



# Fostering a brighter future

How fostering in York is changing lives for the better

## Inside...

- The changing face of York
- Supporting EU citizens
- Working for a cleaner, greener York
- Win free leisure centre membership

# Focusing on foster care

## Could you help change a young person's life?



That is the question York residents are being asked as part of a new campaign to recruit foster carers for some of the city's children and young people in care.

Foster carers are ordinary people doing an extraordinary role - caring for children and young people who are not able to live with their birth families.

Fostering helps children live in a safe and caring home environment, whilst birth parents' issues are resolved, or in some cases, alternative plans are put in place.

Having the right carers to support York's children and young people means they can be cared for in their own community, without having to move school or leave the support of groups or safe family networks.

As Amanda Hatton, the council's Director of Children, Education and Communities explains, the council are looking for people from all walks of life. She said: "We have some really amazing children and young people in York who need our care.

"Children come from a wide range of backgrounds and have a wide range of requirements, so we need foster carers with different life experiences and skills to help them create the positive future they deserve.

"Many people consider fostering when their own children have left home and they have a bit more time and space, while others foster children and young people alongside their own children. Some have previous experience of working with children, young people or vulnerable adults, and others know people who've been in care or who have been foster carers and just want to help transform a life."

The benefits of foster care go beyond helping the child being fostered – the effect on the fostering family and the people who surround them can be extremely rewarding and in some cases, it can be positively life changing.

Don't just take our word for it, we spoke to four York foster carers who are already doing extraordinary things for vulnerable children across the city.

## Making a difference



### Fostering has taught me who I really am.

“Fostering has changed my life completely. It’s eye opening. You learn so much about yourself. When me and my husband began fostering, we were just a couple, but since fostering we’ve become a family.”

-*Georgina*



### You need room in your heart to foster a child.

“The house is never empty. I absolutely love it. We began fostering eleven years ago, and now children have grown up and had their own children. Fostering brought us a new stage in life. The family keeps expanding and that feels like something to be proud of.”

-*Lesley*



### Fostering has had an amazing effect on my own children.

“When we first fostered, we worried about upsetting our own children. But being part of a foster family meant so much to my daughter that she’s now a foster carer herself.”

-*Chez*



### We fostered a child and gained a community.

“We’ve done so much more since we became foster carers – football and long bike rides. The support we’ve had from friends, family and other foster carers has been incredible too. A whole new network has built up around us.”

-*Steve*

### The benefits of fostering:

- immensely rewarding and challenging
- allows you to use your existing skills with children and young people
- offers flexible, home-based, self-employed work
- we offer competitive pay to our foster carers
- offers fantastic training and support

## We need you!

If you’re ready to make a difference and help change a child or young person’s life for the better by becoming a foster carer, please get in touch with us at

[www.york.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.york.gov.uk/fostering)  
or call 01904 555678



# Children and young people

## Adopting a new life



Picture posed by models

Liam and Nick had been together for seven years when they decided they wanted to start their own family and after much deliberation and discussions with their nearest and dearest, they decided to go to an information evening in York. It was an evening that would change their lives forever.

Liam recalled: "The assessment process was thorough and thought provoking. We understood the social workers wanted to ensure we both appreciated the kind of problems or issues children could arrive with, and that we in turn could offer them a secure and loving, permanent home."

After meeting all the requirements, the couple adopted Ben when he was 18-months-old and their life has been transformed.

Nick said: "Ben has needed some support with speech and his development is a little delayed, but he is an active, happy little boy who has changed our lives for the better. Two years later, when our social worker asked if we would like to adopt Ben's baby sister Jodie, we didn't have to think twice!

"We met Jodie the day after her first birthday at her foster family's home and as we came up the drive she was waving at us from the window. It was a very special moment. When Ben and Jodie met they started playing together straight away and there was an instant connection and bond there."

Liam added: "I thought it was going to be hard work, having two children, but Jodie slotted in really well and it felt like she'd always been there."

"It's lovely watching them playing and growing up together and we're so lucky to have finally got the family we always wanted."

One Adoption North and Humber is looking for a wide variety of people to meet the diverse needs of the children waiting for a loving, permanent home. If you're thinking of starting your family, contact us on **0345 305 2576**, visit [www.oneadoption.co.uk](http://www.oneadoption.co.uk) or come along to an adoption information event in York or in the North Yorkshire and Humber region.

## Online help for children with SEND

Did you know that families of children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) can get advice and information about local services online?

York's Local Offer (SEND) website has information on a wide range of topics including ideas for accessible activities in the city, information on education, health and care plans, post 16 health support and much more. Visit [www.yor-ok.org.uk/localoffer](http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/localoffer)

## A helping hand for York's youngsters

Making sure that vulnerable children and young people from York can be supported in their local communities is a major priority for us.

