminders took place to assist with sufficiency issues in identified 'hot spot' areas.

City of York Council has been chosen to help develop childcare across the country because of its expertise in this area. The council's Childcare Service is taking part in a two-year government trial to help other areas develop childcare hubs. York was chosen because of the success of the award-winning *Shared Foundation Partnerships* which has been running for a number of years.

However ... A further 305 places need to be sought under phase 2 of the scheme to meet the government target.

Key Actions

Continue to develop flexible childcare provision in the city in accordance with the annual Childcare Assessment
Ensure sufficient quality childcare places are available for eligible 2-year-olds.
Support workless parents of two year olds receiving the new childcare entitlement into employment by the time their children reach 5 years old

Economic Wellbeing - Looking Ahead we aim to:

Increase	Decrease
Jobs in the city	The gender pay gap
People in full time employment	Lone Parents Out of Work
People with Learning Disabilities and with mental health conditions in employment	% of children living in worklessness households
Care Leavers in employment, education or training	People unemployed and claiming benefits
Apprenticeship Starts	Long Term Unemployed in deprived areas.
Older People 65 + employed	% of young people NEET who have a Learning Difficulty or Disability
The number of 16- 18 year olds in employment, education or training	% of young people ending their YPT supervised order who are NEET.
Organisations paying the Living Wage	
2 year olds taking up fee childcare places	
The number of good quality childcare places in the city	

Learning and Educational Wellbeing:
Improving the skills of York residents, increasing attainment of formal qualifications by people who don't have any.
We will focus on improving educational attainment for children entitled to Free School Meals, Looked after Children, Gypsy and Traveller Children, BME children, and those with Special Educational Needs.

Skills

York is one of the most skilled cities in the country ranking in the top ten of UK's 64 cities (2014) for higher level and basic qualifications and having amongst the lowest levels of working age adults with no qualifications.

York has the seventh lowest % (UK's 64 Cities 2014) of its working age population have no formal qualification at 6.5%

The % of young people who achieved a Level 2 qualification by 19 increased to 86.4% (2013/14) which is higher than both national and regional figures.

Unlocking York Talent, the city's first All Age Skills Strategy, launched in 2013, is grounded in a comprehensive Skills and Employment Assessment of Need which has been developed with the support and engagement of employers, education and training providers and job placement agencies and seeks to underpin the growth ambitions of the York Economic Strategy 'Reaching Further'. The strategy seeks to improve skills and employability opportunities for long term unemployed and vulnerable people including excluded groups.

Participation in basic literacy and numeracy courses has increased and has helped to overcome some of the basic skills barriers to employment, with a number of new programmes being funded to support the homeless, adults with learning difficulties and disabilities and Gypsy and Traveller Women.

Following an approach by Gypsy and Traveller Women, Literacy Classes have been implemented. Now in its third year attendance rates and achievements have been high. Many of the original group have gone on to complete second and third year courses and many have gained accreditation. The women have published a book of their own stories and delivered a workshop at a conference to let others know how developing literacy skills has had such a positive impact. A number of women have also gained employment.

However ... Whilst the majority of residents have better than average skills levels, there are a proportion of residents without or with low levels of skills, particularly in areas of deprivation.

10% of York's working age population do not have a Level 1 qualification.

13.4% of young people do not have a Level 2 qualification by 19.

% of young people who achieve a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 reduced from 63.7% (12/13) to 61.9%

Key Actions

Work with LEPS, funding agencies and training providers to maximise Government and European Funding flowing into the city to support York's skill priorities.

Work with York based providers to deliver an increasing number of high quality education and training options for young people aged 16-19 with learning difficulties/disabilities

Better utilise the talents of graduates and postgraduates.

Educational Attainment

As a city we are proud of our education system and our shared vision is to ensure that every child has a great education.

York achieved its best ever GCSE results in 2013 with 67% of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C including English and Maths. This placed York as one of the top (16th out of 152) local authorities in England. Provisional results for 2014 show that 64 per cent of young people achieved five or more A*-C grades including English and Maths GCSE on first entry. Results this year are not comparable to previous years because of changes made in the performance tables and significant changes to the examination system.

We have high performing schools and the small number rated as 'Inadequate' or 'Requires Improvement' continues to reduce.

