

Community Learning Partnership Strategic Refresh

Background Information

The North Yorkshire Community Learning Partnership (NYCLP) was founded in 2012 by nine core member organisations from across the county. They committed to an integrated partnership approach to the provision of community learning which was consistent with SFA / BIS priorities and requirements, (particularly those described in “New Challenges, New Chances. Further Education and Skills Reform Plan: Building a World Class Skills System (Department for Business Innovation and Skills, 1 December 2010), and agreed to support one another as this approach was pursued. The original strategy was refreshed in July 2015 to take account of changes in priorities and consultation with partners and service users.

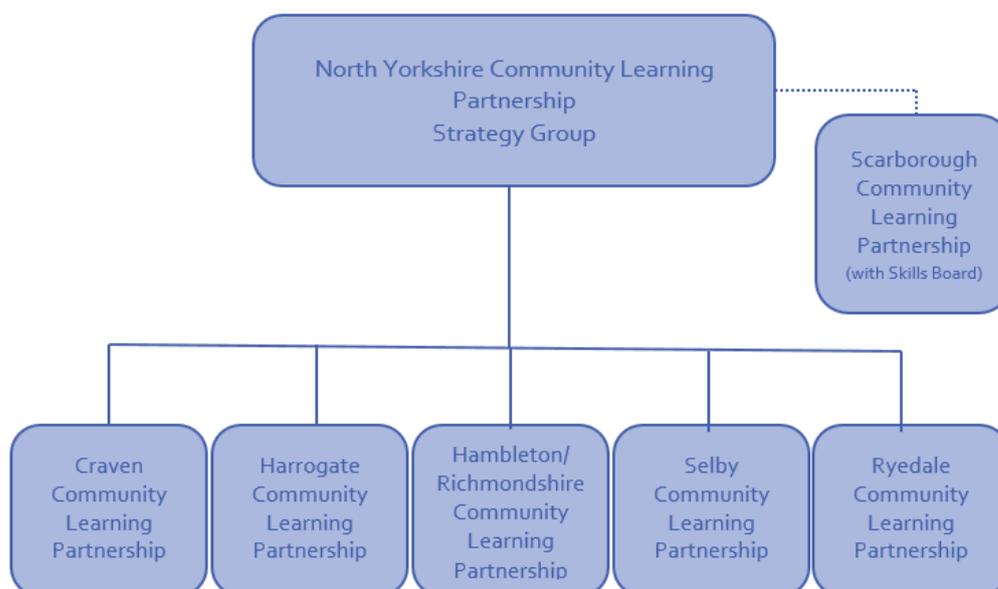
Through the collaborative work of the NYCLP and their own individual institutions and organisations they aimed to respond positively and effectively to the expectations and requirements for community learning in this large and varied geography. Each organisation/institution contributed resources to the partnership, including membership fees. They held regular Steering Group meetings which dovetailed with regular meetings in districts. The district partnerships were open to all with an interest in community learning and have a large and growing membership.

Although much progress has been made there is an acknowledgement that because of the type of services provided by the founding organisations there has been a dominant focus on skills development and economic outcomes that have not taken full account of the importance of community learning to health, social and community priorities.

A new strategic guidance document has been produced to rectify this and set a clear vision, strategy and plans, and a commitment from a wider range of partners to achieve its objectives.

It has been acknowledged by a wide range of policy makers and funders that community learning meets the objectives of health, well-being, prevention and community as well as skills development and economic motivations. As a result the Steering Group, (now renamed as the Strategy Group) has been widened to include representatives from health, social and community services as well as key grantmakers/funders.

Role and structure of NYCLP



The Strategy Group

The purpose of the Strategy Group is to:

- To provide vision, direction and challenge of one another on matters that relate to community and adult learning.
- To share information about current and planned provision freely and without prejudice so that the totality of provision across North Yorkshire can be reviewed, developed and improved on a regular basis.
- To work together to assess community needs and identify and prioritise responses to unmet need;
- To share approaches and work together to involve individuals and communities;
- To plan provision collaboratively in order to maximise opportunities and facilitate progression for participants;
- To work together to ensure a consistent approach across North Yorkshire;
- To share approaches to quality standards and work together to ensure consistency and support new providers;
- To work closely with Children’s Centres, Libraries and other community centres;
- To link to the Strategic Priorities of other organisations and agencies as far as possible and appropriate.
- To respect institutional autonomy and the financial circumstances of members but hold true to the principles of good integrated partnership working;
- To share information and approaches so that any changes to funding regimes and / or SFA / BIS priorities and requirements may be anticipated to ensure appropriate levels of stability but maximum benefit to (potential) participants in North Yorkshire;
- To ensure and demonstrate “added value” as appropriate and required.
- To encourage other providers to commit to the Partnership.
- To review this Memorandum of Agreement on an Annual Basis.
- To provide an annual framework for the work of NYCLP’s area groups and hold the groups to account through regular involvement of Strategy Group members and reports to the Strategy Group.
- To establish a formal partnership agreement with the Community Learning Partnerships in York and the East Riding in order to align strategic priorities and share good practice across the YNYER LEP area
- To pay a membership fee normally pro-rata to their previous level of SFA funding for community learning so that a Partnership Coordinator may be employed on a part-time, flexible basis, to help individual institutions pursue the approaches and objectives described above. The Coordinator will be employed by Your Consortium but act according to the direction of the Partnership Strategy Group. (Fee paying members only).

