

The Big Picture in York & North Yorkshire

Extracts from Area Assessments

An event for voluntary and community groups was held on the 12th February 2010 at the Prioory Street centre, York to explore what the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) results say about empowerment and engagement in **York and North Yorkshire**.

The event was organised by the Yorkshire & Humber Regional Forum and the Regional Empowerment Partnership

The extracts from the 2009 Area Assessments for each locality were presented at the meeting and reproduced below.

Full details can be found at

<http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/Pages/default.aspx>



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The Yorkshire and Humber
Regional Empowerment
Partnership brings together a
range of statutory agencies,
voluntary and community
organisations, networks and
people running community
empowerment activities.
It is managed by COGS



National
Empowerment
Partnership

Managed by the
Community
Development
Foundation

Funded by the
Department for
Communities and
Local Government

The Big Picture in York and North Yorkshire: Extracts from the 2009 Area Assessment for North Yorkshire

North Yorkshire is the largest county in England, covering around 3,103 square miles. It includes the urban areas of Harrogate and Scarborough, the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks, and many small towns and villages.

595,500 people live in the County, and population density is low. Only one in every hundred is from a black and minority ethnic (BME) background, but this proportion is growing. Almost 19 per cent of the population is over 65 and this is expected to rise to nearly 24 per cent by 2018

NI 1 % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area

80.7% in best 20%

NI 2 % of people who feel they belong to their local neighbourhood

67.5% in best 5%

NI 3 % of residents involved in civic participation in the local area

16.3% in best 20%

NI 4 % of residents who agree that they can influence decisions affecting their local area

30% average

NI 5 overall/general satisfaction with local area

87.1% in best 10%

NI 6 % of residents participating in regular volunteering

29.5% in best 5%

NI 7 environment for a thriving third sector

15.5% average

How well do priorities for North Yorkshire express community needs and aspirations?

The needs and aspirations of North Yorkshire's people are only partially reflected in the priorities the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership is working on. This means that some needs and wishes of North Yorkshire people will not be met. More work is underway to help the partners better understand its more vulnerable communities and the extent to which their needs are met.

In developing the sustainable community strategy for North Yorkshire Community partners got an understanding of community needs. The county strategy is reflected in the strategies for each District. North Yorkshire organisations have good intelligence and information available to them on what needs exist. Arrangements for getting local people involved in shaping their areas are in place and developing. Examples of these include the work going on in Hambleton and Selby. The partners are building a comprehensive understanding of what aspirations communities have.

The sustainable community strategy for the county as a whole doesn't contain any targets. These are in the local area agreement agreed with the government described below. The strategy does have the long-term vision and 10 medium term (3 years) high-level priorities. Although each priority highlights up to 6 key aims these are broad and not expressed as outcomes that people would be able to experience for themselves. The link between the strategy and what people will experience is the local area agreement.

This contains 31 targets agreed with government in June 2008. Many indicators mirror greatest need but others do not. Some chosen targets are areas where performance is already good. And some areas of poor performance which affect the most vulnerable, such as housing for young offenders, are not included.

In common with other areas the partnership published the joint strategic needs assessment for health and well-being after the local area agreement. The knowledge gained in completing this assessment has not therefore shaped the priorities chosen for health. But the strategy for the area had anticipated most of the needs assessment's content.

Community cohesion

North Yorkshire's people can be vulnerable for a number of reasons. If you are a gypsy or traveller you may not have a safe place to live that enables your children to get to school. If you don't have a car and live in the countryside you may not easily be able to get to health or other services. If your partner is in the armed forces you may be left to raise your family whilst worrying about their safety.

Organisations in North Yorkshire are working hard to make sure they understand the needs and wishes of the area's vulnerable. For example good joint working between the public and voluntary sectors is leading to volunteers coming forward from black and minority ethnic, unemployed and disabled communities.

Local crime and disorder reduction partnerships - there's one for each of the seven districts in the county - have now set up contact points away from main centres. These points allow local policing teams to spend more time actually out in the community not least by cutting down travelling time. North Yorkshire Police has also set up over 80 reporting points across the county where people can report hate crimes. These points include places like libraries that are less intimidating.

North Yorkshire Police is making good progress with its scheme involving people in a range of work. The MoD plays a full role in partnerships in the area and relationships between it and other public sector organisations is close and fruitful.

The two National Parks make extensive use of volunteers in their work. For example, North York Moors National Park has 700 regular volunteers.

Partners plan to do more to meet the needs of the more vulnerable. We will look at how these plans get delivered and assess the difference that they make to the lives of these people. We will watch developments in Scarborough on the Seamer Fair and what this means for its residents' relationship with the gypsy and traveller community.