The % of York schools rated 'Inadequate' by Ofsted reduced to 2% (13/14) from 5% (12/13)

The % of York schools rated 'Requires Improvement' by Ofsted reduced to 14% (13/14) from 20% (12/13)

Following learning from City Challenges (London and Greater Manchester) and the Kent *Every Lesson Counts* initiative, York has launched *York Challenge*. This aims to empower the city's schools to achieve excellence in the four key areas of leadership; curriculum; teaching and narrowing the gap to accelerate the progress of under-achieving children. Focusing on partnership working in geographical groups known as school improvement clusters, the emphasis is on ensuring that all schools become '*good*' or '*outstanding*'.

However ... For children in receipt of Free School Meals, children with Special Educational Needs and Looked after Children the gap in educational attainment is increasing.

In 2013 in York there were 3930 pupils eligible for free school meals, an approximate average of **300 per year group**. There is a considerable attainment gap between pupils who are in receipt of free school meals and other pupils.

By the age of 19, the gap in attainment between disadvantaged young people (as defined by them being in receipt of Free School Meals at age 15) and their peers is amongst the widest anywhere in the country. By the ages of 16 and 19, our system delivers outstanding outcomes for the cohort as a whole, but fails a significant proportion of young people, including those who are disadvantaged or who have other vulnerabilities such as Special Educational Needs (SEN).

To close the attainment gap the **York 300 project** (a research project) has been launched to identify these children and what strategies are working for children with similar characteristics elsewhere in the country so they can be adapted for York. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation will undertake an evaluation of the project, and the project will be reviewed after twelve months to determine whether interventions have made a difference to the lives of these children.

Educational attainment of Looked After Children (LAC) continues to be mixed – after improving between 2010 and 2012 (from 30% to 67%), results for KS2 Maths at L4+ have fallen in 2013 (to 50%) behind national LAC peers (57.8%). KS2 English at L4+ increased significantly for York LAC between 2008 and 2010 but in 2013, although York LAC are outperforming their peers in writing they are still behind in reading. Reading and maths are key priorities for the Looked after Children 'virtual school'.

Educational attainment of the Gypsy and Traveller community remains a priority.

Key Actions

Deliver the York Challenge to increase the number of schools rated as good or outstanding
Implement findings from the York 300 Project to reduce the educational gap of children and young people eligible for Free School Meals and SEN children and their peers.
Improve the outcomes for Looked After Children especially those placed outside of York through continuing to develop the work of the virtual school
Through the implementation of Service Level Agreements work with schools where there are higher numbers of Gypsy and Traveller Children to improve educational attainment. Raise awareness in schools re Traveller behaviour issues through delivery of training

Learning and Educational Wellbeing Priority - Looking Ahead we aim to:

Increase	Decrease
The number of people with a Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications	The % of people with no qualifications
The number of schools rated as 'Outstanding' or 'Good'.	
Educational attainment of Children on Free School Meals, Looked After Children, Children with Special Educational Needs and Gypsy and Traveller Children.	

Health and Wellbeing:

Working to improve health outcomes for those living within deprived neighbourhoods, preventing homelessness, reducing the increasing incidence of food and fuel poverty, tackling alcohol, smoking and substance misuse issues amongst young people and pregnant women, reducing obesity, particularly childhood obesity, and increase the number of physically active adults.

We will improve support for those with a mental health condition and the increasing number of people with dementia and/or suffering social isolation whilst enabling them to live independently within the community.

We will recognise the valuable contribution that volunteers, carers, young carers and communities make.

Homelessness

York takes a preventative approach to homelessness through partnership working and pro-actively engaging with those at risk of homelessness at an early stage. Over the last year homelessness has reduced against a back drop of high housing costs and the impact of welfare reforms. Households in temporary accommodation are the lowest they have been since 2010/11.

A Single Access Point referral scheme has been introduced which all resettlement, temporary and supported accommodation agencies use across the city. This is to ensure targeted support is provided for customers requiring floating support and supported accommodation regardless of the access route customer's use.

Streetlink a 24 hour helpline to help rough sleepers has been introduced and the number of beds available for though at risk of being rough sleepers has increased. York has been given status of 'rough sleepers' champions and mentors other local authority areas in best practice to tackle rough sleeping.