For children in care, or those with special educational needs or disabilities, having the appropriate foster care provision and specialist facilities such as children's homes or respite care, means they can receive the help and support they need without having to travel miles from their home city.

We know support from extended family, schools and the local community can be critical in helping our vulnerable children and young people to achieve and we need your help to make that happen.

For information on how you could help volunteer in your local community, including opportunities to help vulnerable children and young people, please visit: [www.york.gov.uk/volunteering](http://www.york.gov.uk/volunteering)

## Mark of Excellence

Children from York have left a lasting mark on an innovative new building.

The Centre for Excellence will provide children with disabilities, young people and their families with community and overnight short breaks along with support from a wide range of professionals including clinical psychologists.

Children from the adjacent Hob Moor Primary Academy and Hob Moor Oaks school were asked to help with the construction by laying the first bricks and signing their names on the steel which forms the structure of the building.

The scheme - one of the first of its kind in the country - is a partnership between City of York Council and NHS England and will support many children and young people with complex needs to access the help they and their families require.

The brick laying and steel-signing marks a key stage of the project, which should be completed by summer 2020.

## Kick start your career with an apprenticeship

Apprenticeships at any age are a great alternative to post-16 full time education. Providing both employability skills and experience in anything from accountancy to bioscience, they allow you to earn while you continue lifelong learning.

They're a great way to help you change career or gain higher-level skills at any subsequent age.

With around 50 apprenticeships on offer in York at any one time, our impartial Apprenticeship Hub team is encouraging people to find out more.

If you're interested in an apprenticeship, or you're an employer wanting some advice on how apprenticeships might solve a skills need, contact York Apprenticeship Hub at [york.apprenticeships@york.gov.uk](mailto:york.apprenticeships@york.gov.uk) or 01904 555768.



York Apprenticeship Hub Year 11 Apprenticeship Taster Day 2020

# Major projects

## Guildhall restoration takes to the river



The city centre riverside has been improved in recent months as the restoration of the Guildhall has brought this once busy 'highway of trade and commerce' back to life.

The 15th century heritage site, situated on the northern bank of the River Ouse near Lendal Bridge, is undergoing vital repairs and redevelopment of its Grade I, II and II\* listed buildings, to provide office space, community use and a riverside restaurant.

In January 2020 passers-by witnessed the transportation of a 100-tonne crawler crane floating up the river on a pontoon to moor alongside the Guildhall. This was brought to the site to erect a 58m tower crane which allows the delivery of large materials to this tight, city centre location. It also allows the removal of waste from the site and onto muck barges.

You can view the latest developments, plans and time-lapse footage online at:  
[www.york.gov.uk/GuildhallProject](http://www.york.gov.uk/GuildhallProject)

## My City Centre

What do you love about York city centre and what would you change? Now is your chance to help make the city centre a place where York residents love to live, work and spend time relaxing.

The number of people coming to our city centre continues to grow, yet York is not immune to the growing pressures of economic and social change, from internet shopping to nationally set business rates.

To have your say and get involved you can visit the following exhibitions:

- **Mon 2 March - Fri 27 March @ York Explore**
- **Mon 30 March - Fri 17 April @ Burnholme Centre / Tang Hall Explore**
- **Mon 20 April - Fri 8 May @ Acomb Explore**
- **Mon 11 May - Fri 22 May @ City of York Council West Offices**

We'll also have a range of pop-up and other key events throughout the 12-week engagement period, including Sat 14 March, 10 - 2pm at Parliament Street (outside Boots opticians), and Fri 20 March 10 - 2pm at St Helens Square.

Find out more about the 'My City Centre' project and a range of ways to add your voice at at:  
[www.york.gov.uk/mycitycentre](http://www.york.gov.uk/mycitycentre)

On social media through:  
Facebook [/mycitycentreyork](https://www.facebook.com/mycitycentreyork),  
Twitter [@mccyork](https://twitter.com/mccyork)  
and Instagram [@mycitycentreyork](https://www.instagram.com/mycitycentreyork)

## Gateway to greatness



Ambitious plans to transform the historic Castle Gateway area of the city have taken significant steps forward. Planning applications for the first phase of development have been submitted and will be considered this spring.

Phase one will include creating new spaces for independent traders, apartments, council housing and a riverside park when the existing Castle Car Park is replaced with a new one at St George's Field.

We'd like to hear your views on the My Castle Gateway development so join the conversation on Twitter [@MyCastleGateway](https://twitter.com/MyCastleGateway) or Facebook at [/MyCastleGateway](https://www.facebook.com/MyCastleGateway).

