

People Helping People



Volunteering in York: our strategy



yorkcvs

A message from Mary Weastell, Chief Executive, City of York Council

One of York's greatest assets is its people, particularly the large number of residents and community activists who give up their time to help others. I am often humbled to hear about amazing acts of kindness, a willingness to give back and examples of volunteering across our communities.

Whether we call it volunteering, giving, social action or simply 'people helping people', spending time in the service of others is engrained in our culture. And we know that when people help others, communities are stronger and tougher. High levels of social capital, of giving and sharing, bring economic and social benefit, as well as boosting our health and wellbeing.

Building on the contribution of the thousands who volunteer in York, in all sorts of ways, I'm delighted to introduce Cities of Service to York. We have many challenges to tackle, some of which have confronted us for years. This link offers us an opportunity to pause, reflect and learn from the good practice created by Cities of Service all over the world.

Building on national research and local conversations, we have created People Helping People as a new city wide campaign, drawing on the success of Cities of Service world wide. It's designed to bring the private sector, local public services and people together, working collaboratively and with focus

to tackle our local priorities, whether it's inequalities in health and wellbeing, loneliness or young people struggling to achieve their potential.

With partners, we have identified a number of new social action projects, already beginning to work in this way. We plan to develop these further to provide practical opportunities for volunteers to impact against our challenges, improve our neighbourhoods and embed social action across our communities and public services.

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High levels of social capital, of giving and sharing, bring economic and social benefit, as well as boosting our health and wellbeing.

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I am committed to supporting these and others so that, together, we make York the best city it can be – for everyone who lives here.

A message from Sarah Armstrong, Chief Executive, York CVS

I suspect I could be described as the eternal optimist. I believe that people and places can be supported to grow into the very best they can be. This is never easy but we know quite a lot about what works. We recognise that everyone needs a helping hand sometimes, that most people can offer something to someone else, that successful volunteering has benefits for everyone involved and that the best volunteers have been in that place themselves, they have walked in those uncomfortable shoes.

However I am a realist too. Some days are very dark, some communities seem destined to struggle, some issues never go away. But I still believe we can fly. So when a strong, simple, well tested idea comes along, perfectly suited to York, I pay close attention, especially when it's all about people and communities making the most of themselves.

The Cities of Service model offers much to York. It has a strong framework on which to develop our collaborative working, ideas about how to blend strong civic leadership with the reality of community life, attractive ways in which to attract and use the knowledge, skills, education and commitment of those who live and work here and are keen to contribute to the future of York.

Over the last year or so, we've worked hard to understand modern volunteering and to discover what will or will not work here in York. We already appreciate the invaluable efforts made by our volunteers, I believe Cities of Service will allow us to tap into much more unrecognised energy, talents and passion.

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What is People Helping People?

It's all about how we live our lives together, in York. It's often described as social action which simply means "people coming together to help improve their lives and solve the problems that are important in their communities". We know we have people willing to give time, expertise, energy and experience to others: with less public money and more challenges, we must make the most of this.

We've linked up with Cities of Service to help us do this. Developed by a group of US city mayors, over 200 cities worldwide now use this approach. It's all about clarity, good organisation and checking results, making sure that there's positive progress towards priorities. This is often called 'impact volunteering'. Let's say there's an opportunity or a problem; the right people get together and plan to tackle it; they deliver the plan and, importantly, make sure that there's a clear result (and that it's the one they expected).

Recently we identified the local challenges that can be addressed by mobilising volunteers, alongside public services. We have worked with partners in the voluntary and community sector, as well as local businesses, to develop projects that will impact on those challenges. We plan to develop clear metrics to track our progress, as well as report regularly and publicly on the results.



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”

HERE ARE THE EARLY PROJECTS:

Growing Green Spaces

working out how a range of different volunteers can work with the Council and other partners to keep York's parks and open spaces lovely and welcoming; places that encourage health and wellbeing.

Community Health Champions

an initiative to improve the health and wellbeing of older people in their communities through volunteer peer health champions.

Community Connectors

an initiative to tackle loneliness and isolation across all ages with the support of trained volunteer connectors.

Goodgym

turning exercise into positive social action and addressing loneliness.

Mentors

volunteer mentors supporting young people and their families to help them reach their potential and raise aspirations.