Since the opening of How Hill Young People Resettlement Service in early 2012, the numbers of 16-17 year olds accepted as homeless has significantly reduced from 40 (2010/11) to 1 (2013/14). The scheme provides intensive supported accommodation for young homeless people aged 16-21. This multi-agency service offers young people a staged approach to resettlement and tenancy sustainment and a planned route into accommodation rather than via the statutory homeless route giving them the skills to live independently.

York has also been chosen to host a MEAM (Making Every Adult Matter) project .The MEAM project focuses on individuals experiencing combinations of problems such as homelessness, substance misuse, mental ill health and offending and will target rough sleepers in York.

However... Whilst homelessness is being tackled effectively we will take a proactive approach to homeless prevention.

Key Actions

Implement the MEAM project
Improve the temporary housing offer and extend the resettlement service to increase support available to vulnerable members of our communities

Health

Provisional Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) figures show that for males, life expectancy for York has increased slightly to 79.6 years higher than the English Average at 79.2 and that for female’s life expectancy has also increased slightly to 83.2 years, higher than the English average at 83.

York’s population is on the whole healthy (83.9% stated that they are in very good or good health compared to 80% regionally and 81.2% nationally) according to latest Census Data 2011. 92% of York’s Black and Minority Ethnic population consider themselves in good or very good health, higher than the White British population.

York has lower levels of disability than regionally and nationally.

York is 2nd lowest in the region for where there is one person in a household with a long-term health problem or disability with dependant children (3.2%). 19.8% of these households have no dependant children, 3rd lowest in the region.

6.6% of the population have a long-term health problem or disability which significantly limits their day to day activities, lower than regionally (9.1%) and nationally (8.5%).

The number of disabled people taking part in physical activity is increasing helped by initiatives such as 'Celebrate Ability Week'.

The annual Celebrating Ability Day has been extended to a week long event 'Celebrating Ability Week'. This week-long celebration of sport and physical activities for disabled people, reflects the growth in disabled sport participation post Paralympics. It celebrated disabled people's ability to take part in and play sport, and highlighted the increasing number of sporting opportunities available for disabled people in York. Over 100 people took part in different activities, all of which were provided by local clubs or groups. Two of the events also had an impairment specific theme and provided opportunities for Deaf or hearing impaired individuals, as well as people with sight loss organised in conjunction with the Wilberforce Trust, the York Blind and Partially Sighted Society and British Blind Sport to take part .

However ... There is a disparity in health outcomes between the more affluent and more deprived areas. Life expectancy differs between richest and poorest. Data for 2010-2012 suggests an improved (shortened) life expectancy gap for men in York (8.5 years in 2009-2011 down to 7.2 years) but a worse (increased) life expectancy gap for women in York (5.6 years in 2009-2011 up to 5.9 years). Locally, the gap is reducing for males but increasing for females.

The main specific causes of death contributing to life expectancy in York in 2009-11 for males were coronary heart disease and chronic obstructive airways disease. For females it was chronic obstructive airways disease and lung cancer.

Key Actions

Support Recruitment campaigns to recruit , train and support health and wellbeing champions within organisations who then support individuals from within their own communities experiencing poorer health outcomes by signposting and providing health and wellbeing information and supporting older people who are isolated to participate in the social groups or communities that are available in York.

Smoking, alcohol use and obesity have a significant impact on the health of our residents.

Smoking

Smoking prevalence in York is lower than the national average and York is already meeting the target for adult smoking prevalence (18.5% or less by the end of 2015)

However ... too many pregnant women continue to smoke. York is not currently meeting the target of 11% or less at the time of delivery. York aspires to be a 'no smoking city, which means less than 5% of the adult population smoking by 2025. Although smoking prevalence of routine and manual workers is below the English and Regional average it has increased.

Key Actions

Employers in the city to support 'No Smoking Campaigns'
Establish an effective York model for tobacco control and establish a York Tobacco Alliance and implement the NICE guidance 'Quitting smoking in pregnancy and following childbirth.
Secure continuous funding and a location for Yorbabe the young parents to be ante natal service which holds sessions on smoking cessation, drug and alcohol use.

Alcohol

Specialist local alcohol treatment services are provided in York by York Lifeline

A series of measures have been put in place to attempt to reduce levels of excess alcohol consumption in the city. An Alcohol Restriction Zone (ARZ) has been put in place allowing the police to easily move people who are seen to be consuming alcohol in an irresponsible manner which is likely to lead to anti-social behaviour. More recently, this has been expanded; many of the trains to and from the North East have become 'dry' where no alcohol is taken onto the trains.

