

NUISANCE LIFE ACTIONS HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES ASSIST ISSUE  
 SECURITY FEAR ENGAGE LOOK LIVING SAFE FEELING CIVIC  
 STREETS NEED ACTIVE RUBBISH LIVE HANDLE WITHIN  
 REDUCES NEIGHBOURS REDUCE INVOLVES ACADEMIC NOISE  
 SURROUNDINGS HOUSEHOLD HOUSING HOUSING LOOKING  
 SAFETY CONDUCT HOUSING BEST CITIZENSHIP  
 CRIME  
 KNOW PARKING TRANSPORT PART RESPONSIBILITY PROACTIVE RESPECTFUL  
 YORK CITY IMPROVE HANDLING RUNNING GOOD NOISE TRAFFIC  
 STUDENTS  
 CONSIDERATE PEOPLE LOCAL DIVERTING  
 MAJOR RESIDENTIAL LEARNING  
 COMMUNITY IMPACT RECYCLING MEMBERS PEOPLE PRESSURE DOMESTIC LOCAL DIVERTING SOCIAL  
 COLLEGE UNIVERSITY WASTE SUPPORT

# STUDENT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY FOR YORK





## INTRODUCTION

York is blessed with high quality education providers including Askham Bryan College, The University of York, York College, and York St John University. Each year they bring new students into the city, creating wealth within the local economy and providing graduates who go on to live and work within the city and the wider Yorkshire region.

Students of all ages use their time at college and university to develop themselves socially as well as professionally – learning to live with others, engaging in different communities, and becoming an active part of the city that they live in. It is right that Students' Unions, universities and colleges help their students to become active citizens and good neighbours. Initiated by Leigh Hankinson, YSJSU President 2010-12 and Tim Ellis YUSU President 2011-12, this strategy outlines six key themes that must be address with students in York to ensure that they continue to have a positive impact on life within the city.

Through delivering these initiatives in specific areas, friction between students and longer term residents can be reduced and students can increase their civic engagement. This, in turn will encourage graduates to continue to be active citizens, whether they choose to remain in the City of York or move elsewhere.

The achievement of the objectives set out within this strategy will only be possible through the active collaboration of both Students' Unions and the engagement of other partners from across the city. Local charities, ward committees, residents associations, the universities, colleges and the City of York Council all have a role to play in making sure that these aims are achieved. Together, we can build a better city and a better sense of community between students and longer term residents.

# STUDENT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY

## VISION:

That students living in York are active and valued members of the local community, considerate of their conduct in residential areas, respectful of their neighbours, and positively engaged in civic life.

There are six key theme areas that we feel need to be addressed to achieve our vision.

## APPEARANCE & HOUSING:

How houses look has a major effect on the feeling within a community. We believe that students should live in good quality housing where both the building itself and the surroundings it sits within are well maintained.

## CITIZENSHIP:

University involves both social and academic learning. We believe that students should take proactive roles within their communities, acting as good neighbours and looking for opportunities to improve the community that they live within.

## NOISE:

Nuisance noise reduces people's quality of life. We believe that students have a responsibility to ensure that their actions don't negatively impact on the lives of their neighbours.

## PARKING & TRANSPORT:

Traffic is a large issue for the City of York. We believe that some students do not need to bring cars to University with them and therefore reduce the pressure on streets all over the city.

## REFUSE:

Handling rubbish and recycling properly is part of running a good household. We believe that students need support to know how to best handle domestic waste so that they do not impact on their neighbours and so that they can assist in diverting waste from landfill.

## SECURITY & SAFETY:

Crime and the fear of crime is an issue for many people within the city. We believe that students deserve to live in safe housing in safe communities.

# APPEARANCE & HOUSING:

## WHAT WE AIM TO DO...

Create a community gardening team.

Identify substandard housing in terms of appearance and upkeep.

Reduce prevalence of substandard housing.

## HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

Recruit volunteers.

Create links with community groups and charities.

Identify gardening opportunities and sites which include student properties.

Raise awareness of Code of Practice obligations regarding external repairs and gardens.

Develop mechanism for raising concerns about badly maintained properties.

Support Love Where you Live campaigns.

Work with Landlord Associations.

Community Co-ordinators to visit badly maintained properties to discuss with residents and identify landlords.

Educate residents about 'To Let' signs and encourage council to exercise powers.

Introduce a campaign regarding privacy and use of curtains.

Conduct survey to allow students to rate landlords and accommodation.

Liaise with City of York Council to understand powers they have and promote these.

