

**North Yorkshire Thriving Communities Partnership Meeting**  
**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024**  
**Notes of meeting**

**Attendance:**

Bryony Boyle, Up for Yorkshire

Jane Colthup, Community First Yorkshire

Ann Duncan, NYC

Frances Elliot, HADCA

Amber Graver, NYC

Sam Haward – ICB NHS Humber & North Yorkshire ICB

Marie-Ann Jackson, NYC

Rachel Joyce, NYC

Liz Lockey, Hambleton Community Action

Claire Lowery, NYC

Celia Mckeon, Two Ridings Community Foundation

Liz Meade, NYC

Barbara Merrygold, NYC

Caroline O'Neill, Community First Yorkshire

Sue Vasey, Chain Lane

David Sharp, NYY

David Watson, North Yorkshire Sport

**Apologies:**

Natasha Barber-Evans, Better Connect

Angela Crossland, NYC

Leon Fijalkowski, Orb Arts

Nic Harne, NYC

Elizabeth McPherson, Carers Plus

Vic Simmons, Bradford District & Craven Health and Care Partnership

Sharon Hudson, NYC

Jo Ireland, NYC

Max May, North Yorkshire Together

Suzy Sweeting, NYC

Richard Webb, NYC

Lisa Wilson, NYC

**1. North Yorkshire Council Changes**

Rachel provided an update on the developments at North Yorkshire Council. She highlighted the directorate structures which can be found at [Our role, structure and objectives | North Yorkshire Council](#)

She also highlighted current issues for the council:

- The election -management of the process
- Boundary review – this is a review of the number of councillors and divisions. A full paper about this will go to full council in July. The Area Constituency Committees will remain aligned to the 6 old MP constituency boundaries despite these boundaries changing for the general election. Any changes to Area Committees will not happen until after the next council elections.

She acknowledged that the council has been largely internally focused. Moving from 8 organisations to 1, during the first year of its operation. Most of the service restructures have now taken place and the focus is moving to being more external. There is a transformation programme in place to prioritise change.

If anyone is struggling with getting in touch with the council please contact, Rachel, Marie-Ann or any of the Localities Team.

Marie-Ann provided information on the localities team, which is made up of 3 areas:

- Migrant Programmes – bringing together the different formal refugee programmes together with economic migration (building on the POMOC programme in Scarborough and Ryedale) into one team. An application has been submitted for Reaching Communities Partnership Lottery funding for funding to develop a county wide approach to engagement with migrant communities. The core team is made up of 6 - but the full complement is not yet in place, recruitment is in progress. There will also be other teams with dedicated staff to deliver refugee and asylum seeker services such as Housing and Education as part of a matrix management model.
- Parish Liaison and Local Devolution – this team will work on the relationship with parish councils. Work will include a review of the Parish Charter, ways to engage with the 664 town and parish councils in the county, double devolution pilots where the parish council takes over services/assets and Community Rights. This is a small team of 6 although only 3 are in place.
- Communities - the team is split into 3 areas: West, Central and East, each headed up by an Area Manager. These teams also include service development roles which will work on policies, strategies, procurement, the conference and work around the relationship with the VCSE sector. Community Anchor Organisation (CAO) development will remain with Area Managers.

Rachel described the Localities Team as the glue to bring things together around localities.

6 Local Area Team meetings have been set up to bring together staff from different services working within an area's Constituency Committee area. Each one is led by a Director. Senior managers from all main service areas attend. The meetings, held quarterly, highlight what is happening and look to join up issues / activities at place.

Discussions are taking place to look at options for joining up the Council's approach and practice in relation to local engagement by having 'single place-based community conversations'. These would involve teams such as planning policy, regeneration and localities. This will bring together work on the local plan, the Combined Authority's investment for market towns and local action planning and community partnership development work into a single place based conversation.

Communications also sits in Rachel's Local Engagement service. All Communications staff have been brought together in a central team which includes consultation, engagement and digital to co-ordinate and gain oversight of activities.

It was also mentioned that the procurement team are reviewing the new Procurement Regulations that come into force in October 2024. The new regs have removed the requirement for public authorities to select the 'most economic advantageous' tender to the 'most advantageous'. This subtle but significant shift in wording, presents a potential opportunity for this group to work together, with the Procurement Service, to maximise opportunities for social value through CSR rules.

**ACTION:** Consider ways to develop ideas to inform the Council's Social Value policy. Suggested workshop for the Conference in October.

## **2. Working in partnership to deal with recovery after an emergency event.**

Liz Meade provided an introduction regarding a recent pluvial flooding emergency event in Knaresborough.

Sue Vasey then gave a presentation on the flooding incident in Knaresborough on 6th May 2024 for which Chain Lane Community Hub, a CAO, housed and managed the Local Assistance Centre.

Presentation circulated with minutes.

Sue and her team were thanked for their amazing work. The Council is looking at how we can build similar resilience elsewhere. Working group has been set up to look at the issues raised, in particular the involvement of Housing and access to money.

Celia McKeon was also thanked for Two Ridings role in providing emergency assistance funding. Unfortunately, this incident did not match the criteria for national household assistance funding, but the Two Ridings Fund was able to mirror the national offer.

It was highlighted that recovery from any 'incident' can take a long time. Whereas the 'response' phase tends to be quite short (hours or days) there is a much longer tail of recovery (weeks or months). People will need support at different times. The advantage of ensuring that recovery is community led, supported by the statutory partners is that the community is there long after the emergency response services have left. In the case of the Knaresborough event, because Chain Lane is open every day, people could come in at a time that suited them.

The group discussed the learning, made suggestions and highlighted issues to think about:

- The whole team were given access to NYC teams - CAOs may wish to ensure they are on 365 to be able to access Teams.
- Consideration of pets as emergency accommodation won't take them.
- How response is communicated to other communities? Other in the meeting from neighbouring areas where unaware of the incident.
- Flexibility from contracts for VCSE to support response.
- Consideration of support for children and young people
- Consideration of data sharing but need protocols / forms in place, use of Teams may also help.
- Need to develop system relationships / networks.
- Consideration of the role of LCPs in bringing players together / identifying missing relationships
- Consideration of homelessness VCSE organisations in response
- Sharing learning through the CAO network
- Could outdoor centres / private schools in used as accommodation?
- Consideration of assets in area that can be used.

Tim Townsend of the Resilience & Emergencies Team at NYC is organising events in March 2025 involving CAOs, Parish and Town Councils and others.

### **3. AOB**

#### **Forward Plan and future meeting dates 2024**

Wider Partnership Conference: Friday 25 October, Pavilions of Harrogate

Theme around change: organisational, social and environmental

Some suggestion were made about areas that could be included: Trauma Informed Practice.

Thriving Communities Partnership: 10:30 on Thursday 7 November: Agreed to hold in person.