

OurYork

On the cover

Family time

Pictured here is a fun-filled stay and play session held over the summer at 'The Place' in Westfield.

Our council plan, your city

Find out how we're making progress on our council plan. Read more on Page 6.

Also Inside

Raise York: Page 3

Bus Improvements: Page 4

Cost of Living Support: Page 7

Schools Get Active: Page 7

Welcome to this edition of Our York

September means back to school for young people across York. This edition of Our York focuses on how your council supports children and families in lots of different ways. What happens in the earliest years of a child's life can have a big impact on their whole life. That's why we're working alongside other organisations to support our youngest children through to teenagers and beyond.

There's plenty of information about other council services in this edition too, with updates on services affecting your area. This edition includes improvements to buses, investment in pedestrian and cycle routes, and information about helping you with the cost of living.

We're also celebrating improvements to parks across our city – something that many of you have been involved with in your local area.

We publish these updates regularly, so keep an eye out for future editions. Together, this is our city.



Cllr Claire Douglas
Leader,
City of York Council



Richard Webb
Chief Executive,
City of York Council



Photo courtesy of Skyfilming and Sisk

A city of opportunity: A major milestone at York Central, with the main beams of a new bridge installed. Due to open in 2027, it's a big part of this significant new development in the heart of our city.

Ward Focus: City-wide

SEND CENTRAL celebrates first birthday

York's hub for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) and their families celebrates its first birthday this September.

SEND CENTRAL launched last autumn on the site of Clifton Green Primary School. It's a place where families can go for information, advice, and support on all aspects of SEND.

Families can meet professionals and agencies all under one roof, meet other parents and carers, and it's where they and their child can access a range of information about events and activities.

The hub hosts regular events for parents, carers and professionals. This includes:

- Five-day-a-week parent/carers drop-ins
- Coffee mornings
- Workshops from the Wellbeing in Mind team
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service appointments
- SEND casework appointments
- Think Together workshops around supporting children experiencing a range of emotions
- A weekly pre-school play group
- One-off information sessions.

Pop in to SEND CENTRAL, find out more with this QR code or visit **www.yorksend.org/**
SENDCENTRAL timetable



Best Start in Life for York children

Health, education and community partners across York are joining forces to help every child get the Best Start in Life.

As part of the national Best Start in Life initiative, we want every child to have their needs met and grow up feeling safe. We want each to feel connected and supported, so they can reach their full potential.

We want parents to know there's lots of support.

Our plan is to:

- Help families connect to other families and to professional support.
- Make it easy for families to get support when they need it.
- Build a feeling of belonging, because feeling part of a community helps children grow and parents thrive.

One of our key priorities is to help children



Stay and Play at The Place, Westfield - helping families in our city.

do the best they can at school. Recently, we teamed up with national organisation Kindred² to help 1,700 families across the city get their child toilet trained before they start school. This leads to happier children, freeing up time for more teaching and learning in the classroom.

There are lots of places to get advice and support for your family, including your child's health visitor or school.

Use the Raise York website 24 hrs a day, seven days a week with this QR code or visit **www.raiseyork.co.uk**



Our young people working together



Young people across our city are benefitting from a wide range of opportunities, thanks to support from York Youth Partnership. The Partnership helps youth and voluntary organisations work together to provide activities for young people.

Funding has recently been given to five local organisations, with young people taking part in sports, art and using drop-in services. These activities have given them safe spaces to go, and helped build self-confidence and self-esteem.

The Partnership has supported York Youth Festival, a free live music and entertainment event, held in Rowntree Park in July, which was organised by York Youth Council.

York Youth Partnership is looking for trustees to work alongside other board members. If you have experience of being part of a new venture and would like to support the Partnership's work, email **sshooter@NYY.org.uk**. Find out more in the York Youth Strategy with this QR code.



Improvements to your bus services

We're working with bus operators to improve services across the city, adding more services and smarter technology.

First Bus number 10 – from Poppleton and Stamford Bridge to York centre – now runs every half hour during the day from Monday to Saturday, and every 40 minutes on Sundays.