For the latest updates visit:  
[www.york.gov.uk/CastleGateway](http://www.york.gov.uk/CastleGateway)



## Budget news

Plans to invest in frontline services, communities and adult social care will be discussed at Full Council on 27 February 2020. The budget will focus on making York more resilient, healthier and sustainable, as part of the 2019 - 2023 council plan *Making History and Building Communities*.

After consultation with local residents and businesses, the proposed new budget for 2020/21 outlines significant investment in a wide-range of areas, including an additional £4.5m for crucial adult social care services; over £1m to create a new neighbourhood street service; £190k on additional mental health early intervention work and a further £50k on initiatives for children and young people.

At the time of print, the budget for 2020/21 was still at proposal stage, it will be discussed at Full Council on 27 February 2020. For more information, please visit: [www.york.gov.uk/budget](http://www.york.gov.uk/budget)



We are in the final stages of commissioning and testing the York Stadium Leisure Complex. Facilities will be open to the public very soon.

## Working together for better homes



We are currently working with York residents on the next stage of developing and designing new homes, streets and open spaces across the city and everyone is welcome to get involved.

The latest workshops will help our architects understand local priorities before they start drawing up the plans. All residents are encouraged to come along and have their say.

The next phase of these engagement events will focus on Ordnance Lane in Fishergate, Duncombe Barracks in Clifton and Burnholme in Tang Hall.

Meanwhile, construction work is underway at Lowfield Green where 165 homes including bungalows and family homes set around over an acre of landscaped open space are being built. To register your interest in a home at Lowfield Green you can visit [shapehomesyork.com](http://shapehomesyork.com).

For more information on the programme itself and to be kept updated on future engagement events, please visit:

[www.york.gov.uk/HousingDeliveryProgramme](http://www.york.gov.uk/HousingDeliveryProgramme)

## York Central

Residents will get another chance to comment on how people will move into and through York Central when we submit a series of 'Reserved Matters Applications' at the end of March.

Following the granting of outline planning permission last year, plans were shared online and at exhibitions in February which included proposals for the bridge at Water End plus segregated bus, cycle and pedestrian routes.

The quality of the site has also attracted interest from the government. Identified as a potential permanent location for the House of Lords, we are keen to explore this government interest further.

The project is being delivered by York Central Partnership, including Network Rail and Homes England as the major landowners.

## Funding turns York's buses cleaner and greener

As part of the launch of a Clean Air Zone in York city centre earlier this year, we awarded more than £1.6 million in funding to five bus companies so they can make their vehicles more environmentally-friendly.

Bus operators were invited to bid for Clean Air Zone (CAZ) funding to help them meet the cost of 'retrofitting' their vehicles. This involves fitting cleaner exhausts to meet the Euro VI emission standard, which sets maximum limits for certain harmful gases and particulate matter that a vehicle is allowed to emit.

Since the Clean Air Zone launched on 31 January 2020, every bus operating frequent services on or within York's inner ring road is strictly prohibited to leave their engine running (called idling) when stationary and will be required to meet the Euro VI emission standard, or have a plan in place that will enable them to meet the standard within 12 months.

In total, 93 buses will either be 'retrofitted' or replaced with £1,654,000 allocated as follows:

- Arriva Yorkshire: £252,000 to retrofit 14 buses.
- First York: £1,188,000 to retrofit 66 buses.
- Harrogate Coach Travel: £70,000 to retrofit five buses.
- Reliance Motor Services: £72,000 to retrofit four buses and a further £54,000 towards the cost of three new Euro VI buses (total grant of £126,000).
- Transdev: £18,000 to retrofit one bus.



**Join the Great British Spring Clean**  
Be part of the pick

**20 MARCH - 13 APRIL 2020**

If you would like to get involved, want to borrow equipment or need help with publicising community litter picks, please go to [www.york.gov.uk/GBSpringClean](http://www.york.gov.uk/GBSpringClean) or telephone 01904 551551.

Register your support [keepbritaintidy.org](http://keepbritaintidy.org)  
#YorkSpringClean

Keep Britain Tidy is a registered Charity No. 1071737

**KEEP BRITAIN TIDY** YORK



## A big thank you

Our frontline teams have been working tirelessly to keep the city safe and open for business.

We've been staffing flood defences 24/7. A HUGE thank you to our teams for their hard work and dedication to the city we all love. We'd also like to say thank you to residents for your continued patience and support throughout the last few weeks.

## Kick the Habit

A new campaign aimed at reducing air pollution and saving lives has been launched successfully in York.