Give More, Get More

volunteers aged 50+ working with individual disabled young people to support their move from full time education into adult life.

AND HERE ARE SOME ISSUES WE NEED TO CONSIDER:

- ▶ How we can encourage more involvement from businesses, supporting their staff to volunteer and link business priorities with city priorities.
- ▶ How to put volunteers and opportunities together, easily, efficiently and successfully.
- ▶ With the *Two Ridings Community Foundation*, exploring the development of philanthropy in York linked to agreed city priorities.
- ▶ Checking how the Impact 2030 Global Goals can enhance growing social action and participation in the city, as well as complement the approach taken by *One Planet York*.

We hope PeopleHelpingPeople will provide a framework for new and different conversations between citizens, public servants and city leaders to consider more deliberately how we might work together to address the key challenges for York.

York as a City of Service



York is the tenth UK city to join the international Cities of Service coalition, sharing best practice with Plymouth, Portsmouth, Swindon, Bristol, Telford & Wrekin, Monmouthshire, Barnsley, Kirklees and London alongside 200 plus cities worldwide.

Our partners include *York CVS, City of York Council, International Service, York Cares, the University of York, York St John University, North Yorkshire Police, York Timebank and the York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*. All bring routes into communities and wider citizen engagement. The partnership alone has over 6,000 volunteers, with people from every walk of life contributing as students, neighbours, young and older people. The public, private and voluntary sector all mobilise volunteers and we know that volunteering is good for you!

So how can York do this even better? How can we develop a modern volunteering strategy? How can we mobilise volunteers to tackle the big challenges our citizens face? We think Cities of Service offers a way forward.

Cities of Service focuses on impact volunteering. This involves the creation of volunteer strategies that target community needs, use best practices, have clear outcomes and measure progress.

Impact volunteering aims to:

- ▶ Help local people find the best ways to mobilise energy, talent and passions to make a real difference to local priorities.
- ▶ Measure results, rather than measuring how many people volunteer. Instead we measure the impact those volunteers have.
- ▶ Create strong leaders to champion the approach and create support within the city.

Our partnership works together to develop and take forward our Cities of Service activity. We are collaborating on the development of a linked, city wide volunteering strategy, building on our community assets to scale up social action. This is People Helping People. So far, our work has included:

- ▶ York CVS gathering evidence to look gaps in volunteering activity and provision.
- ▶ Using this information to see where volunteering can have most impact.
- ▶ Examining why people volunteer and the barriers they might experience.

We consulted widely, through focus groups and surveys. These exchanges have involved local communities, the public, business and voluntary sectors.



People have told us that they want to make a difference and to share their skills. They explained what would encourage them to do this more, such as access to flexible opportunities, the availability of different roles and a strong sense of local community. We also asked them what would discourage them. They talked about time pressures, lack of support and not feeling valued.

A key principle of Cities of Service is the strategic support and engagement of the local authority. The Council has a leadership role in making sure a diverse range of support exists locally to promote strong and resilient communities. But the Council does not have all the answers, far from it. People and communities know best what they want to achieve.

This approach enables local people and city leaders to explore citizen engagement and social action together; communicating about issues of shared concern (deliberation), working together to address those issues (collaboration), forging effective and enduring relationships (connection).

We are keen to consider and share international experience to enrich our use of the Cities of Service approach, for example, learning from one of our partners, International Service. This global development agency has

inspirational experience of how volunteering and social action can change lives in the most poverty stricken countries. The linked *Bringing the Global Goals to York – Impact 2030* initiative will provide a focus on the engagement and empowerment of the most excluded groups, complementing our strategy. The goals includes issues like gender equality, environmental sustainability, and fighting relative poverty, with a series of targets to be met by 2030. These are currently being mapped against our city strategies, including One Planet York (OPY).

The OPY vision and framework sets out ten clear principles to guide how we think about our city and neighbourhoods in more joined up ways, economic, social and environmental. It includes a decent standard of living, fairness and inclusion, good health and wellbeing, strong community, land use and wildlife, zero carbon and sustainable transport. We see the OPY framework complementing the Cities of Service approach, as has happened in Bristol. Ideally York will become a city where, through People Helping People, social action and connectedness becomes the norm.