The number 11 – between Bishopthorpe and Heworth via York centre – runs every 30 minutes during the day from Monday to Saturday; that's up from every hour.

Young people can still travel for £1 and since we started the scheme it's supported nearly two million journeys.

Across York we've been investing funding from York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority to bring better seating, lighting and shelters at many bus stops, as well as audio announcements and real-time information to help you plan your trip. With measures to improve reliability and upgrades to Park & Ride sites due next year, there's never been a better time to start taking the bus.



Aged 11-18? A YoZone card gives you proof of age for discounted bus travel in York. Find out more:

www.itravellyork.info/yozone



You may have seen changes to bus stops where you live, with new shelters being put in. This is a part of

changes to a long-term contract for bus shelter advertising. We've been working with the suppliers to minimise disruption during the change. Find out more on the iTravel website at www.itravellyork.info



You **can** foster if you already work

Help us change a child's life through fostering
Find out more by calling **01904 555678** or visit fostering.york.gov.uk



Who is your councillor and how to contact them

Your councillors were voted for by York residents in May 2023. They have been elected to listen to and represent you. There are 47 of them, spread across the city.

Each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters. You can find yours and how to contact them at www.york.gov.uk/councillors



The Local Government Commission for England has been reviewing our ward boundaries, the number and spread of our councillors across the city.

The Commission will share its final decision on 29 September. Find out more at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/york

Ward Focus: **Holgate**

Ward funding is child's play!

Pre-school children near Poppleton Road are enjoying new toddler sessions, thanks to ward grants. Poppy's Preschool wanted to set up a parent and toddler group, alongside what they already do.

Their first grant helped pay for hall hire and insurance. The second grant paid for equipment to help parents track their child's development. Carol Ingham, Manager of Poppy's Preschool, said, "We're so grateful for the support. The grants allowed us to start the group, which has blossomed. It has a real sense of friendship and community."

"The second grant supports activities which improve outcomes for children. The group provides positive social engagement for all families."

If you belong to a community group that's looking for a one-off sum to help, find out more at www.york.gov.uk/WardGrantApplications, email shapingneighbourhoods@york.gov.uk or call **01904 551832**.



A recent event to present the Freedom of the City to 100 year old D-Day veteran, Ken Cooke. Left to right: the Lord Mayor; D-Day veteran, Ken Cooke; the Sheriff of York; and the Leader of the Council.

More about the Lord Mayor

We've had a Lord Mayor of York for over 800 years. They are ambassadors for the city and lead our most important Council meetings.

King Richard II is said to have created York's first Lord Mayor in 1389. Ours is England's second in precedence after the Lord Mayor of London. Our Sheriff is the oldest role in England and Wales.

Every year in May, the Lord Mayor is appointed from among the Council's longer-serving Councillors.

The Lord Mayor of York is currently Cllr Margaret Wells who chose her Sheriff of York, Geoff Cossins. They have consorts to support them in their work and together, they form the civic party.

Their jobs are to:

- attend events organised by local people and community groups
- represent the city on ceremonial occasions
- welcome international visitors

Every year the civic party chooses charities to support. They promote these organisations and raise money for them. Find out more at www.york.gov.uk/LordMayor



Our council plan, your city



Children and young people are at the heart of lots of work your council does. That's the theme of this edition of Our York. Here's some of the progress made around supporting our next generation, within the Council's long-term plan.



A health-generating city for children and adults



Children in 13 schools have joined the York Hungry Minds scheme, including those at Fishergate Primary School (pictured). It's funded through donations and provides meals that help children learn and thrive – you can support the scheme here: www.york.gov.uk/free-school-meals/york-hungry-minds. The council is also investing £925k in parks across the city for children and young people (see page 8).



High-quality skills and learning for all



These young people at Archbishop Holgate's School are celebrating their A-levels this summer, as students across the city continue to perform really well. Meanwhile, there's work continuing with other organisations to support the ongoing development of construction skills in York.