Our successful 'Kick the Habit' campaign has already helped to reduce air pollution in York by encouraging drivers to switch off their engines when idling or waiting in their cars across the whole city.

A new report revealed over 30,000 deaths a year nationally are linked to air pollution, and children are suffering life-long health problems as a result of poor air quality.

To get involved, pledge your support, or help share information, you can download support packs for businesses, residents, and schools at: [www.york.gov.uk/engineoff](http://www.york.gov.uk/engineoff)



## Council pledge to tackle obesity

City of York Council has signed a declaration to tackle obesity and implement new measures to help more people, young and old, enjoy a healthier life.

The pledge, made in December last year, saw York join 20 other local authorities making the commitment.

It includes the following five key priorities:

- Increasing sustainable and active travel in a bid to make York a carbon neutral city by 2030
- Developing and implementing a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for the city
- Supporting the wellbeing and health of council staff
- Working with Public Health England and neighbouring councils to use health evidence in planning decisions
- Mobilising and promoting our community assets, such as York's vibrant community food programmes



Germs can live on some surfaces for hours, so to protect yourself and others:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub which you can buy in most supermarkets and community pharmacies.
- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
- Bin the tissue and to kill the germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.

## Better together



A pioneering new project to improve how we help people's mental health and wellbeing was launched in February 2020.

The 'Mental Health and Wellbeing: Northern Quarter Project' was launched at the York Mental Health Partnership on Friday 7 February at a conference hosted at York St John University.

The project focuses on eight council wards in the northern part of the city and aims to improve mental health and wellbeing for all, including those people who are living with mental ill health.

The project adopts a more community-based approach, which was influenced by the Italian city of Trieste - recognised by the World Health Organisation as a world leader in its approach to mental health and wellbeing.

Learning from Trieste shows that connecting people with the wealth of good help and opportunities, activities and events that already exist in the city, helps maintain or improve mental health and wellbeing.

The programme is starting in the north of York because of the huge wealth of community assets that exists from Haxby, south through New Earswick, and into the city centre. These include the Folk Hall, the new Foss Park Hospital, 30 Clarence Street, York St John University Mental Health Clinic and York Explore. The area is well served too by several community connector roles such as Local Area Coordinators and Ways to Wellbeing Workers.

Tim Madgwick, chair of the York Mental Health Partnership, said: "Evidence tells us people recover best when they feel valued, connected to, and supported by their local community. Individuals and organisations with an interest in mental health and wellbeing are encouraged to get involved in the discussions. We will do everything we can to ensure we connect individuals and organisations."

# Health commissioners launch new website and ask patients to ‘Get involved’



The NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has launched a new website, [www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk](http://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk) after patients and the public said they wanted a site that was accessible and easy to use.

A dedicated ‘Get involved’ section has been created to enable people to voice their views and contribute to decisions about healthcare services. Events, meetings, networks and forums have been made clearer in the hope that more patients and members of the public will work alongside health professionals, local government and voluntary organisations to provide an impact in the wider community.

Analytics on the old site showed that the CCG’s publications page was popular amongst users and so in developing the new website, a filter was added to make it easier to find different policies, strategies and reports.

The CCG have also increased the prominence to their Governing Body papers, to ensure that patients

and the public can follow the latest commissioning plans and outcomes.

Dr Nigel Wells, the CCG’s Clinical Chair said: “Having listened to the feedback from members of the public and patients the new website has been designed to make life easier for everybody.

“With a variety of user groups, ranging from patients seeking information or looking for services to GPs and other health professionals accessing clinical guidance, it was vital to introduce a more user-friendly and accessible website.

“We hope the CCG’s new site will be utilised by all members of the public and that it is now easier to get involved in engagement opportunities, keep updated with local and national health news and receive advice on staying well.”

Patients and the public can visit the ‘Contact us’ page for details on how to submit feedback or make a general enquiry: [www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/contact-us](http://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/contact-us)



## Thank you for helping protect Askham Bog



Described as “irreplaceable” and a “cathedral of conservation” by Sir David Attenborough, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust’s oldest nature reserve Askham Bog is an amazing place for wildlife and of global significance.

Since 2014, its future has been at risk from a planning application to build a residential development adjacent to the reserve. Over 7,600 people objected to the application and, in 2019, the City of York Council voted unanimously against it due to concerns about the impact on Askham Bog, as well as transport, health services and schools.

Subsequently, developers appealed this decision and the case went to Public Inquiry. Thanks to the

incredible generosity of advocates and supporters, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust raised nearly £30,000 in donations to put forward the strongest possible case for Askham Bog at the Public Inquiry, which took place over three weeks in November.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust would like to take this opportunity to thank the City of York Council for their initial refusal of the development application on environmental grounds; for their tireless work at the Public Inquiry and their support throughout the appeal process. Thank you for standing up for York’s natural heritage, and defending this irreplaceable nature reserve.