Priorities in York

Health and Wellbeing

York's Health & Wellbeing Strategy and linked reports including the Two Ridings Community Foundation's *Philanthropy in York* report recognise that, on almost every indicator, health, wellbeing and happiness in York is well above the national average. However, these benefits do not extend to everybody. There are communities within our city for whom health and wellbeing outcomes fall well short of those enjoyed by the majority. For example the difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived wards in the city is 7.7 years for women and 5 years for men.

York's population is now estimated to be around 205,000. It is expected to rise by about 10,000 people in 10 years. The city has become more culturally and religiously diverse with a Black and Minority ethnic (BME) population of 9.8% (non White British) compared to 4.9% in 2001. By 2025, it is estimated that:

- ▶ **The 65+ population in York will have increased by 16%**
- ▶ **The 85+ population in York will have increased by 32%**
- ▶ **The 0-19 population will have risen by about 9%**



The Health and Wellbeing Strategy recognises that volunteering is associated with positive health and wellbeing outcomes for individuals and communities. However research indicates that people who experience disadvantage or social exclusion are likely to face barriers to volunteering and be less likely to take part. Addressing these barriers is essential if the full health and wellbeing benefits of volunteering are to be realised for people, the communities in which they live and wider society.

Investment in early help, prevention and strength based approaches including local area coordination, community catalysts and *Ways to Wellbeing*, the social prescribing service piloted by York CVS are also excellent examples of working alongside the most vulnerable people in our communities, supporting them to contribute and take community action. These approaches can be built on to address health inequalities and achieve positive health and wellbeing outcomes through inclusion, civic engagement and relationship building.

Our engagement arrangements in the city, provided by the Ward Committees and teams, also provide an opportunity for Elected Members, together with local citizens and partners to respond to local challenges, through growing a culture of social action and enterprise. Many of the Ward Committees have identified improving health and wellbeing, as well as a focus on the inequalities faced by younger and older people, in their local priorities and action plans.



Loneliness and Social Isolation

The Ageing Well theme in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy recognises as its top priority the need to reduce loneliness and isolation faced by older people. Residents, when consulted, have stated that they want to feel more included in their communities, and that age and experience should be valued. Tackling loneliness and isolation is viewed as a priority.

This reflects that York has a large and growing older population, we know that:

- ▶ **Over the next 15 years the number of people over 65 in York will increase from 36,000 to 46,000 and those aged 75 and over from 17,000 to 26,000.**
- ▶ **Nationally, 10% of older people are suffering from chronic loneliness.**
- ▶ **Over 25,000 people live on their own in York.**

We also know that feelings of loneliness and isolation are not confined to older people. National research undertaken by the British Red Cross in the *Trapped in a Bubble* report is informing their Community Connectors initiative in York. See page 15.

The two factors consistently regarded as the most important to quality of life in older people are 'overall health' and 'social connections'. Studies have proven the statistical link between good social connections and overall health. Social networks and friendships not only reduce the risks of premature mortality, as well as the onset of disability, they also actively help individuals to recover if they do fall ill. Preventing and alleviating loneliness is therefore vital to enabling older people to remain as independent as possible, and is critical to their quality of life.

Reflecting York's journey to becoming an asset based place, celebrating the role that older people play and sharing their experiences, gifts and talents will be a key aspect of our approach. Maintaining investment in existing organisations and developing social action projects that offer such opportunities will enable the participation of all citizens, both young and old, to grow and intergenerational work to flourish.

As part of the new volunteering strategy People Helping People and Cities of Service programme, we have decided to tackle the issue of loneliness in the older population. We are keen to identify the opportunities for older volunteers to take the lead and to encourage them to support each other to contribute to the community.

Supporting children and young people to reach their potential

The Children and Young People's Plan (2016-2020) sets out shared aspirations and ambition for all children, young people and families who live in York. It places a spotlight on children and young people whose health, wellbeing and future life chances are disadvantaged. It has been shaped by reviewing our shared intelligence and through engaging with children, young people and the professionals who work with them.

Our vision for children and young people is straightforward: *'Children and young people are the heart of our city and of everything we do'*. We have three strategic aspirations for all of the children and young people with whom we work: we want them at all times to be: Safe, Resilient, Achieving.