Following learning from Yorkshire Ambulance Service in Leeds which helped over 700 people last year a Community Medical Unit (CMU) a collaboration between City of York Council’s Safer York Partnership (SYP), Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust (YAS) and Street Angels became operational in June 2014 and is a bespoke unit with a waiting and clinical assessment/treatment area on board where Emergency Care Practitioners assess, treat and discharge appropriate patients with minor illnesses or injuries – therefore reducing admissions to York Hospital’s Emergency Department. A night-bus operated by York’s Street Angels is parked on weekends and race days where people can stop, rest and sober up a little prior to going home.

However Alcohol consumption continues to present a challenge with 29.7% of adults over 18 drinking at “increasing risk levels”. York has the 7th worst estimated levels of binge drinking in the country.

Key Actions

Work with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team and Young Persons Substance Misuse Group, to improve information and support a change in culture to reduce the harm caused by binge drinking and substance misuse.
Develop an alcohol strategy for York to include consideration of; licensing, harm prevention, interventions and brief advice, crime and disorder, hospital based and specialist treatment services, parental alcohol misuse, risky behaviours in young people, and older people and alcohol
Work with York Universities , Colleges and Schools in York to raise awareness of the detriments of excess alcohol consumptions by young people
Explore the potential to develop a SMART recovery mutual aid group for young People (16-25) to support young people with substance misuse issues and addictions to recover

Obesity

Lack of physical activity can contribute to people becoming obese. In York a significantly higher proportion of the population are physically active, 61.5% of the population compared to the England average of 56%. York has the second lowest proportion of people in Yorkshire & the Humber recorded as taking part in no physical activity.

However ... Almost a quarter of the population in York are inactive and although the prevalence of excess weight in adults is estimated to be 58.4%, which is lower than both the English and Regional averages there are still too many people in York who are obese. Whilst the proportion of overweight and obese children remains lower than the national average, (22.2 per cent for reception and 33.3 per cent for year six in 2012/13) a more detailed analysis at a ward level illustrates some marked difference according to localities. In the Guildhall Ward children in year 6 who are obese is higher than the national average as are reception children in the Westfield Ward.

The Children and Young People’s Weight Management Pilot Programme has been implemented designed through consultation with families and local community partners including voluntary agencies to tackle childhood obesity. This programme will be rolled out across the City

Key Actions

Implement findings from Children and Young People’s Weight Management pilot across York.
Deliver sport and active leisure programmes to increase the number of people taking part in physical activity.
Reinforce the message on healthy eating

Poverty

To help those in financial difficulties York Financial Assistance Scheme was launched April 2013 and through this the council provides non – mandatory financial help to vulnerable people. It helps individuals and families who need emergency financial support. Since April 2013, 1138 people have received support and of these, 176 were under 25.

A key priority over the last year which will remain so is to reduce poverty in the city. The Financial Inclusion Strategy Group comprising council officers, Citizen Advice Bureau and South Yorkshire Credit Union have been implementing successful initiatives through the use of £300k awarded from the Council’s Economic Inclusion Fund (EIF) to deliver its action plan. £80k of EIF was award to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) who levered in £250k lottery funding and established the ‘Advice York Partnership to deliver a two-year project to transform citywide advice

provision. CAB is the lead partner, with all agencies taking a 'no wrong door' policy approach.

Following lobbying by York's Youth Council £60k EIF was awarded for cashless payment systems to be installed in three secondary schools aimed at increasing the uptake of Free School Meals.

% of children eligible in the primary sector taking a free school meal increased to 76.8%. The % of children eligible in the secondary sector taking a free school meal remained stable at 76.3%

The Financial Inclusion Steering Group have recently worked with the England Illegal Money Lending Team to develop an anti-loan shark campaign, including the introduction of an anti-loan shark charter, which is the first in Yorkshire and only the sixth nationally. This charter was launched in October 2013.

City of York Council approved a vision for a 'poverty –free York' building on the work of the York Poverty Action Group a partnership between the Council, The Press, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, church representatives, the NHS, the Citizens Advice Bureau, the South Yorkshire Credit Union and the York Economic Partners

Housing and poverty was the focus of York's *Housing Week 2013* which saw a total of 25 events during the week with over 600 people attending. Following on from this Housing Services are supporting Rental Exchange. A scheme developed by Big Issue and Experian to help build up the credit scores of Social Housing tenants using their rent payment histories. This service is being introduced for CYC tenants and potential other York based social housing tenants. 66% of CYC tenants will immediately see an increase in their credit score as a result of incorporating their rental data to the credit bureau database giving them access to affordable credit and financial data.

