

LEARNING CITY YORK YORK'S LIFELONG LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

TERMS OF REFERENCE & ANNUAL REPORT 2011

1. Background and Core Purpose

Learning City York – York's Lifelong Learning Partnership was first established, as a voluntary partnership, in **1998** to create and develop a culture of lifelong learning for York and to maximise the contribution of learning, skills, education and training to personal fulfilment, social cohesion and economic growth for the city.

It has always aimed to bring coherence and better co-ordination and collaboration by local providers and agencies in the development and delivery of lifelong learning that meets the needs of children, young people, adults, families, communities and employers (cradle to grave).

Since **2004**, Learning City York took on a new role to lead on the Learning City theme of York's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) 'Without Walls' City Strategy (2004-2024), and has also made significant contributions to issues and actions included within the Thriving City (Economic Strategy) and Inclusive City Themes.

2. Vision (2004 – 2024)

- To ensure all those who live and work in York have the education and skills that will enable them to reach their full potential, play an active part in society and contribute to the life, culture and economic well-being of the city.
- To ensure that York is seen as both a nationally and internationally recognised centre of excellence for education and training with an exemplary commitment to lifelong learning and an aspiration to stimulate a culture of enterprise, innovation and creativity that is second to none.

3. Current Priorities, Interventions & Performance Measures (2011)

3.1 Priorities

In line with the refreshed **City Strategy 2011**, Learning City has identified four key priorities to ensure that York maintains the high level contribution that education, learning and training can provide to personal fulfilment, social cohesion and economic growth for **all** residents. The Partnership is seeking to maximise the contribution of learning and skills to:

1. Sustainable economic growth

- We need to attract, nurture and retain knowledgeable, skilled and creative people of all ages to meet the needs of a changing economy and job market.

2. Enterprise and an enterprising culture

- We need to stimulate business start-ups, self-employment and an enterprising culture to match the city's growth ambitions.

3. Employability and economic inclusion

- We need to set learning and skills within the context of a social and economic inclusion agenda and tackle pockets of underachievement, lower level skills & non-participation in education, training and employment, particularly amongst the most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities. This will enable all residents to access business and employment opportunities and maximise their life chances.

4. Personal, social and community development

- We need to continue growing a thriving and vibrant lifelong learning culture in York, maintaining a balance of both formal and informal learning opportunities that helps to raise, for example, levels of family and social cohesion, active citizenship, health and well-being.

3.2 Interventions

People that Learning City wants to continue to support are:

- Children and young people (including undergraduates / graduates)
- Families and communities
- Employers, self-employed and working age adults (both those in and out of work)

Strategic interventions and actions will focus on:

- Improving the quality and choice of education, employment, training and Continuous Professional Development programmes (with clear progression pathways)
- Stimulating opportunities for personal, social and community development (including informal learning)
- Enhancing the accessibility and quality of information, advice and guidance (including activities to raise ambitions and aspirations)
- Promoting and widening participation in the learning and skills 'offer' (including increasing investment by employers and individuals of all ages)
- Continuously improving attainment rates and outcomes for all young people, families, adults and employers
- Sourcing and aligning funding for the city to deliver against agreed priorities

Responsibility for progressing strategic interventions and priorities within the Learning City theme of the City Strategy and the rolling 4 year City Strategy Plan rests with a number of organisations and more detailed action plans:

- Learning City York (in its own right), the Local Authority, schools, colleges and training providers, Higher York and its partners, the voluntary and community sector, Job Centre Plus and contracts awarded by both JCP and the Skills Funding Agency

3.3 Performance Indicators and Success Measures

The Partnership will monitor progress of cross-city interventions against the following quantifiable performance indicators and seek to work collaboratively and / or as individual organisations to address emerging issues:

1. Economic Growth:

- Attainment / narrowing the gap indicators for young people (agreed with the Education Partnership)
- Working age population qualified to at least NVQ Level 2, 3 & 4
- Other indicators - monitoring the workforce profile; job vacancies; analysis of skills needs by sector;