The Children and Young People's Plan has four priorities:

- ▶ Early help
- ▶ Emotional and mental health
- ▶ Narrowing gaps in outcomes
- ▶ Priority groups

Currently the Council has a range of volunteering opportunities relating to children and young people. For example Independent Visitors, advocates, early years groups,

appropriate adults, parent mentors and mentors for young people. Yet we recognise that more could be done to make use of a strong volunteering offer to build better resilience within families and communities and tell the story of impact.

The introduction of a new multi-agency set of early help arrangements, Local Area Teams, in January 2017 has created a strong emphasis on building capacity within families and communities. This new model reflects the Cities of Service approach by increasing capacity through volunteering and building social action within communities and public services.

There is now a diverse and developing range of volunteering opportunities within this area of work, for instance, the development of a volunteer mentoring programme to support young people.

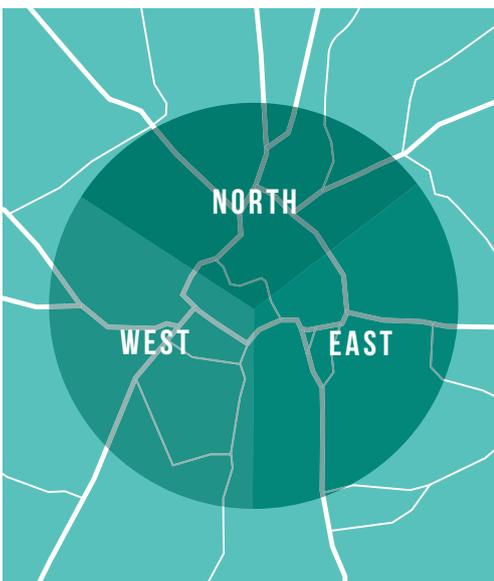
Our Local Area Outcomes Plans provide us with data and insight to help us understand the needs of local families. Our mentoring for young people programme has focussed on how many children and young people are living in poverty or are not in education, training or employment.

Our vision for children and young people is straightforward:

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THE HEART OF OUR CITY AND OF EVERYTHING WE DO
 ”

We have three strategic aspirations for all of the children and young people with whom we work:

1. Safe
2. Resilient
3. Achieving



Locality	% children living in poverty	Number of young people aged 16-25 who are not in education, employment or training
East	12%	98
North	10%	111
West	12%	181

Starting as we mean to go on...

Here are some early projects which will be developed and delivered using the City of Service model. These are explicitly focussed on our priorities – health and wellbeing; loneliness and isolation; supporting children and young people to achieve their potential.

1. Community Health Champions

In January 2017 the Council's YorWellbeing service launched a Community Health Champion pilot project, with funding from North Yorkshire Sport. The aim was straightforward: to recruit, train and support volunteers, with drive and enthusiasm, to work on improving the health and wellbeing of older people locally. Ten people went on the Champions' training which included a tailored version of Making Every Contact Count, featuring prevention as well as building health and wellbeing.

Since then these Champions have collaborated with YorWellbeing on events, community Tai Chi classes, walking football as well as research and support for the suicide prevention service.

Having evaluated the pilot, the ambition now is to roll it out across all areas of YorWellbeing. So it will reach people with long term medical conditions or poor mental health or disability,

those struggling with smoking and young people, as well as workplaces and voluntary sports clubs. This will encourage people to be more aware of their own health, but also that of those around them.

Reflecting the focus and ambition of impact volunteering, we hope to support Community Health Champions to address health inequalities and the under representation of excluded groups in their work. In that way, the volunteer benefits as well as those s/he works with, and the long term issue of health inequality begins to be challenged.



Strength based volunteering in action!

Barrie (Tosh) Stokes, one of our volunteers, took up walking football as something to do when he retired. He is fitter now, with plenty of new friends. As a Community Health Champion, Tosh promotes the benefits of walking football across the city. And he feels able to speak to his walking football team mates openly and with confidence about health and wellbeing. Importantly, he is able to signpost and connect people on to groups, organisations and services where appropriate.

He's also become a Sporting Memories Facilitator, supporting *York City Football Club Foundation* on their *Sporting Memories* programme. This focuses on reducing social isolation by encouraging residents to feel more confident about having a conversation with like minded people and supports people living with dementia.

