

Mini essentials

An e-news update on our work – Issue 6

Yorkshire & Humber Assembly

September '05



NEWS

Call to Action

Urgent action to address the impact of Yorkshire and Humber's ageing population on local councils and other agencies is called for in a major new report just published.

Workers over the age of 50 will play a key role in the future economic sustainability and growth of the region, and wide-ranging measures are needed to keep them in the workforce.

The report calls for a range of measures to be introduced to tackle potential problems and break down barriers which prevent older people remaining in or returning to work.

These include:

- Increased preventive health programmes in the workplace and more help and support for carers
- Better monitoring of the role played by the over 50s in the voluntary and community sector
- Training and skills programmes to be targeted specifically at the over 50s.
- More flexible retirement arrangements

By 2021, more than half the population of Yorkshire and Humber will be over the age of 45. And by 2011, almost a quarter of the region's working population will be in the 45-64 age group. This means a rapid decrease in the size of the labour force over the next decade through retirement.

Figures from the latest census showing people aged between 50-74 provide more than 269 million hours of informal caring each year, valued at at least £1,892 million.

The report has been produced by Future Years - Yorkshire and Humber Regional Forum on Ageing, supported by the Assembly, Yorkshire Forward and Age Concern.

For further information contact **Linda Wood-Mitchell** on 01924 331585, e-mail linda.wood-mitchell@yhassembly.gov.uk

Local Government Funding

Councils will have the chance to help influence future local government funding at an event being held next week.

Councillor Steve Parnaby, Chair of the region's Association of Local Authorities, will host the regional consultation event on the ODPM's Grant Formula Distribution Consultation paper. Delegates will have the opportunity to discuss the proposed options and influence the development of future local government funding arrangements.

The **October 4** event begins at 1.30pm at the Assembly's King Street office in Wakefield, with keynote speaker Mike Heiser from the LGA.

For more information contact **Clare Coates** on 01924 331564, e-mail clare.coates@yhassembly.gov.uk

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Key date

Next YHA meeting
6 October 2005,

Wakefield Council
Chamber 2pm

Free Publications

For copies of any of our reports, visit our website, phone us, or email: publications@yhassembly.gov.uk

Europe

The impact of European funding on the region and its local authorities will be top of the agenda at a conference being held in Barnsley next month.

The Local Government International Bureau conference at the Priory Campus, Barnsley on **October 14**, is being held in association with Barnsley Council, Yorkshire and Humber's European Office and the region's Association of Local Authorities

As well as funding, the event will look at issues including what Europe means for the Yorkshire and Humber region; How does the European Union work and Europe for the future.

Len Tingle, BBC North Political Editor will chair a discussion panel which will include Cllr Stephen Parnaby, Chair of the ALA, Sylvia Yates, Director of Europe, Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber Professor John Shutt, Leeds Metropolitan University and Cllr Aidan Rave, Deputy Mayor Doncaster MBC and Member of Yorkshire Forward

For more details contact Pat Spellar at the Local Government International Bureau, tel 020 7664 3120; e-mail pat.spellar@lgib.gov.uk

Energy Boost

Politicians, Energy Managers and Sustainability Officers were brought together by the Assembly and York City Council to discuss ways of improving energy use in local council buildings.

The seminar, at York Guildhall, focussed on a new initiative for energy efficiency labels on the outsides of public buildings. These show A to G ratings for energy consumption, water consumption and CO₂ emissions like those for fridges or other electrical goods.

They are the brain child of Energie-Cités, the European association of local authorities promoting sustainable energy.

The meeting attracted an audience from across the region, including representatives from Barnsley, Bradford, Calderdale, Doncaster East Riding, Hambleton, Hull, Kirklees, Leeds, North Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Rotherham and York councils.

Leeds, Kirklees and York Councils have already committed to labelling buildings and more local authorities may follow suit as part of a potential raft of proposals for joint working to make the region greener and more energy conscious.

For more information contact Andrew Cooper on 01924 331603, e-mail andrew.cooper@yhassembly.gov.uk,



Gotta Have Faith

Local people are being asked to serve on an organisation aimed at giving faith communities a bigger voice in the region.

Inderjit Singh Bhogal, a leading theologian and advisor to the Government on race-equality issues will be the first Director of the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum. And now the search is on for 21 council members to serve on the Forum when it is formally launched in Leeds on December 8.

The Forum's role will be to ensure faith groups have a role to play in helping drawing up regional strategies and policies on key issues such as health, transport and social inclusion.

For more details on the forum's work, either visit www.crc-online.org.uk or e-mail linda.wood-mitchell@yhassembly.gov.uk.

PLAN-et Goes to London

Yorkshire and Humber's MPs are to help the Assembly draw up vital plans for the region's future development.

The region's MPs and Peers are being invited to a House of Commons briefing on October 19, where emerging details of our work on the Regional Spatial Strategy will be discussed.

The London event comes as local authorities and other partners on the Assembly's Regional Planning and Infrastructure Commission (RPIC) moved towards finalising the content of the draft RSS to be submitted to Government.

Members of RPIC agreed the overall direction of the draft RSS, but stressed further dialogue was needed on addressing crucial issues on housing figures and economic growth.

For more information about the Strategy, contact **Richard Wood** on 01924 331597, email: richard.wood@yhassembly.gov.uk

In Brief

As many local authorities will be aware, it's Local Democracy Week from 17-21 October. For more details on what's going on log onto <http://www.localdemocracyweek.info/>

Councils across Yorkshire and Humber have signed up to The Children Society's Safe and Sound campaign. The campaign is having an awareness-raising week from 10-14 October. For more details contact Gill Barn at the Assembly, on 01924 331588 or log onto http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/campaign/S_G_Feature/42588/48/