2. Enterprise and an Enterprising Culture:

- No. of business start-ups / self-employed; (agreed with York Economic Partnership & Economic Strategy)
- Need to find a way of measuring the impact of actions to raise aspirations / ambitions; use of case studies; contribution of volunteering; measuring changes in enterprising attitudes;

3. Employability and Economic Inclusion:

- 16 – 18 year olds who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)
- Overall employment rate & those on benefits (with York Economic Partnership)
- Financial Inclusion measures picked up by the Child Poverty Strategy

4. Personal, Social & Community Development:

- Currently no measures have been identified by the York Informal Learning Group
- Success measures are likely to fall out of the latest developments for Community Learning Trusts
- Other suggestions: no. of self-organised community groups & organisations; people volunteering; no of people visiting informal learning places, particularly to recognise the importance of cultural learning in York

Strategic Priorities	Learning City Highlights of Partnership & Partner Activity 2011
<p>1. Sustainable economic growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship Challenge Campaign in 2011, led by CYC 14-19 Team working with Learning City and partners, included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 100 in 100 Press Campaign – 80 employers committed 199 pledges for Apprenticeships in 100 days; 91% converted to Apprenticeship starts; 55% were NEW job roles; 45% were up-skilling for existing staff; ➢ CYC Corporate Apprenticeship Programme launched offering 34 Apprenticeships ➢ 1st Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony at The Minster during York Business Week, co-ordinated by York College on behalf of partners across the city • City Skills Construction launched – Higher York & NYBEP lead – to develop a targeted training, employment and education programme for construction contractors and their supply chain working on major development sites across the city; this has included activity at Heslington East, new CYC offices, Joseph Rowntree Housing development site • York Business Week – 2nd event in November 2011, showcased the different skills and training offer available across the city by sector, as well as size and stage of business
<p>2. Enterprise and an Enterprising Culture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise Roadshow (York Business Week) – 20 local young professionals and entrepreneurs went back into school to deliver inspirational careers assemblies and workshops to 3000 Year 9 and Year 11 students • Young Enterprise - Merchant Adventurers subsidised the cost of the year long Company Programme to enable 8 teams from 5 schools to participate • New Enterprise Allowance – 38 long-term unemployed are on a new business start-up programme, funded by DWP and facilitated by Business Support York and North Yorkshire; 19 have already become self-employed
<p>3. Employability and Economic Inclusion:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 30 different services, schemes and initiatives being funded in York by DWP / JCP, ESF, Skills Funding Agency, Big Lottery, CYC to support residents aged 16+ connect with jobs • Learning City works with partners and delivery agencies to provide coherence, avoid duplication, target activity where it is needed, identify gaps and seek new funded opportunities, let alone to simplify access to and information, advice and guidance for residents • Successful local and targeted provision has included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Job Connect Clifton - £52k from LGYH (Sep 2010 – Sep2011) to support a multi-agency approach in Clifton, with a Work Adviser from Future Prospects being located in Clifton Health Centre to support mental health clients back into work ➢ ESF Support for Families with multiple issues – delivery sub-contracted to Future Prospects to support 400 families over next 3 years ➢ More roll-on, roll-off programmes available, through York College and Askham Bryan, to support 16-17 year olds dropping out of education or jobs mid-year ➢ York College programme at Howe Hill (1st level accommodation for homeless young people)
<p>4. Personal, Social & Community Development:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Inclusion Strategy Launched – led by CYC Libraries and Adult & Community Education • Yortime website re-launched – with additional functionality for community groups to promote their events (administered by CYC Libraries) • Annual Learning Festival has been shifted to May as part of Adult Learners Week; with the 50+ Festival in the Autumn • Safeguarded budgets via the Skills Funding Agency continue to be reduced to support this area of non-accredited, informal learning activity • Volunteering City Strategy (York CVS lead) continues to raise profile of volunteering

Julia Massey, Learning City York, Partnership Manager, City of York Council (julia.massey@york.gov.uk, 07769 640241)