Tosh in his black York City kit competing in a walking football tournament



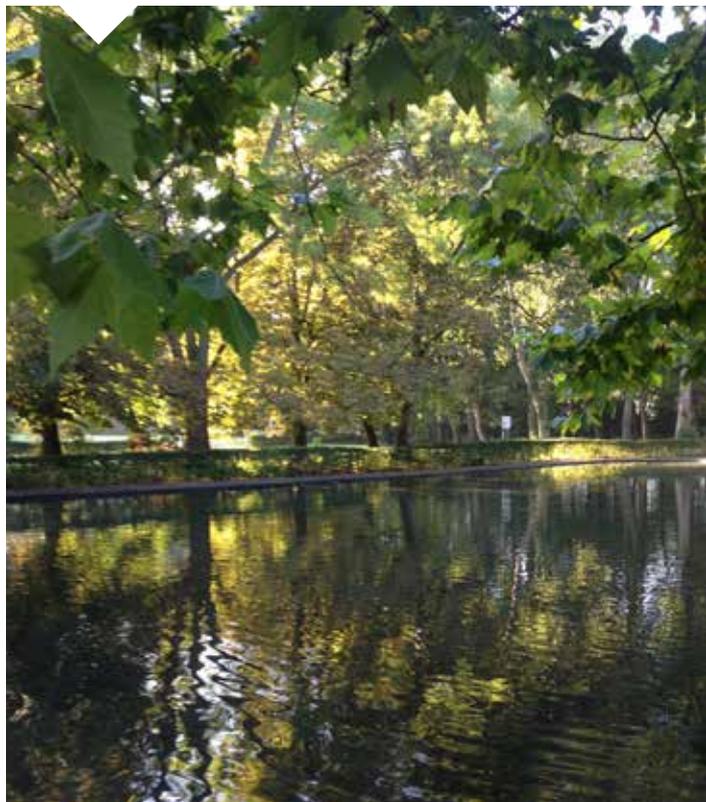
Tosh in the back row: fifth from the right with members of the York City Football Club Foundation walking football session

2. Growing Green Spaces

In summer 2017 York CVS began working with five parks and open spaces in York, selected to support wards where the effects of budget cuts have been acutely felt. Using funds and support from the Council, the two year programme is designed to harness the talents and energies of local communities to sustain and develop these green spaces. These are Rowntree Park, Glenn Gardens, Hull Road Park, Clarence Gardens and Hull Road Park. In these, the work is being led by *Friends of Rowntree Park*, *The Conservation Volunteers* (TCV) in both Hull Road Park and Clarence Gardens, *Therapeutic Art and Play Therapy* (TAPTY) in Glen Gardens and *Blueberry Academy* in West Bank Park. As well as keeping the open spaces looking good and feeling welcoming, the programme sets out to develop new, different and effective ways of modern volunteering, ideally reaching those not usually involved – a key ambition of the Cities of Service model.

Work so far has included the development of a sensory garden as well as tackling neglected flower beds and shrubberies, research into the range of potential volunteers locally or city wide, such as the refugee community, conversations about the critical task of supporting those who already do so much, getting to know each other and thinking how we can work collaboratively, within the five areas.

We'll be recording what's gone well, what's been a struggle and what the surprising opportunities have been.



It's early days for this work. So during the winter, we will be polishing our objectives and plans for next summer, detailing what we intend to achieve and how, as well as devising ways to capture our progress, record our stories and measure the developments.



**PAULA,
A CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
LOCAL VOLUNTEERS SAID:**

“

When I saw the role I knew straight away I had to apply. After experiencing loneliness and social isolation first hand, I wanted to help people who may have gone through similar experiences. The Red Cross did that for me and now I get to do that for other people.

”

3. Connecting Communities

Every day, British Red Cross staff and volunteers see the damaging effects loneliness and social isolation have on people, many of whom are already in crisis. Their *Trapped in a Bubble* report investigated the triggers for loneliness in the UK and found that:

- ▶ Loneliness does not just affect the elderly. Many other groups in society, from young mums to those with health or mobility issues, experience feelings of loneliness and social isolation.
- ▶ Life transitions can be key triggers for loneliness, from retirement to divorce or separation.
- ▶ Without the right support at the right time, loneliness can transition from a temporary situation to a chronic issue and can contribute to poor health and pressure on public services.
- ▶ Almost 70% of people agree everyone has a duty to help people in their local communities who might be feeling lonely.