Fee Paying Members: Askham Bryan College, Craven College, Harrogate College, North Yorkshire County Council, Scarborough Sixth Form College, Selby College, The Workers’ Educational Association and Yorkshire Coast College.

Other Members: Your Consortium, YNYER LEP, Stronger Communities, JCP, Adult Social Care, Public Health, North Yorkshire Police, the Library Service and North Yorkshire Sport.

Local Groups

The purpose of the local groups is to:

- Review the membership of their groups on a regular basis in order to further consolidate and develop their work;
- Contribute to the development of third sector infrastructure and work with voluntary groups
- Promote community learning on a collaborative basis and target their efforts towards the communities and individuals in their areas that are most in need.
- Work together to ensure (and demonstrate) that community learning provision provides good value for money and “added value”.
- Share information about learner and community needs.
- Respond to particular needs and / or circumstances by identifying a small number of achievable (and measurable) objectives.

Shares information and experiences in relation to the opportunities presented by the European Structural Investment Fund

Operating within a broader context

Since the 1990’s government policy has pushed community learning priorities towards the acquisition of skills for employment. The term “Community Learning” is the name of a Skills Funding Agency funding stream and has become strongly associated with this in recent years.

Although the NYCLP understands and embraces community learning in its widest sense it is fair to say that the emphasis on Skills Funding Agency delivery means that there has been little real interest in learning for social and community development on a strategic level to date, despite this being embedded in NYCLP’s Strategic Framework.

Founding partners have acknowledged that this has resulted in a narrowing of strategic thinking regarding community learning across the county and now plan to address this.

Vision and Core Principles

The Vision for Community Learning in North Yorkshire:

“There is a broad and coordinated offer of community learning across the county which accommodates people of all ages and motivations for learning, whether that be for economic, social, health or community reasons.”

This will be achieved by:

- promoting social renewal by bringing local communities together to experience the joy of learning and the pride that comes with achievement
- maximising the effect community learning has on the social, health, community and economic well-being of individuals, families and communities
- Increasing the involvement of the community and individual learners (including potential learners)
- Broadening the membership of the Strategy and area groups in order to further consolidate and develop their work

Statements of Commitments and Priorities

- a) The North Yorkshire Community Learning Partnership seeks to ensure that the provision made by its member organisations and partners is planned collaboratively to be inclusive and meet the needs and reasonable aspirations of, as far as possible, all residents of North Yorkshire. In order to achieve that, a “universal” offer will be complemented by provision specifically targeted towards learner groups that are currently under-represented in learning. These will include:
- Neighbourhoods with participation rates significantly below the local average and with high levels of basic and other skills needs including Family Learning designed to have learning outcomes for both parents/carers and their children
 - The most rural parts of the county
 - Provision for people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities including adults with mental health issues
 - Provision that will impact positively on people’s quality of life, health and well-being
 - Older adults
 - Males
 - Adults from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds
- b) The members of the CLP also expect Community Learning provision to contribute (alongside provision funded through other routes) to tackling the barriers people face when trying to secure employment including:
- Work related Skills eg IT, Literacy, Numeracy and work-related personal skills with a focus on progression into further learning and/or work.
 - Work Clubs looking at CV development, interview techniques, job search, personal impact etc.
 - Provision designed to help participants to run their own businesses.
 - English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
 - Community capacity building provision eg volunteer development provision, increasing civic participation and mentoring.
 - Capacity building for community & voluntary organisations to be able to deliver learning.
 - Vocational sector specific provision that provides a gateway (first step) to local employment opportunities.
 - 1 to 1 Mentoring to support effective transition between levels of learning and work.
- The degree to which such provision is funded through community learning will vary across the county as provision funded by other means varies.
- c) The NYCLP through its Steering Group and Area Groups (and with the agreement of its members) will, over a period of time, increase the proportion of targeted work being funded through community learning budgets but, at the same time, seek to generate additional income to ensure that the “universal” offer is not significantly diminished. The NYCLP will monitor the progress being made and effectiveness of this approach in terms of the outcomes achieved by individual participants.