

North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership - Executive

8 January 2009

Local Indicator 65 / the Environment for a Thriving Third Sector

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To ask the NYSP Executive to consider and comment on the five principles and proposed activities and indicators to support the environment for a thriving Third Sector in North Yorkshire.
- 1.2 To ask the NYSP Executive to endorse the establishment of a strategic steering group to oversee the development of a strategy for the Third Sector in North Yorkshire.

2 Context

- 2.1 This local indicator is within the national indicator set for the new Local Area Agreement and is designed to capture the overall contribution made by local statutory agencies to the environment in which third sector organisations operate.
- 2.2 The national indicator is a key measure in realising government policy to 'develop and support an environment which enables the third sector to thrive, growing the contribution to Britain's society, economy and government'.*
- 2.3 A baseline for North Yorkshire will be established from the results of a national survey of selected registered** third sector organisations that was undertaken in September/October 2008 and which will be repeated again September 2010. The results of the first survey are expected in January 2009. In addition a questionnaire is currently being developed for North Yorkshire organisations not participating in the national survey and findings will form part of the local baseline for this indicator.

3 Background

- 3.1 **Third Sector** is increasingly being used as an umbrella term which includes voluntary organisations and community groups (registered charities and other organisations), social enterprises, mutuals and co-operatives;
 - that are independent of national, regional and local government
 - that are 'value driven' pursuing social objectives rather than primarily aiming to make a profit
 - that reinvest any surpluses in the pursuit of their objectives

- whose governance is undertaken through structures whose members are unpaid volunteers e.g. Management Committees, Board of Trustees etc

3.2 Within the very diverse geographical landscape of North Yorkshire, the third sector encompasses a broad depth of interests ranging from larger national Charities to focused volunteer led organisations. Types of organisations include arts organisations, disability action groups, environmental groups, faith based groups, sports societies, uniformed organisations and village halls.

 * Aims of the Office of the Third Sector

**Ipsos MORI are conducting surveys of 3rd sector organisations across all local authority areas for the Office of the Third Sector in autumn 2008 and 2010 to measure performance against the national indicator.

3.3 A wider range of services and support are provided by organisations in North Yorkshire including drug and alcohol support, transport services to carers support and advocacy.

3.4 **A Thriving Third Sector: A study of North Yorkshire and the City of York.** This report by the University of Teesside published in October 2008 estimates there are over 3,000 third sector organisations in the sub region. Key findings include:

- The sector employs in excess of 5,000 full-time and 5,500 part-time staff. In addition the estimated number of days undertaken in voluntary work is 207,000 per year.
- There are between 12-15,000 trustee / board places
- The revenue of the sector is approximately £270m
- The contribution of the sector to sub regions GDP being between 1.5 and 3%.
- The estimated equivalent value of volunteering activity £103million per year.

3.5 A full copy of this report will shortly be available on the NYFVO website www.nyfvo.org.uk.

3.6 **The Sustainable Community Strategy 2008/18.** The importance of a thriving third sector in North Yorkshire is enshrined within the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008/18. The North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership endorsed that:

'in tackling each of the ten priorities we need to recognise the value of the local Third Sector in the shaping and development of vibrant communities. This includes recognising their value in the planning and delivery of public services and helping to build more sustainable North Yorkshire Communities. We will facilitate its full involvement in Partnership sand activities to ensure a thriving and sustainable Third Sector'

(2008/18 Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire page 11)

4 Delivering the indicator

- 4.1 The 'Environment for a thriving third sector' (L65) is located within the Stronger/Rural Partnership's suite of indicators. It is however recognised that the achievement of this indicator; ensuring that the third sector in North Yorkshire has an environment to enable it to thrive is important for all partners across the NYSP.
- 4.2 The third sector in North Yorkshire is extremely diverse, and made up of a large number of groups operating in different ways with different aspirations, and different needs in order to help them to thrive. To support the achievement of this indicator the following five principles were considered and agreed by the Stronger/Rural Partnership at their meeting 9th December 2008.

5 The Principles

1. The NYSP Partners support, engage with and promote a diverse thriving Third Sector in North Yorkshire
2. The Third Sector is valued and participates as an equal partner across the NYSP and District LSP's and is represented in those forums for planning, policy development and the delivery of services to achieve the Sustainable Community Strategy for North Yorkshire 2008/2018 and associated LAA.
3. The contribution and role of the Third Sector in creating and maintaining the health and wellbeing of the North Yorkshire communities is recognised, and will be monitored and evaluated.
4. The Third Sector has the resource base to enable it to:
 - continue to support and engage with the diverse communities across North Yorkshire
 - promote innovation and to develop appropriate sustainability of its services
 - play an active part in the development of strategy and policy, for delivering high quality services
 - demonstrate the required standards of governance, quality assurance and sustainability as appropriate.
5. The principles of the North Yorkshire Compact are reflected in the activities of all the NYSP partners and at all levels of planning, implementation, grant funding and procurement of services.

The proposed activities and indicators for each of the principles are detailed within appendix one to this report, and aim to:

- ensure NYSP partners have the information, data, and an evidence base of what works
- help prioritise areas for development to support the third sector
- show what has been achieved and is being achieving, and where there are barriers to success, and how to address these barriers
- set priority actions for partner organisations
- deliver or exceed the agreed target
- enable the third sector to make the fullest contribution to the social, economic and community development in North Yorkshire

6 Next steps

- 6.1 To support the development of these principles, the Stronger/Rural Partnership proposes that the NYSP Executive endorse the establishment of a strategic steering group to oversee the development of a third sector strategy for North Yorkshire.
- 6.2 Wider consultation regarding the five principles and the third sector strategy for North Yorkshire will be undertaken across the NYSP and a series of presentations regarding the third sector and this indicator are planned for each of the NYSP Partnerships.
- 6.3 It is envisaged that the steering group would establish task and finish groups as appropriate or identify existing groups (e.g. Compact Steering Group) to undertake specific activities associated with this indicator

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That the Executive considers and comments on the five principles and proposed activities and indicators to support the environment for a thriving Third Sector in North Yorkshire.
- 7.2 That the Executive endorses the establishment of a strategic steering group (and appropriate task and finish groups) to oversee the development of a strategy for the Third Sector in North Yorkshire.

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8th January 2008