With this understanding, Connecting Communities now offers 12 weeks of tailored support to those feeling lonely or socially isolated in York. Trained staff and volunteers provide practical and emotional support to help people build their confidence, resilience and



independence. From having a chat over a cup of tea to joining local community groups, this support makes a big difference, leading to a better-connected future and wider benefits for the whole community.

The new volunteers benefit too, meeting new people and feeling valued. Recognising that modern volunteering needs to be flexible and fit our busy lives, Connecting Communities provides the option to for people to commit to just a couple of hours each week, yet still have a big impact, for someone who's struggling as well as in the local community.

4. Mentoring programmes for children and young people

City of York Council has run a young people's mentoring project for over 15 years. Evaluations show that they value the time a volunteer gives, with no hidden agenda and no link to statutory services. In these circumstances they are able to build a positive trusting relationship that is voluntary on both sides. This benefits the young person, is mutually agreeable and reflects the model of impact volunteering across York.

Recognising the value of such a disciplined approach, we are keen to further develop our mentoring programmes for children and young people, focussing on young people experiencing transition, to guide them to make positive steps, build life skills and plan a successful future.

Over the last twelve months, over 130 volunteers delivered over 1500 sessions, spending 4630 hours with young people.

Benefits for young people:

Improved educational attainment, healthier relationships and lifestyle choices, better attitude about school, higher further education enrolment rates and aspirations, enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence.

Benefits for mentors: Increased self-esteem, a sense of accomplishment, involvement in a network of volunteers, insights into childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood, increased patience as well as improved supervisory skills.

We really value feedback.

Some recent feedback from young people included:

“
If it hadn't been for you I wouldn't have changed.

”

Year 11

“
Your support has helped me massively.

”

Year 11

And feedback from a professional:

“
Massive improvement all round. When the mentoring started the young person was disruptive, defiant towards staff and her behaviour has improved greatly, to the extent that she is now a prefect in school and helps with lunchtime duties. A real success.

”

York Cares

delivers programmes with young people and children at their heart. Building on this work with the business community, we hope to develop these programmes, embedding the impact volunteering approach. These include:



Aspirations

inspires disadvantaged young people aged 11-16 about possible futures, through personal encounters with people at work and university, motivating them to aim higher and work harder in school. These young people may have limited access to role models, professional networks and opportunities and no experience of higher education in their family. They probably lack confidence, motivation and have low aspirations.

Inspiring Minds

works with disadvantaged children, aged 7-11, by linking real life and learning. Focusing on York's most deprived communities, we work closely with schools and employers to deliver activities that bring the world of work to life. This is designed to boost children's confidence, develop their creativity and a love of learning.



Starting Blocks

is a nationally acclaimed programme of supported work experience opportunities for care experienced young people, some of the most vulnerable young people in our city. These young people have often experienced family instability and a disrupted education. This can lead to poor academic attainment and low self-esteem. Finding a job can be hard so many face unemployment. By giving these young people a practical insight into the working environment, employers provide them with the practical skills, knowledge, attributes and behaviours that they need to secure employment and improve their life chances.

People Helping People: what next?

Over the last ten months we have thoroughly explored the potential of the Cities of Service model, in consultation with the VCS, public and private sectors. We have identified specific challenges as well as the general conditions we will need to create to transform York into a truly successful City of Service and an asset based place.

As a beginning, we have identified three priority areas and volunteering service initiatives related to these. We are now looking to develop other initiatives using the same methodology. We plan to capitalise on the Government's place based social action programme, working with the Two Ridings Community Foundation, building together on their excellent *Philanthropy in York* report. After our wide ranging discussions, we realised that there were other deterrents to volunteering. These centre on how we might unlock the potential of all those who want to take a more active role in York, but are struggling to find the right opportunities, those that match their availability, skills and passions.

As we get started, we also want to learn from the national experience of *Volunteering Matters*, on the role of volunteering, social action and their impact on public health and inequalities in our society.

In the early phases of People Helping People and our application of the Cities of Service model, we are keen to develop what Cities of Service call 'infrastructure initiatives' to support involvement by the business sector more directly:

- ▶ It is not as easy as it should be for people in York to find a way of 'giving back' that suits individual skills, aspiration and interests.
- ▶ We need to explore more effectively the time and talents of people to share resources, skills and assets through the creation of development of 'a sharing platform' for York. This will build on a project successfully delivered in Kirklees.
- ▶ We will work with York Cares and the York business community to map out how they might contribute more directly to city challenges, through employer supported volunteering and corporate social responsibility programmes. In this way we can align business and city priorities, then demonstrate the impact of this.