Earlier this year, the council Supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York's Citizens Advice Bureau and Age UK York got together with switching expert iChooser to make it easier for everyone to switch and save money on their ever increasing fuel bills. February's switch was a big success and 751 York residents signed up.

On average, each household in York who switched energy tariffs saved £169. Community energy champions, supported with training by the new Home Energy Support coordinator are working with residents to reduce fuel poverty.

Fuel poverty continues to be an issue. The number of excess winter deaths in the over 85's has increased and is higher than both English and Regional figures

To tackle food poverty in the City, following the success of last year's York Harvest campaign the Press and other employers in the city have run a second campaign. Carecent and York Foodbank benefit from the food donations received.

However Whilst overall York is a prosperous city, there are still too many people facing poverty with 9000 workless households and 4,500 children living in poverty with some areas of the city above regional and national figures. The number of Food Bank distribution centres in the city has been increasing. York food bank has been open for two years and now has 4 distribution centres located in some of York's most deprived wards. Data from York Food Bank shows that 1,245 vouchers, in the 12 months to January 2014, to help feed 1,780 adults and 930 children were redeemed.

Key Actions (In addition to actions outlined under Economic Wellbeing)

Explore potential for external funding to develop an environmental plan aimed at reducing carbon footprint and fuel poverty
Broker the best deals for Energy Switching schemes
Maximise the impact of the Energy Company Obligation to reduce fuel costs in the most deprived areas and the hardest to heat homes.
Extend debt advice centres in GP surgeries and Community Hubs
Undertake campaigns on affordable eating
Increase the number of cashless systems in schools to encourage uptake of free school meals

An Ageing Population

The growing needs of our ageing population and particular challenges around mental health and emotional wellbeing of older people present a challenge. In York it is thought that there are 2,725 people currently living with dementia and this is expected to rise to 3,209 by 2020.

York is an early adopter of a national recognition pilot for dementia friendly communities led by the Alzheimer's Society. Partnership work is underway to make York a *dementia friendly* city. Initiatives are being implemented to raise awareness, educate and support residents, businesses, communities and services to find solutions to the problems dementia raises.

There is a rising need for aids/adaptations and 'stay at home' services to support independence. Last year nearly 3000 customers benefited from the Warden Call and Telcare Service.

At 34.8 % the number of adults and carers receiving self directed support is low and those receiving this support via a direct payment has continued to reduce from 14.4% (11/12) to 9.39% (13/14).

There are a high percentage of people who suffer from social isolation. In 13/14 only 43% of adult social care users reported that they have as much social contact as they would like.

A free resource pack providing ideas on how to tackle loneliness is available from <http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/loneliness-resource-pack> . The resource pack is an outcome of the research project supported by Joseph Rowntree to tackle Loneliness. In York two areas took part. Research findings found that the main causes of loneliness were due to ageing, family issues, not knowing neighbours, a lack of community facilities and chances to get involved with the community. York's Lidgett Grove Methodist Church established a very successful Community Café offering company and activities, initially starting as a pilot it has been so well-supported and popular that it has continued beyond the pilot timescale and work is underway to develop the facility into a Community Hub.

Key Actions

Continue to implement Dementia Friendly initiatives'
Develop initiatives' to tackle loneliness and social isolation drawing on the resource pack produced following the research into loneliness by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.
Increase community involvement from schools with elderly person sheltered housing schemes to tackle loneliness and isolation
Implement initiatives to increase the uptake of self directed support
Continue to market the services of Warden Call and Telecare to increase take up

Disabled People in York

Health Watch York (an independent consumer champion that gathers and represents the views of the public about health and social care users) have recently completed two research projects: Discrimination by Disabled People in York and Access to Health and Social Care Services for deaf people. Findings from the research found that disabled people are subjected to negative comments and both reports suggest that life for disabled people and deaf people could be improved through increased awareness raising about living with impairment, awareness-raising of issues disabled and deaf people face and better training for staff in all professions, particularly those in public-facing roles. The reports conclude that it is important that organisations are fully aware of their obligations under the Equality Act 2010 which requires service providers to avoid unlawful discrimination against disabled people and make reasonable adjustments to enable them to access services.

