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|  **Title:**   | **North Yorkshire VCSE Leaders Meeting**   |
| **Date**   | **Thursday 24 November 2024**   | Time:   | **14:00-16:00**   |

**Attendees: If you were at the meeting and not listed below as attended or vice versa please advise and we can update the record.**

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| Caroline O'Neill | Community First Yorkshire | Mike Hickman | Community First Yorkshire |
| Claire Smith  | Community First Yorkshire | Elizabeth McPherson | Carers Plus Yorkshire |
| David Sharp | North Yorkshire Youth | Ian Read | Rural Arts |
| Helen Flynn | Nidderdale Plus Community Hub | Leon Fijalkowski | Orb Community Arts, Pioneer Projects |
| Danielle Daglan | North Yorkshire Council | Louise Terzza | Time Together |
| David Watson | North Yorkshire Sport Ltd | Hazel Griffiths |  |
| Tanya Bish | Living Potential | Rob Rolls | Community Works |
| James Metcalfe | North York Moors Trust | Steve Biggs | Just the Job  |

**MEETING NOTES**

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|  | **Welcome and Introductions** - Caroline O’Neill Head of Community Support and Partnerships, Community First Yorkshire   Caroline introduced herself and Community First Yorkshire, thanked everyone for finding the time to attend and covered zoom housekeeping.  Mike and Claire introduced themselves.Caroline reminded the group of the value of the conversation at these and other meetings, adding insight for Community First Yorkshire and partners on the call to use at forums and meetings we all attend.  For North Yorkshire Council and NHS colleagues, the group is important for hearing the comments to add to the understanding of the concern, issues and opportunities the people they are working with and their own organisations’ are responding to.  Caroline also reminded colleagues that the agendas for these meetings are open for items they wish to suggest and advise her of topics they want included.The meetings are recorded purely for producing the meeting notes.  The notes are extensive, for us all to use and comments are attributed to people for further follow-up if needed.  If anyone prefers not to have your comments attributed please advise.    [Notes](https://www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/240909-NY-VCSE-Leaders-Group-29-August-Meeting-Notes.docx) from the August meeting. At the August meeting York and North Yorkshire [Combined Authority](https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/strategy-and-policy/) (YNYCA) presented the Economic and Social Strategy priorities and points from the discussion are in the notes. As the plans are being finalised Caroline reminded colleagues of the overarching themes to: Delivery Inclusive Growth; Increase Opportunities for All; Transition to a Carbon Negative Region. The themes are part of its work focussing on five key priorities: * Affordable and Sustainable Transport
* Vibrant and Sustainable Places
* Affordable and Sustainable Housing
* Boosting Business and a Thriving Workforce
* With a central priority of Healthy and Thriving Communities.