- ▶ Improve the connections between Ward Committee priorities, funds and delivery of action plans through developing collaborative social action projects.
- ▶ Celebrate and promote youth social action, linking with the work of the *Youth Council* and Local Area Teams as well as building on the national *Step Up to Serve #iwill* campaign.
- ▶ Invest in intergenerational projects, mobilising the energy and talents of young people and our significant student population to share time and gifts with our older citizens. The *Connecting Lives Through Life Stories* project is an excellent example of this which we hope to scale up.
- ▶ Build on *Ready for Anything*, the city's scheme for impact volunteering in emergencies, led by York CVS.
- ▶ Continue to learn about the role of the arts and culture in health and wellbeing through the *Cultural Consortium Health Pilot*.

Over the next few months, we'll be working hard to promote, develop and embed the Cities of Service model into social action in York. We know we have the people, the challenges and the needs, the ambition: now we have found a way to frame all these into our very own city wide volunteering strategy, *People Helping People*. Of course it will be a journey. Ideally one that involves everyone keen to participate, wherever they live and whatever they do, here in York. Together we'll create something to celebrate during *Volunteers Month* in June 2018.



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MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE CREATING CITIES OF SERVICE IN THE US. WE LOVE TO SHARE WHAT WE'VE LEARNT – WHAT WORKS AND HOW TO GET THERE.

I KNOW YOU HAVE KNOWLEDGE, DETERMINATION AND ENERGY IN YORK: LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF THESE ASSETS TOGETHER!

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Myung J. Lee
 Executive Director
 US Cities of Service

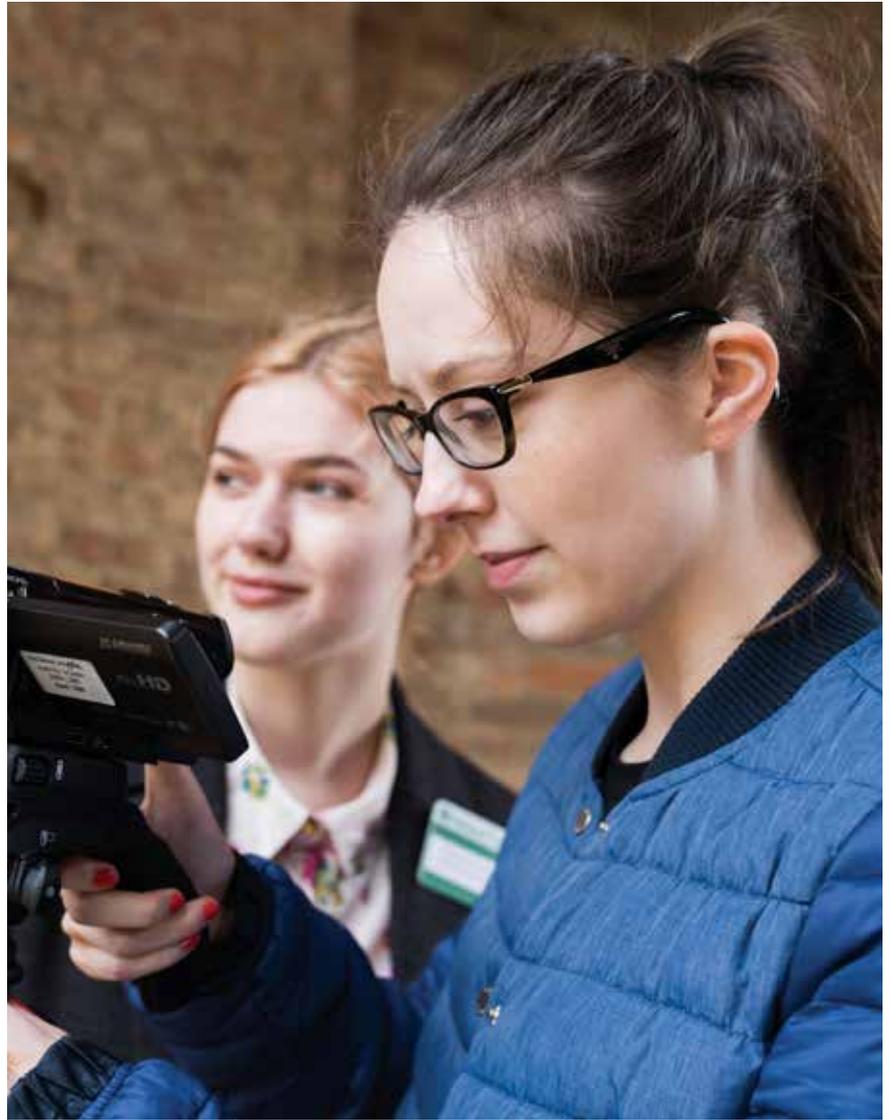
We're a group of runners who combine getting fit and doing good. We run to keep fit - to help community projects, visit someone who's lonely or maybe fix a practical problem for an older person.