Key Actions

Revise Equality Plan Action Plan to incorporate actions approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board to tackle discrimination and improve access to services for disabled people and those suffering from an impairment

Mental Health

It is estimated that at any one time there are around 25,000 York residents experiencing various kinds of mental health problems, ranging from anxiety and depression to severe and enduring conditions including dementia and schizophrenia. Much of this can go under the radar. There is a need to improve understanding of the full range of mental health needs in the city.

Key Actions

Undertake detailed research on the full range of mental health needs in the city and report findings to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Promote mental health wellbeing in the workplace
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Carers

There are over 18,000 carers in York, many of whom have been caring for their relatives or friends for a considerable period of time of these 1146 are young carers aged under the age of 25.

York has further underlined its commitment to carers with the city's Health and Wellbeing Board adopting the national Carers' Charter, enshrining a commitment to empower and support carers, and inviting a number of carers to share their experiences with the Board. It is hoped that other organisations within the City will adopt the Carers' Charter. City of York Council has also helped to develop a national toolkit to help commissioners plan for and deliver services for Carers.

City of York Council has helped create a national toolkit to support health and social care professionals plan services for carers. The toolkit gives providers an overview of the services for carers in their local area helping to address gaps in provision, pinpoint which groups and communities are being served and improve communication between carers, service commissioners and providers.

However ... Carers are often a forgotten part of a local community and it's crucial that care commissioners ensure that services are available for and tailored to carers. It is estimated that around a third of young carers provide care for someone with a serious mental health problem who is their parent or holds a parental role.

Surveys to assess the impacts upon young carers point to raised risk of stress, anxiety, low self esteem, depression, eating problems, sleeping difficulties and self harm as well as poorer educational attainment

It is expected that there will be an increase in both the number of older people being supported by carers, as well as the number of older carers. It is likely that more people will become 'mutual carers' where two or more people, each experiencing ill health or disability, will care for each other.

Key Actions

Encourage more organisations to adopt the Carers Charter
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Volunteers

York is renowned as a volunteering city. The city has a large and varied voluntary and community sector, with 22 international, 108 national and 627 local charities based in York. People of all ages and backgrounds volunteer in the city to help others, as well as to develop their own skills and gain new experience. Volunteers enable a huge amount of valuable work to take place in the city; work that otherwise wouldn't happen.

A new social care hub has opened in Rougier House. Its key role is to support voluntary and community organisations to complement health and social care services across the city and improve the lives of vulnerable Residents.

A locally devised York Charter for Volunteering detailing a set of standards has been developed which provides a framework and principles around volunteering

However... Whilst many people do volunteer data from the council's Big York Survey shows that out of 2,144 respondents 447 (21%) volunteer at least once per week (slightly less the national average). Over 45% of respondents highlighted that lack of time prevented them for volunteering. Whilst many employers in York have their own staff volunteering schemes we need to encourage more employers to support volunteering activities.

Key Actions

Encourage more employers to develop staff volunteering programmes and adopt York's Charter for Volunteering.

Health and Wellbeing Priority - Looking Ahead we aim to:

Increase	Decrease
<p>The number of households for whom positive action has prevented homelessness</p> <p>Life Expectancy in York's most deprived Wards</p> <p>The % of physically active adults and disabled people in sport and leisure activities</p> <p>% of children in primary and secondary schools taking a free school meal</p> <p>Increase the number of people living independently</p> <p>Self reported well-being</p> <p>Number of adults , older people and carers receiving self directed support and the proportion who receive this via direct debit</p> <p>Number of people volunteering at least once per week</p>	<p>The number of children in poverty</p> <p>Fuel Poverty</p> <p>Excess winter deaths for 85+</p> <p>Obesity in Children and Adults</p> <p>Smoking by women, pregnant women and those in routine and manual occupations</p> <p>The % of over 18's drinking at increasing and at risk levels</p> <p>People feeling lonely and isolated.</p>

Community Wellbeing:

Making York a welcoming city, respecting and celebrating diversity, building strong communities where people from different backgrounds respect each other and get on well together, where people feel safe and children are happy, tackling and preventing hate crime, bullying in schools (particularly against LGB pupils), anti-social behaviour, honour crime and domestic violence.