The draft York and North Yorkshire Skills Framework and Strategy was also presented. This group had fed into this over the past 18 months, and provided further comments included in the meeting notes to influence investment. Caroline suggested the skills plans are covered in more detail in the early part of 2025, along with the YNYCA plans for Adult Learning and Skills and for DWP to talk about their plans for supporting people back into work. This was supported.**Action**: YNYCA Skills Plan, Adult Learning and Skills and DWP to be the focus of a future meeting.* A brief reminder of the emergency planning and hate crime mitigation guidance documents were mentioned and colleagues were signposted to Community First Yorkshire Emergency Response Toolkit [here](https://www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/england-riots-an-update-from-community-first-yorkshire/)
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|  | **Focus on Culture and Arts**: **North Yorkshire Council**[**Cultural Strategy**](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-north-yorkshire-august-2024/arts-and-culture-highlighted-planned-new-strategy)**–** [**presentation**](https://www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/VCSE-28.11.24.pptx) **and discussion of next steps**Danielle Daglan, Head of Culture and Archives Community Development, NYC and Leon Danielle.Daglan@northyorks.gov.uk Danielle outlined that the new Cultural and Archives team at North Yorkshire Council, had brought together colleagues from the former district councils and there were a number of existing strategies. The team wanted to move quickly to bring the existing strategies together and look at a single vision for the county, for growth of the sector and investment in the sector. It is also for colleagues to use for their bids for funding. This was done during the organisation restructuring. The new North Yorkshire Council [Culture and Arts Strategy](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-12/North-Yorkshire-Cultural-Strategy.pdf), will be published at the end of November 2024. The [presentation](https://www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/VCSE-28.11.24.pptx) covers the strategy and a link was provided to the 'What is culture?' [video](https://youtu.be/OZ_gqELQkdg) for context and background information about NYC cultural strategy.It was developed in collaboration with a steering group of community and sector representatives. The strategy aims to maximize opportunities for cultural development, growth, and investment across the county and is designed for use by the local authority and other organizations. The strategy was developed through background information gathering, asset mapping, and public consultation, which involved over 800 people. Mapping identified existing plans and activities including:* Market Towns: Settle Stories, Settle Ripon Museums Trust, Ripon Rural Arts, Thirsk Mediale, Selby NYMR, Pickering Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough Crescent Arts, Scarborough
* North Yorkshire Council Museums and Galleries: Skipton Town Hall, Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate Royal Pump Room Museum, Knaresborough Castle and Courthouse Museum, Scarborough Art Gallery, Rotunda Museum Scarborough, Woodend Gallery and Studios Scarborough.

The Vision: To create a distinctive region where accessible and inclusive culture and heritage is at the heart of improving people’s lives, was outlined. To have a ‘global’ mission while maintaining a local focus with different activities in different areas across the county. There are key priority themes which emerged from the consultations, and Danielle explained each in detail along with the links between them and anticipated impacts:* creative health and wellbeing
* education and skills
* young people
* development of careers
* economic development
* accessibility.

The strategy includes the set-up of a Creative Hub, which will be a digital platform supplemented by physical events. The Creative Hub provides:* a shared repository of resources: information, advice and guidance; good practice, policies, standards and procedures; data collected through mapping, audits and surveys
* access to: skills, knowledge and experience; facilitated partnerships and collaborations; training and mentoring
* support: to enable access to funding and resources; co-ordinated promotion and marketing; advocacy and representation
* measures of success: increase in collaboration and partnership working; increase in funding accessed
* data collection; case studies, policies, practice, case studies, academic research, evaluation, testimonies; increased awareness of cultural offer amongst stakeholders; evidence – both quantitative and qualitative against strategic and aligned priorities.

There is a Culture Consortium in place made up of people who have engaged in the consultations and NYC is keen to expand this for sharing updates and on-going engagement. The next cultural symposium will be held in December in Malton and will see the launch of the Cultural Strategy and Creative Hub. The team is working with City of York Council to ensure their cultural strategies dovetail and to maximize opportunities from devolved funding. The strategy will be reviewed each year, to evolve delivery and priorities for the coming year.  **Discussion*** Colleagues welcomed the strategy and key priority areas. The group asked that workforce and skills takes a higher level of importance and to support new ways of volunteering, to engage a wider sector of the population.
* Comments were also made about the benefit of the strategy to engage all age groups of the population, and generate interest and ownership of the cultural heritage of North Yorkshire
* Everyone was encouraged to attend the December event

Caroline asked for information to put the Malton meeting in the weekly e-news produced by Community First Yorkshire. * David asked about the role of sport in the cultural strategy and mentioned about the Northern Cultural All Party Culture Strategy has been issued and sport figures in that

Danielle advised that they are working with leisure colleagues and will focus on creative health and active wellbeing opportunities. The * Caroline asked about long-term plans and signposting for events and campaigns happening around the county. How will this be done for communities to fully engage and have their activities promoted for wider engagement

Danielle indicated that the aim is to create a digital resource for this.* Tanya asked about the central database and signposting

Danielle confirmed that this is the aim of the Creative Hub and will be worked on as a priority in 2025. * The Consortium mailing list is where to get registered for updates