The Big Picture in York and North Yorkshire: Extracts from the 2009 Area Assessment for York

York City and its surrounding area include the historic walled city, the suburbs and a large area of countryside. Four million visitors each year bring wealth into the area as well as disruption and congestion. The total population is 195,400: 4.9 per cent of which come from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities. The proportion of people from BME communities doubled between 1991 and 2001 and is expected to grow further in the next few years. York's population is growing and is projected to rise by 4.2 per cent between 2001 and 2011 and by a further 8.3 per cent up to 2021. The total number of students is around one-tenth of the population.

Working together for disabled children

NI 1 % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area

79.4% in top third

NI 2 % of people who feel they belong to their local neighbourhood

55.1% average

NI 3 % of residents involved in civic participation in the local area

12.7% average

NI 4 % of residents who agree that they can influence decisions affecting their local area

31.7% in best third

NI 5 overall/general satisfaction with local area

87.4% in top 10%

NI 6 % of residents participating in regular volunteering

23% average

NI 7 environment for a thriving third sector

19.7% in best 20%

Working together for disabled children

Strong partnership working, including the involvement of parents, is having a significant and positive impact on the lives of children with disabilities in York. In early 2009, parents of disabled children in York gave the city's quality of health, education, social care and support for their children the highest score in the country.

The views of disabled children and their parents are at the heart of the way services are delivered. Disabled young people have completed accessibility surveys of leisure services and helped schools write their Disability Equality Schemes. The issues they raised have resulted in changes to the way services are provided. The long-standing parent forum, CANDI, (Children and Inclusion) is a dynamic group that has co-written, and jointly leads, two levels of unique disability equality training for all staff and universal providers. CANDI supports participation of parents and young people at every level and has helped to ensure parent and carer representation in strategic planning for services in the city.

How well do priorities for York express community needs and aspirations?

The needs and aspirations of York's people are reflected to a great extent in the priorities the Without Walls Partnership (WoW) is working on. The partnership has a clear shared set of ambitions for the City for the next 20 years or so.

The local area agreement and Sustainable Community Strategy are based on a good understanding of local needs. The local area agreement has 35 national and 13 local indicators within the priority themes for the City. The City's priorities are based on a clear vision and challenging ambitions, underpinned by priorities which have been influenced by the views of local people. The preparation of the sustainable community strategy involved an extensive consultation exercise, a robust assessment of current performance and analysis of the issues facing the city.

Partners are ambitious for the City and all its people. It was informed by a wide ranging consultation such as the 'Festival of Ideas' which used approaches such as radio debates, conferences and neighbourhood consultations and targeted communities of interest, such as older people, people with disabilities, representatives from BME communities and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) residents.

Local communities are getting increasingly involved in decision making through neighbourhood management with local action plans setting out the ambitions and actions for local areas. A more comprehensive approach to engagement with local communities has recently been adopted. The impact of this is not yet clear. Before its introduction the results of consultation were not being shared in a systematic way. Partners did not know whether all groups in local communities have had a chance to contribute.

The Inclusive City

Local partners want York's citizens to feel included in the life of the area. They plan to achieve this by improving prospects for all, tackling poverty and exclusion and making services and facilities easy to access.

York's community is changing, with an increasing number of people from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds coming to live in the city. Although most local

people think York is a pleasant place to live people from BME communities are much less positive about the city. People from these communities believe that York is a less welcoming and tolerant place than people from other communities think is the case. Although more than half the population of the city feel they belong to their local neighbourhood, fewer than one in five people from BME communities feel the same way. Some of the needs of these communities are being met but organisations in the city know they don't yet fully understand the needs of the growing BME community. Public sector partners know they will need to alter the way they work to address these differences.

The needs of other groups, such as older people, children and young people, and people with disabilities, are more likely to be met. And much work is going on to ensure people from the less well-off parts of the city are not disadvantaged. Public sector agencies are working together to help people from these neighbourhoods into employment and make sure they get the benefits they are entitled to.

There are some examples of how local people have been involved in issues affecting them, but this has not happened in a consistent way with different communities in the city. Partners have now agreed a comprehensive community engagement strategy. Turning this into action is an important priority for the City.

**7 indicators relating to:
Empowerment, cohesion, third sector**

NI 1 % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area

NI 2 % of people who feel they belong to their local neighbourhood

NI 3 % of residents involved in civic participation in the local area

NI 4 % of residents who agree that they can influence decisions affecting their local area

NI 5 overall/general satisfaction with local area

NI 6 % of residents participating in regular volunteering

NI 7 environment for a thriving third sector