We will 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.

We will improve housing conditions and increase access to affordable housing for the elderly, disabled people, those with a mental health condition, the BME community, Gypsy and Traveller Families and young people particularly those leaving care.

We will ensure that equality information is collected, monitored and used to improve access to services and service provision, and we will tackle negative and discriminatory attitudes from the public and service providers towards BME, LGBT, disabled people, those with a mental health condition and deaf people.

Welcoming City

York has a long history of being a welcoming city embedded in the City's history. In the Middle Ages, the Sanctuary Knocker on the north door of York Cathedral gave anyone who had committed a serious offence, the opportunity to claim sanctuary by knocking at this door.



Bring Hope All Ye Who Enter

York is passionate about welcoming all and celebrating diversity. Organisations in the City are working to make York a vibrant, diverse, fair and safe city. 90.8% of York's population were born within the UK, with 2.7% born in other EU countries and 5.5% born outside the EU. 3,678 arrived in York between 2010 and 2011 which is the highest proportion in the region.

York is seeking recognition as a City of Sanctuary and a Human Rights City. York’s City of Sanctuary movement welcoming refugees and asylum seekers are working in partnership with City of York Council seeking recognition for York as a City of Sanctuary.

Work is also underway for York to be declared a Human Rights City. The York Human Rights City Network has received continued funding for another three years from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Over the next three years, a regular programme of training, events and festivals in York will highlight human rights issues both locally and globally.

York also hosts a programme of events to celebrate diversity including for the second year running holding York’s International Celebration of Faith and Culture. Other events and celebrations include Refugee Week, Gay Pride, and Black History Month etc.

York as a ‘Welcoming City’ is a key priority for York’s Fairness and Equalities Board.

Key Actions

Achieve City of Sanctuary Status
Achieve Human Rights City Status
Implement ‘ Welcoming City’ initiatives including creating worship space for the small faith communities who are not in a position to have their own premises
Develop a Domestic Violence Strategy
Support campaigns on Domestic Violence and No to Hate Crime Campaigns and raise awareness of these issues within organisations

Crime and Anti Social Behaviour and Domestic Violence

York is a relatively safe city. Crime has fallen across the city for the eighth consecutive year falling by 5% on the previous year. This aspect of York is well recognised by those who reside here. Results of the Big York survey 2013 showed an increasing percentage of residents who feel York to be a safe place to live at 80% and a stable percentage of residents who feel their local area is safe 79%. However, people living in deprived areas and disabled people are less likely to agree.

Hate Crime has reduced from 169 incidents in 2009/10 to 98 in 2013/14. The highest number at 82 was in relation to race.

The number of reported cases of Anti Social Behaviour reduced from 13,892 (2012/13) to 13,047 in 2013/14. Working together, the council, NYP and the Police and Crime Commissioner have agreed a ground-breaking approach to tackling ASB and nuisance in the city. Through the creation of the ASB Hub, resources, powers and expertise from NYP and CYC have been merged, bringing a more efficient, timely and appropriate response to ASB in the city.

The City has been working to address alcohol related crime a recent study found that alcohol related attendance in York's hospital had reduced since 2011.

A York Hospital study (called *The Influence of Alcohol on York Emergency Department*) has reported how partnership working through the Safer York Partnership's (SYP) Alcohol, Violence and Night time Economy (AVANTE) task group has helped to address alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour in York and reduced alcohol related attendance in York Hospital's Emergency Department reducing from 19.7% in 2011 to 14.9% in 2013-14.

A new multi-agency Safeguarding Hub and Central Referral Unit has been located at the council's West Offices. The unit oversees joint teams from City of York Council, North Yorkshire County Council and the police who work together to prevent and deal with serious crimes of abuse such as child sexual exploitation and serious domestic violence.

In the past year the York Health and Wellbeing Board has established a domestic violence strategy group with membership from all the relevant agencies and representatives from the CYSCB. The group's role is to develop a York Domestic Abuse strategy and action plan. The Council has been awarded White Ribbon City status in recognition of its commitment to raising awareness of the issues of domestic abuse and violence against women and children.

While the number of repeat incidents of domestic violence has decreased the number of domestic violence incidents has increased from 2,476 (12/13) to 2,823 (13/14).