Caroline asked for the link to share via the weekly e-news.**Impact on health and wellbeing of culture and arts focussed VCSEs and activities research findings – verbal overview and discussion of key challenges and opportunities**Leon Fijalkowski, Strategic Director Orb Community Arts, Knaresborough, Pioneer Projects Bentham  leon@orb-arts.orgCaroline introduced the research Leon has been focussing on as part of a project funding from NY UKSPF, looking at the level of understand among sector cultural and arts organisations of the links between their work and health benefits.Leon complimented Danielle and the team for pulling the consultation together and producing the strategy. He outlined that each area of the county prior to the new council had different areas of cultural activity focussed on and the strategy has retained that alongside providing a wider vision. Leon outlined that people are consuming arts and culture, and that it is the process of engagement in creativity is what brings about the health benefits for individuals. He expressed optimism about the potential of creative health to bring about healthier, more resilient, and vibrant communities.  To do the research around 30 colleagues from large and small VCSEs involved in cultural and arts activities were spoken to. He also spoke to teams within NYC including public health and YNYCA. The findings from the research showed a high level of understanding and desire among cultural organisations to develop creative health work. The people spoken to recognised the health benefits but is was in the main a side impact, and not core to their work, for one or two it is. What those who do not see it as central to their work were saying was that they are held back by not knowing how best to embed it, lack of skills and connections, they all wanted to do something but did not have the experience to know how to engage with a wider range of people for example people with mental health difficulties. Their questions were about how to do this, how do they work alongside GPs, organisations giving mental health support or social workers. They do not know how to measure the impact to convince a GP. They are interested in developing links and overcoming concerns and worries. Leon’s teams work alongside GPs, Public Health at NYC and other health practitioners as do some other VCSEs and would be happy to provide the support to help groups do more in this area of delivery. These organisations are very well placed to do this and are engaged in their communities. The ask was for NYC and NHS to support creative health partnerships, support organisations to develop this area of their work with communities and for the work to be cross department at NYC.He recommended that North Yorkshire adopt creative health within its cultural strategy and to support the development of partnerships between cultural organizations and health providers, both of which have been brought into the strategy. Leon stressed the importance of the links and engagement being made from people’s school years. Leon referred to organisations supporting the development of creative health, including:* National Centre for Creative Health which work across the country funded from the Arts Council
* Cultural and Wellbeing [Alliance](https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/who-we-are/about-alliance#:~:text=The%20Culture%2C%20Health%20%26%20Wellbeing%20Alliance%20is%20the,wellbeing%20for%20all%20through%20creative%20and%20cultural%20practice.) providing guidance to promote and make Creative Health work. It is a **free-to-join membership organisation for creative health across England, providing** networking, collaborative advocacy, support and resources, supporting health and wellbeing for all through creative and cultural practice. Based in Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board and WY Combined Authority have launched the first Creative Health System which covers all the local authorities and money is now being channelled through it. Cultural Social Prescribing is now happening. Leon commented that this combined approach could be followed in North Yorkshire.**Discussion*** Ian raised a question about the differentiation between culture and creativity and for the group to explore these and not use as interchangeable.

Danielle responded that the strategy covers both and the development of people having a cultural ‘entitlement’. The Arts Council sets out its thinking between the two which NYC broadly follows. Caroline supported the ask that the strategy group looks at these two areas to clearly define what is meant by each, to help focussing relevant support and engagement.* Caroline asked Danielle what messages are coming from the Arts Council in relation to rurality and the challenges that poses.