[www.ywt.org.uk](http://www.ywt.org.uk)

Twitter: @YorksWildlife

Facebook: /YorkshireWildlifeTrust

Instagram: @yorkshirewildlifetrust\_



## Celebrating a decade of inspiration

York Festival of Ideas reaches a major milestone this summer as it celebrates 10 years of educating, entertaining and inspiring.

Under the banner of *Infinite Horizons*, the 2020 Festival from 2 to 14 June will bring world-class speakers, exhibitions, theatre, music, films, guided walks and family-friendly activities to nearly 50 venues across the city.



With over 150 mostly free events on offer, covering topics as diverse as climate change, artificial intelligence, landscape painting, health and space, the 2020 Festival programme – which will be unveiled on 1 May - promises something for all ages and interests.

Over the last ten years, York Festival of Ideas has grown to become one of the largest free festivals of its kind in the UK. Winner of the York Culture Award for Outstanding Cultural Festival in 2018, York Festival of Ideas is led by the University of York which works in collaboration with more than 100 local and national partners.

Past headline speakers have included author Michael Morpurgo, human rights campaigner Shami Chakrabarti, poet Seamus Heaney, humanitarian Terry Waite, filmmaker Mike Leigh, broadcaster Janina Ramirez, Nobel prize-winning economist and philosopher Amartya Sen, and *Poldark* scriptwriter Debbie Horsfield.

Find out more at [www.yorkfestivalofideas.com](http://www.yorkfestivalofideas.com)



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Liberal Democrats

## Strensall Ward



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Conservative



Councillor Tony Fisher  
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Liberal Democrats

## Westfield Ward



Councillor Simon Daubeney  
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Liberal Democrats



Councillor Susan Hunter  
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Liberal Democrats



Councillor Andrew Waller  
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Liberal Democrats

## Wheldrake Ward



Councillor Christian Vassie  
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Liberal Democrats

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## An A to Z of getting and staying well...

Age UK York: 01904 634061

Alzheimer's Society: 01904 929444

City of York Council: 01904 551550

Dementia Forward: 01904 692473

First Call 50+: 01904 634061

Healthwatch York: 01904 621133

MySight York: 01904 636269

NHS 111 Service

(urgent but not emergency calls): 111

NHS Vale of York CCG: 01904 555870

Samaritans: 116 123

York CAB: 03444 111444

York Carers Centre: 01904 715490

York CVS: 01904 621133

York Family Information Service: 01904 554444

York Hospital: 01904 631313

York Older People's Assembly: 01904 202293

York Mind: 01904 643364

York People First: 01904 479315

York Wheels: 01904 630080

YorSensory: 01904 202292

YorWellbeing health checks: 01904 553377



## WIN free Better Leisure Centre membership

Better operates three leisure centres on behalf of City of York Council - Energise Leisure Centre, Yearsley Pool and the brand new Burnholme Sports Centre.

Through our facilities and community programmes we support, facilitate and deliver sport and physical activity for all ages and abilities, engaging the local residents of York in a healthy lifestyle.

As a not-for-profit charitable social enterprise, we work for the benefit of everyone: the public, the communities we work in, the environment, our staff and our partners. We don't have shareholders like some private companies or any bonuses to pay out. Instead, we reinvest any financial surplus we make back into our services and facilities.

Our city wide all-inclusive membership gives access to the gym, swimming and fitness classes at Energise Leisure Centre, Yearsley Pool, Burnholme Sports Centre and will also include York Leisure Centre as part of the new Community Stadium very soon.

Whether you join us on a pre-paid membership, or use our facilities as a non-member, you can get fit, stay healthy, and know that you're helping to make a difference in your community.



We are now offering one Our City reader the chance to win a THREE month all-inclusive membership which can be used at any Better Leisure Centre in York.

For a chance of winning, simply answer the following question:

**Which male GB swimmer won gold in the 100m breaststroke at the 2016 Olympics?**

Email your answer, plus your name, address and contact number to [our.city@york.gov.uk](mailto:our.city@york.gov.uk)

The competition is open to York residents only. To view the full terms and conditions please visit [www.york.gov.uk/ourcity](http://www.york.gov.uk/ourcity)

If you would like this document in an alternative format, please contact:

☎ (01904) 551550    @ ycc@york.gov.uk  
🐦 @CityofYork    @cityofyork

It is available in the following languages:

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Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)  
Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)  
یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (اہلی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

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