We believe in making it easy to do good!



Thousands of students at York's universities make a positive impact on the wider community of York. Whether they give a couple of hours occasionally or commit to a regular volunteer role they are making a difference as well as enriching their educational experience.

The hours given are astonishing.



YUMI Intercultural York

People come to live in York from all over the world. YUMI offers opportunities to meet people, gain confidence, understand and feel valued in York. We're keen to grow communities, lasting friendships and good health. Now we're working with Friends of Rowntree Park, exploring how to make modern volunteering work.

Our partners

York CVS is a social action organisation. So we take steps to make positive change, challenge issues and grow new ideas for the future which strengthen communities.

Since 1939, York CVS has supported thousands of local charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises to do just this. We help them focus on what they do best – making a difference for individuals and their communities.

The logo for York CVS, featuring the text 'yorkcvs' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a teal background.

The Council has a leadership role in making sure a diverse range of support exists locally to promote strong and resilient communities. Working with the knowledge that exists in communities and with people, we plan to build on international best practice and create new types of volunteering opportunities. We want to ensure that these are better designed to appeal to those who wish to contribute and have something to offer, where people are more able to tell their stories about the difference they have made through service to the community.



York Cares is an independent employee-volunteering charity. We bring businesses, employees and communities together to make York a better place. Established in 2006 by the University of York, City of York Council and Aviva, we have over 10 years' experience of partnership working in the city to develop projects in response to evidenced community need. We are delighted to be working in partnership with key organisations to develop People Helping People. We believe that a sustainable approach to city priorities requires a collaborative solution. Together we are stronger.



Each year Student Volunteering at the University of York supports thousands of students who give their time, talents and enthusiasm to make a difference. We connect students with the community to tackle challenges together, through mutually beneficial projects and placements

As partners in People Helping People, we want to improve our ways of working, maintain a meaningful impact across the city on issues spanning education, human rights, healthcare and the environment and enable our students to gain the skills to deliver social change beyond their time here at university.



Our mission as a university is to inspire our students and staff to reach their full potential, advance knowledge and make a positive contribution to the world. Volunteering is fundamental to this mission, clearly linking to our values as a university. We believe that through working in the community, both in the UK and abroad, our students will become better equipped to survive and thrive in a diverse and changing world, able to make a positive difference.



York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust provides a comprehensive range of acute hospital and specialist healthcare services for approximately 800,000 people living in and around York, North Yorkshire, North East Yorkshire and Ryedale.

We currently benefit from the service of 400 volunteers, 242 of whom undertake roles at York Hospital. Our vision for the future is to have a fully integrated team of recognised volunteers, drawn from our wider diverse community.



International Service is an international development organisation based in York. We empower women, children and young people, and disabled people to access their rights in developing countries across the world. We advocate for inclusion and justice for all. This includes gaining economic independence and food security, access to education, and living life safe from violence and discrimination.

Volunteering is core to our work. We currently send over 400 UK volunteers overseas every year. Our volunteers' efforts are key to motivating and supporting communities to tackle challenges and create lasting solutions, here in York and across the globe.



People Helping People



For further information or to
discuss the strategy contact either
Sue.Collins@yorkevs.org.uk or
Joe.Micheli@york.gov.uk

www.yorkevs.org.uk

November 2017



#yorkhelps
www.yorkevs.org.uk