Bullying in Schools

City of York Council undertake surveys in primary and secondary schools covering physical health, emotional wellbeing and bullying. In 2013 1,559 Year 8 and 2,540 Year 4, 5 and 6 completed the survey. The 2013 equality data from the secondary school submission showed that, although being called 'gay' was not the most prevalent reason for being bullied; it had increased and is now a key focus within the CYC Anti Bullying Strategic Plan. Tackling bullying and homophobic bullying in schools will remain a priority for this plan.

However ... Although the number of hate crimes reported in York is relatively low many feel that these numbers are unrepresented and many incidents go unreported. There has been a 14% increase in the number of domestic abuse incidents compared to last year and this includes a 3% increase in the number of incidents involving 16 – 18 year olds. The biggest category for domestic abuse is 20 – 25 year olds. North Yorkshire has developed a risk identification check list in collaboration with young people, for use with young people up to the age of 25. In York the number of children with a Child Protection Plan reduced slightly from 38 to 36. Neglect is the largest single category of child protection plans, often alongside other forms of maltreatment including domestic abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. Many children who live within neglecting families are disadvantaged from early life and encounter social, emotional, behavioural and educational difficulties as they grow older.

Key Actions

Develop a Domestic Violence Implementation Plan for York
Implement a Domestic Violence Early Intervention Project
Support campaigns on Domestic Violence and raise awareness of these issues within organisations
Support 'No to Hate Crime' Campaigns and raise awareness of these issues within organisations raising awareness on how hate crime can be reported

Housing

Housing costs remain a challenge. York is one of the most expensive places to buy or rent in the region. York requires over 1,000 new homes each year to meet housing need including the need for affordable housing.

The ambitious Get York Building Programme is creating much needed new private and social housing. Six major sites are now in progress, supporting the Local Plan ambition to build 22,000 homes by 2030.

As well as building new housing it is critical that we make the best use of existing homes. In 2013/14 over 100 empty properties were returned to use. In York, one in five households rent from the private sector, where some of the worst conditions can be found. In 2013 the council introduced a Landlord Accreditation Scheme to improve standards. Funding was successfully sought to increase the number of sites for the Gypsy Roma and Traveller Community.

A Supported Housing Strategy has been developed to address the supported housing needs of the City, and to prioritise resources appropriately. The strategy examined the needs of seven groups: older people, mental ill-health, learning disabilities, young people, offenders, homeless people and substance misuse.

A higher percentage of adults with learning disabilities in settled accommodation was achieved in 13/14 at 82.6% higher than both English and regional figures

The % of adults in contact with secondary mental health services living independently with or without support increased from 63.9% to 68.6% (13/14). Higher than both English and Regional figures

The housing needs of BME and Migrant Workers was looked at in 2009. The study revealed that the housing needs of this community were largely met in terms of accommodation they occupied but that there was a need to increase awareness of and access to housing advice and information for these groups.

However ... More housing to support vulnerable people is required. For example, there are currently a number of people with a mental health diagnosis who are not able to have their accommodation needs met through the existing housing stock, either due to the demand, or because they have a dual diagnosis (for example a mental health condition coupled with substance misuse issues) which make them unsuitable for

the accommodation a available. Alternative medium term supported housing is required.

Key Actions

- Implement the ‘Get York Building’ programme to increase the number of private and social housing in the City.
- Improve housing conditions in the Private Sector and review the success of the Landlord Accreditation Scheme.
- Develop proposals to use a block of twelve council flats as a supported mental health scheme in Queen Anne’s road. This would provide 10 units and an office potentially managed through the health service.
- Increase the number of accommodation units for people with learning difficulties and mental health issues.
- Implement the Gypsy and Traveller Choice Programme to improve the conditions of pitches.

Community Wellbeing Priority - Looking Ahead we aim to:

Increase	Reduce
<p>% of people who think York is a Safe City</p> <p>% of people who agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together.</p> <p>Net additional homes</p> <p>Number of new affordable homes</p> <p>Housing accommodation for the most vulnerable in particular for Disabled people and those suffering from a mental illness</p> <p>The number of homes meeting safety standards in the private sector</p> <p>The number of Landlords signing up to the Landlord Accreditation Scheme.</p>	<p>Hate Crimes</p> <p>Incidents of Domestic Violence.</p> <p>The number of Children subjected to a Child Protection Plan</p>