Danielle advised that the Arts Council are aware of the challenges, and suggested a wider national conversation is needed about the likelihood of smaller numbers of people reached with funding but none the less has a beneficial impact.**Action**: Caroline to connect Danielle with colleagues at Community First Yorkshire and share information with Action for Communities in Rural England to explore links with Arts Council and with Defra. * Information to be added to a circulation list for updates, to be included in Community First Yorkshire enews.
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|  | **VCSE and Partners 2024** [**Survey findings**](https://www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/240923-CON-2024-VCSE-and-Partner-Survey-External-Final-V2.pptx) **- o**verview and discussion of the priorities and areas of interest for VCSE development * Caroline and Mike Hickman, Learning and Development Manager, Community First Yorkshire

Caroline Introduced the NY VCSE and Partners Survey conducted mid-year and briefly presented the main findings as context for focussing on slide 12, to hear from the group about how best to increase engagement in support addressing the priority areas. Bringing topics into a programme of three or four, two-hour sessions which connect across topics such as finance, business and strategic planning is what is coming from other conversations and was seen as a useful way forward. Colleagues were encouraged to use the findings in their own work and to reference Community First Yorkshire as the source.  |
|  | **Government** [**Autumn Budget**](https://portal.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/civicrm/mailing/url?u=42973&qid=1502135) – sharing observations and impact of NI and Living Wage changes **Note**: North Yorkshire [VCSE budget survey](https://portal.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/civicrm/mailing/url?u=42972&qid=1502135)deadline 29 November Caroline summarised the changes in the budget in relation to NI, Living Wage and Employment Support changes. For some organisations the overall impact is zero but for organisations employing above four people we estimate that there will be an increased cost.Colleagues were asked to respond to the survey issued which mirrors those of Charity Finance and the other support organisations across North Yorkshire.Caroline mentioned reference to Surgical Hubs in the Budget and from a conversation with the NHS these are being looked at. We have reminders partners who are looking at the Hubs to involve VCSEs at the start of thinking about how they will work. We also reminded them about the past work done to identify approached for increasing reach in rural areas.**Discussion*** Leon raised concerns about skills funding which was from the European Social Fund and then via NYC Adult Learning and Skills budgets, which is now going through the YNY Combined Authority. The concern is that if work does not move quickly experienced staff in the sector will be lost.

Caroline advised that Tracy Watts who attended our last meeting is the lead person at the YNYCA and confirmed Adult Learning and Skills (ALSS) has moved from NYC to YNYCA. The understanding currently is that money will be available for community learning but the details are not yet available. A briefing session took place to share this information and it was circulated in enews. **Action**: if colleagues have any further questions or concerns please send them to Mike Hickman who will raise them with Paul Cliffe, YNYCA Adult Learning and Skills Service Manager. mike.hickman@communityfirstyorkshire.org.ukMike advised that funding is due to be released and there will be a further update* Louise highlighted the support available from the YNYCA Growth Hub and to get on their mailing list. Caroline supported the suggestion and advised that Community First Yorkshire works closely with the Growth Hub and ALSS, to ensure we are not duplicating and for signposting organisations to respective provision.
* Liz advised 25 January deadline to register on the Dynamic Purchasing System via Crown Commercial tender portal for ALSS contracts to start August. There is a 1% fee on any contract awarded which although some authorities have waivered it is not waived by YNYCA but the fee can be added into the costing.
* Caroline indicated reminders will be made to YNYCA for clear communication about the purchasing system, long lead time and to include reference to the help that can be provided by the NY Community Support Service. No information has been issued about grants for ALSS delivery.

**Action**: Mike to keep in contact with Paul to provide updates via enews. |
|  | * **Working with health and social care** [NHS National Conversation](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-issues-rallying-cry-to-the-nation-to-help-fix-nhs): to shape the Government’s 10 Year Health Plan

