

# Strategic Volunteering Infrastructure

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# Capacity Builders Strategic Volunteering Infrastructure & Volunteer Management Improvement

- York and North Yorkshire Infrastructure Consortium successful applications to Capacity Builders to develop a volunteering strategy for York and North Yorkshire. Two main goals:
- support an increase in volunteering activity across the county
- ensure that the volunteering experience is a good one



# Why is volunteering important?

- Volunteering has a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities across York and North Yorkshire
- Volunteers contribute in excess of £130million to the economy of the county  
Thriving Third Sector research report (2008)
- Estimated up to 3,000 voluntary organisations exist across the county
- Estimated 270,000 working days of volunteer activity take place each year



# Not just the voluntary sector

- Volunteers in statutory services: NHS, child and adult services, the fire service, the police, sports and leisure activities, and libraries, among others
- Voluntary work experience in private and statutory sector – route into paid work
- Employers benefit from taking on volunteers who are wishing to gain work experience
- Corporate volunteering - team building and positive relationships with local communities
- Employer-supported volunteering - increased staff motivation and commitment



# Increasingly Important

- Volunteer Centres - enquiries up by over 70% in last two years
- Squeeze on public sector - voluntary activity will be increasingly important over the next few years to statutory sector
- 2012 Games – anticipated massive increase in volunteering interest, especially in sporting & cultural activities
- Number of applicants will outweigh number of volunteering placements available for the Games - important to offer alternative opportunities



# Capacity Builders Project

- Develop strategy to encourage and support voluntary activity
- Brings together statutory, voluntary, and private sectors to plan future volunteering support services
- How do we encourage and support increased volunteering across the county?
- How do we ensure that volunteers are valued and well managed?



# Strategy Consultation

- Survey – February 2010
- Conference 26<sup>th</sup> February - what can we do better together?
- Interviews with organisations that involve volunteers in their work – what support do they want?
- Volunteer management improvement programme to ensure that all managers of volunteers get the good practice guidance and training they need to effectively recruit, manage, and retain volunteers



# A Strategy for Everyone



Consult and involve all groups & organisations:

BME

Statutory

LGBT

Voluntary

Rurally isolated Private

Faith

Social Enterprise

Sports

Older people

Disability

Children and Young People

# Interim & Final Report

- June 2010- interim report
  - Messages from the survey, interviews and conference
  - To be circulated to all partners, including the District Partnerships, the NYSP, and Without Walls
- Final Report December 2010




# Gathering Dust

- Strategy will NOT be a document that sits on a shelf “gathering dust”
- Strategy will seek agreement of all partners to work together to implement recommendations



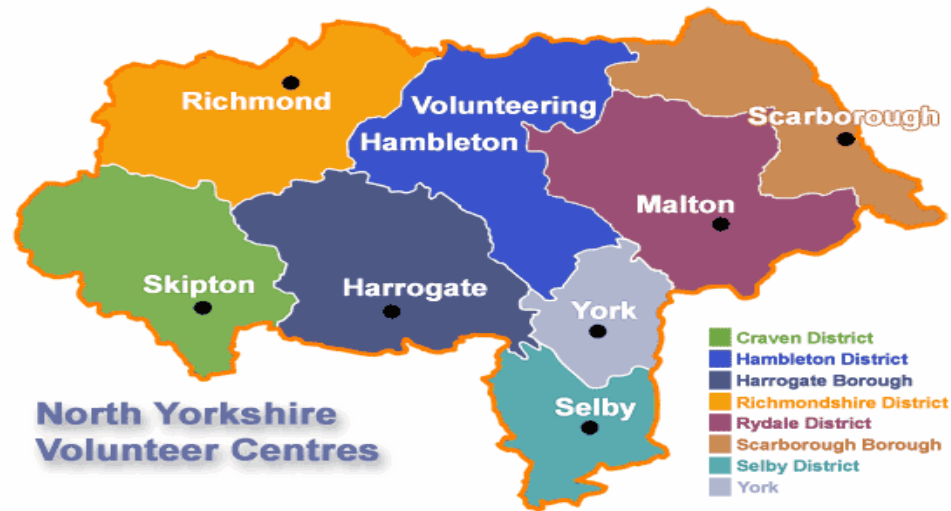
# Starting from Scratch?

- Volunteer infrastructure network already established – build on this where appropriate
- Accredited by Volunteering England  Volunteering England
- 12 Volunteer Centres cover whole of York and North Yorkshire (except Selby)



# York & North Yorkshire

12 Volunteer centres cover most districts



Craven

Stokesley

Ryedale

Harrogate

Thirsk

Coast & Moors

Northallerton

Richmondshire

York

Bedale

Ripon

Easingwold

Selby has no volunteer centre



# Volunteering Infrastructure Services

- Brokerage – fixing up the right volunteers with the right opportunities
- Marketing volunteering – letting people and organisations know about volunteering
- Good practice development e.g. training, toolkits, guidance
- Develop volunteering opportunities – setting up new volunteering opportunities and schemes
- Policy response and campaigning – on issues that affect volunteering and volunteers
- Strategic development of volunteering



# Improving Volunteering Infrastructure

**Volunteer Centre Network** – stronger network, work plan, link with key partners (NYLC, NYSP, NHS, Y&NYCC etc.). Speaking with one voice.

**Quality standards** - strengthening coverage and quality

**Diversity** – minority groups, sport, arts

**Learning and training** – link with NYLC & Capacity Builders Volunteer Management Improvement Project

**Meeting everyone's needs**- NYSP, District LSPs, PCT, Y&NYCC, front-line organisations

