

Sub Regional Reports

1st June 2015

York

1. York Older People's Assembly (YOPA) Open Meeting in March 2015 was concerned with the forthcoming General Election with representatives from all the main parties - we cover both the York Central and York Outer seats so the parties decided who they would send - only one allowed per political party. It was a crowded meeting with over 100 people. Topics included the Future of the NHS, Pensions and Benefits, Housing and the Economy generally.

The local elections were held in York on the same day resulting in no one party having overall control - YOAP's Open Meeting Programme includes an invitation to the Leader of the Council to come along in September 2015, address the meeting and then take questions.

- 2 York is a "tourist city" with thousands of visitors joining the locals on the streets every day - YOPA believes, and this view has support from elsewhere, that "A Boards" must now become subject to some form of regulation. To quote from a Civic Trust report "They are intrusive, unsightly, cause problems for people with disabilities and can be dangerous when they block pavements and force people into the streets"

Prior to the election a local authority committee decided it wanted more evidence before making a decision.

Question - from the knowledge around the Future Years table is there experience of this issue being faced elsewhere and action being taken.

3. York CVS in partnership with the City of York Council and the University of York have produced a "State of the Sector" Report - "A review of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in the City of York". It covers Finances, Services, Sector Contracts and Employment and Volunteering.

The information it contains is obviously pertinent to York but the methodology may be of interest to anyone else where something similar may be of value particularly as we are in very changing times.

4. Better Care Fund - this is a key driver for local integration and very helpfully the City of York Council and local CCG have produced a BCF York Factsheet setting out which projects are going forward into 2015/16 and beyond.

Leeds

- Having secured the £6million Lottery funding to address Loneliness and Social Isolation across the City we have now recruited 3 full time staff (with 3 more in the pipeline) and are contracting with delivery partners to deliver the first tranche of projects. We have also moved into larger premises.
- We have now had our Management Committee away day to focus on our core work. We are anxious not to lose sight of the need to address other areas affecting older people so are in the process of drawing up a prioritised Work a plan for 2015/16.
- On 13th May I was invited back to speak at the East Midlands Forum on the engagement work undertaken by LOPF.
- We continue to work with officers of Leeds City Council on the development of a housing strategy for older people and our aim is to organise a workshop/ conference later in the year to review progress and also involve other members of the Leeds Equality Assembly.
- We are also engaged with the Council's aspiration to be the "Best City in which to Grow Old" through attendance at various workshops and meetings.
- We are pleased that Lord Filkin has accepted our invitation for him to speak at our AGM in July by which time we may know more about the Centre for Ageing Better's priorities following an extensive consultation exercise."