Sustainable, accessible transport for all

Over 250 young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) have been helped by the council to get to school, college and work through a scheme designed to support independent travel and boost skills and confidence. Everyone in the city – including our young people – benefit from Park & Ride buses (pictured) now starting earlier and finishing later, and from improvements to walking and wheeling routes through the removal of barriers and other upgrades.



Important changes to York Christmas Market



York Christmas Market will be back this year, and as a trial it will operate six days a week during the festive season rather than every day. It will be closed on Tuesdays for a rest day.

This allows easier access to the city centre for people living in York – including Blue Badge holders. That's easier access to local banks, shops, restaurants and more.

As ever, there will be loads of things to enjoy across York over the festive period and the city is very much open for business seven days a week.

Find out more

www.visitthecityofyork.org/christmas



Ward Focus: **Bishopthorpe**

Schools get active

Pupils at Archbishop of York's Church of England Junior School in Bishopthorpe are leading the way when it comes to active travel.

The school has been ranked among the top 15 in the country out of over 2,000 taking part in the WOW initiative, which encourages children, families and staff to walk, wheel or cycle to school.

Alongside the health and wellbeing benefits, active journeys help reduce congestion and improve air quality at one of the busiest times of day on York's roads. Seven schools took part across the city, recording over 64,000 journeys, all making more sustainable travel choices. Well done to everyone involved!



Cost of living support, tailored to York

Lots of us are feeling the impact of the continued rise in the cost of living. Our York Talk Money initiative is here with help and advice to make your money go further this autumn.

From support on managing energy bills and debt, help with school uniform or school lunches, or support with getting all the national benefits you're entitled to, our team of experts can help find the right option for you. Pop along to our regular advice sessions and chat to our friendly advisers.

And we work with other organisations across the city to make sure you get the best advice for you and your family.

York Talk Money can help you:

- Boost your money and make sure you're getting everything you're entitled to
- Help you spend only what you need to
- Get benefits and money advice

Look out for our next York Talk Money Fortnight (2 – 13 November) when we'll be holding two special drop-ins, one on 4 November at Monks Cross and one on 11 November at Tesco Clifton Moor.

In the meantime, you can visit your local community centre to find out about ongoing advice sessions or find more details at

www.york.gov.uk/talkmoney



Level-access shower supports couple's independence

A couple from Haxby are among the latest to benefit from work to support independence at home.

Following a change in circumstances, Harold was assessed for support. An Occupational Therapist recommended that a level access shower would boost his safety.

Their bungalow was surveyed and the installers worked with the couple on a design. Harold said: "They were very helpful explaining what the Council could do, while discussing what we wanted to have done."

"The job was completed in a fortnight by some wonderful workers. Some were apprentices and they were all very accommodating. We've got the bathroom we would've wanted to fit



Harold, from Haxby, had been given extra support in his home.

ourselves: it's done now and it's great.

"The reworked bathroom has made such a difference to our lives, and has made us as comfortable as we possibly can be. It is great that it still looks like, and indeed is, a lovely bathroom, and it makes our life safer and easier."

If you're worried about falling at home, find out how our Falls Prevention scheme could help you. Visit **www.york.gov.uk/ReducingFalls** or call **01904 552300** or email **reducingfalls@york.gov.uk**



Ward Focus: **Clifton**

Children help shape future play parks

We're making York's parks more fun and welcoming for everyone, with £925,000 of investment. Pupils from Burton Green Primary are pictured here recently helping to design Ashton Avenue play park. Other play areas include Chesney's Field, Crombie Avenue, Glen Gardens and more! We'll share updates as work continues – thank you to everyone involved so far.

To request reasonable adjustments or to provide this document in an alternative language or format such as large print, braille, audio, Easy Read or BSL, you can:

Email us at: **cycaccessteam@york.gov.uk**

Call us: **01904 551550** and customer services will pass your request onto the Access Team.

Use our BSL Video Relay Service:

www.york.gov.uk/BSLInterpretingService

Select '**Switchboard**' from the menu.

We can also translate into the following languages:

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی میا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)