Create 'Good Landlord Awards' a celebration event to promote responsible landlords.



# CITIZENSHIP:

## WHAT WE AIM TO DO...

Discover the public's perception of students within the York community.

Encourage opportunities for students to engage in community life in York.

Introduce initiatives to improve residents' perceptions of students.

## HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

Commission research to discover the public perception students.

Present results to ward committee meetings and open public forums to disseminate results.

Introduce Community Co-ordinators to every ward with students living in it.

Promote student engagement in local politics, local residents' groups and ward committee meetings.

Promote community events to students.

Run 'Celebrate York' annually - a community fun day in Hull Road Park.

City-wide campaign to encourage a rethink of the term 'student'.

Promote success stories from community projects and volunteering.

Run inclusive events for students and residents.

Identify volunteering opportunities to improve issues in wards/ areas.

Create stronger links with churches and faith groups.

Produce moving in packs for off campus students.

# NOISE:

## WHAT WE AIM TO DO...

Actively engage with the police, environmental Protection Unit, Residents' Groups and City Council to address problem areas.

Deliver community projects that help reduce noise and disturbance complaints.

Run specific awareness and behaviour change campaigns aimed at reducing noise nuisance.

## HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

Target noise reduction campaigns at street level. Identify noise nuisance houses and introduce the residents to local police and environmental protection staff.

Evaluate council policy around neighbourhood noise.

Provide guidance to residents regarding what to do about noise, particularly around key pressure times eg: welcome weeks.



City-wide SHHH! campaign to target city centre venues and taxis, university campuses and high footfall routes through housing areas.

Build on current Night Marshalls project.

Create guidance for students on partying.

Develop internal codes of conduct regarding penalties for unacceptable noise levels.

Run community outreach sessions through university mediation services.

# PARKING & TRANSPORT:

## WHAT WE AIM TO DO...

Encourage students not to bring their cars into York.

Investigate alternative transport for students.

Work with landlords, university management and City Councillors to address specific parking problems.

## HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

Produce a range of pre-arrival media showing how difficult driving and parking is in York.

Encourage landlords to include parking limitations in contracts.

Engage with the local bus companies.

Cross city campaign explaining why you don't need a car in York.

Develop localised bike hire scheme.

Research student usage of public transport, including Park and Ride, to find out how best to support take up.

Limit parking spaces available in housing contracts.

Work with residents' associations and ward committees to highlight specific problem parking areas so that solutions can be targeted.

# REFUSE:

## WHAT WE AIM TO DO...

Deliver community projects that encourage students (and residents) to be more waste efficient.

Provide clear guidance and support for students to better handle their household waste.

Work with the City Council to address specific problems with waste and recycling.

## HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

Roll out Big Green Clean and Freecycle projects city-wide.

Student run recycling schemes that collect reusable items and then share them out with the local community.

Encourage students in shared housing to eat together and provide tips on how to use leftovers.

Provide information on what can be recycled and what needs to be disposed of as waste.

Develop Postcode checker on council website to check waste collection dates.

Produce a range of media showing problems caused by unmanaged waste.

Work with Council to provide houses of multiple occupancy with bigger bins.

Create a sticker telling residents about refuse removal and collection.

Explore with Council what can be done with surplus waste at peak times.



# SAFETY & SECURITY:

## WHAT WE AIM TO DO...

Deliver crime prevention campaigns that lead to an active reduction in student related crime across the City.

Ensure that students are fully insured and aware of the benefits of this.

Lobby landlords and city councillors to ensure security items are a standard part of student accommodation.

## HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

Deliver a 'Lockdown' style campaign.

An NUS campaign aimed at enabling peer to peer consciousness raising of safety and security issues.

Target high crime areas with campaign information to reduce instances of crime.

Working with offenders' groups, investigate early intervention volunteering projects.

Pilot 'Safe spot' accreditation scheme with local businesses.

Ensure police are aware of level of crime against students by making crime reporting part of security's processes.

Run campaign raising awareness of importance of insurance.

Advocate good habits through freshers' fair, websites and other media.

Produce code of practice list of security items all rented accommodation should have.

Make compliance with this list part of city-wide accreditation scheme.

Support students and landlords to make properties more secure.

**THIS STRATEGY HAS BEEN LAUNCHED IN  
OCTOBER 2012 AND WILL BE REVIEWED TERMPLY.**

**THANKS TO ALL INVOLVED...**

# THANKS FOR READING. STAY IN TOUCH.

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