Caroline reminded colleagues about survey and encouraged responding. Areas where understanding is particularly needed includes:* how to best develop home from hospital and into community services
* analogue to digital, which has been the focus for a couple of years now and the NHS are wanting to know more about how it can be moved forward more and to increase reach and are digital champions which NY UKSPF investment is supporting
* how to move from illness to prevention, which again we have examples from North Yorkshire Sport Active Leisure and what we heard earlier about Cultural social prescribing.
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|  | **North Yorkshire**[**Thriving Communities Partnership**](https://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/nytcptor) **- November meeting** The meeting [notes](https://www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/North-Yorkshire-Thriving-Communities-Partnership-Meeting-Notes-071124.pdf) and [slide pack](https://www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Thriving-Communities-Partnership-meeting-7th-Nov-2024.pdf) provide information and issues from the meeting concerning the substantive items on the agenda.**NYC and NHS procurement processes development and the Approved Provider List (APL)**Adam Gray, Service Development Manager, Health and Adult Services (HAS), NYC provided information on how the Council is working with Humber and North Yorkshire Care Partnership on developing a VCSE Commissioning Strategy:* this has involved reviewing current spend to understand what is spent with the sector and how it is spent
* drafting a strategic vision, key priorities and key principles have been developed, slides 3, 4, 5
* the next stage is to meet with stakeholders. Things to think about, current issues and areas for improvement to meet the key principles are outlined in the meeting [notes](https://www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/North-Yorkshire-Thriving-Communities-Partnership-Meeting-Notes-071124.pdf).
* people came forward for the working group and it was agreed that communication would go out for others to be involved not at the meeting.

**Action**: Caroline to check and send reminder for a wider invitation to go out to VCSEs**Discussion*** Liz - commented that what Adam outlined was interesting, the APL approach is appropriate and enables due diligence to be completed and therefore would not want it altered. What is needed is the brokerage approach and enabling social workers to have a budget for services referred on to. Liz also asked that that the YNYCA use the same system to avoid duplicate approaches for commissioning.
* Rob – thought the commissioning process can be complicated and came forward at the Thriving Communities meeting to be involved
* David S – supported the use of an APL

**NYC Wider Partnership Conference** * feedback slides 6-13, concerned being clearer about purpose, networking valued, more time for workshops with time for interactive information sharing/learning
* slide 14 outlines the next steps from each of the workshops
* the next Thriving Communities meeting will be a planning session to develop a proposal for the 2025 conference.
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|  | [**Adult Safeguarding**](https://safeguardingadults.co.uk/about-us/) **Development workshop and wider concerns about community and personal safety** – Caroline in place of Carole Roberts, Community Support Delivery Manager Caroline advised that Liz is on two of the subgroups providing input on behalf of our sector, focussing on local issues, VCSE experiences of using the referral processes and advising on proposed changes. Carole is on the Board and to provide insights from our work with organisations and their safeguarding challenges, as part of this group Carole is pivotal for shaping and cascading information to the sector. Caroline highlighted points from the [presentation](https://www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/241121-CR-NY-Safeguarding-Adults-update.pptx) Carole produced summarising the development day and resources available:* Slide 2 – details the work of the Board and safeguarding support provided over 2023/24
* Areas of work highlighted on the slides include the development and support we provide to VCSEs and links to more strategic work:

easy access to free and appropriate Level 2/3 training for volunteers outside NHS/Social Care; the VCSE Safeguarding [Checklist](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.communitysupportny.org.uk%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2024%2F05%2F2024-VCSE-safeguarding-self-assessment-checklist.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) (with Hambleton Community Action); sharing [Emergency response toolkit](https://www.communitysupportny.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Emergency-response-toolkit.pdf); Safeguarding Week 2024 activity marketing materials joint production; safeguarding audits offered to community anchor organisations and policy reviews for VCSE organisations; links to Hate Crime Awareness and Prevent teams - [Hate crime | North Yorkshire Police](https://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/hatecrime) and [Prevent | North Yorkshire Partnerships](https://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/prevent)* Slide 6 provides links to information, resources, poster and other templates.

David S – advised the group and shared a link to a free training webinar concerning the new Statutory Working Together Guidance for statutory partners and it also covers VCSEs, on 4 December and shared a link to attend.  |
|  | **Terms of Reference** – these were updated from previous discussions and shared again for final comments. The [TORs](https://www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/241112-ToR-NY-VCS-Leaders-Group-November-2024.doc) were agreed. Reference to a formal link with NY VCSE [Leadership Hub Steering Group](https://www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/241118-LH-ToR-Revised-Final.docx) is included in the TORs and vice versa, this group in the Hub Steering Group TORs |