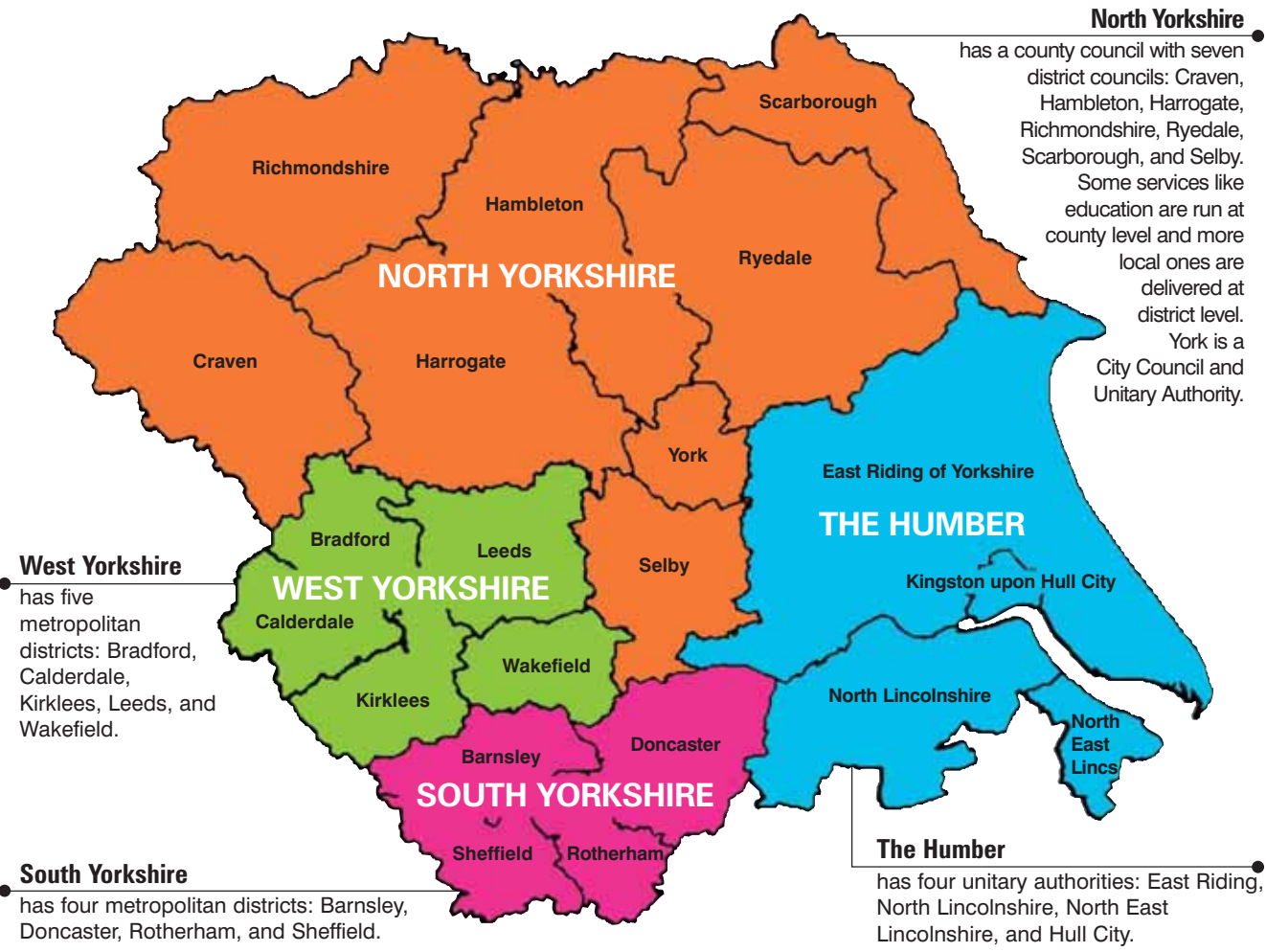




VCS Regional Infrastructure and Networks Yorkshire and the Humber



Infrastructure and support services
Infrastructure and support services are organisations, people and activities that help build the skills and capacity of voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. They act as a voice for the VCS.



Infrastructure organisations and networks in Yorkshire and the Humber

In our region, there are:

- local infrastructure organisations that cover one neighbourhood or a small geographical area
- infrastructure organisations that work in more than one district or at sub-regional level
- infrastructure organisations and networks that work across the Yorkshire and Humber region, or in at least three of the four sub-regions

This guide, which is the latest in a series of Regional Forum Structures and Networks Guides, focuses on the last of these three: regional infrastructure organisations and networks.

What do infrastructure organisations and services do?

They offer a range of advice, information, training and support to other VCS organisations and groups. They usually also aim to influence key regional agencies and other policy makers. They differ greatly in size and focus, and in the range of support services they offer. Some specialise in offering support only to VCS organisations, while others combine this with direct work with the public or local communities.

Infrastructure services include the following: -

- Building partnerships and collaboration
- Campaigning and advocacy
- Community accounting and financial advice
- Community organisation and development
- Equalities and diversity information
- Governance advice
- Human resources advice
- ICT advice and support
- Identifying gaps in services and finding solutions
- Income generation and funding advice
- Leadership and management training
- Offering legal services
- Marketing and communications training
- Monitoring quality and performance
- Networking and network development
- Providing policy information and support
- Promoting strategic involvement
- Raising quality standards
- Collating research and data sharing
- Developing skills and learning
- Promoting social enterprise
- Supporting volunteering

Definitions

Frontline organisations

These are organisations directly involved in delivering services to the public, campaigning or working in communities. They can be any size – from a Save our Village Green group to the Royal National Lifeboats Institute. If they are small and run by the community in which they are based, they are sometimes referred to as grassroots organisations.

Capacitybuilders, Destination 2014, 2007

Social enterprise

A social enterprise is 'a business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners'.

DTI, Social Enterprise: a strategy for success, 2002

Networking

'...the process by which relationships and contacts between people or organisations are established, nurtured and utilised for mutual benefit.'

Alison Gilchrist, 'Community Development and Networking', 2000

'Networking is a means of communicating and organising according to a common cause, and a means of providing access to information, support, resources and influence.'

www.cdx.org.uk/networking

Capacitybuilders

A government body working to create a more effective third sector uses the term 'support services' to describe this area of work (**Capacitybuilders, Destination 2014, 2007**). The organisations involved are sometimes called development agencies or 'second tier' organisations.

The third sector

The Government defines the third sector as non-governmental organisations that are value driven and which principally reinvest their surpluses to further social, environmental or cultural objectives. It includes voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, co-operatives and mutuals, and housing associations.

www.communities.gov.uk/communities/thirdsector/

Regional organisations and networks

These are just some of the infrastructure support organisations and networks working at regional level in Yorkshire and the Humber.

To add a regional infrastructure organisation to the online version, or future editions of this guide, contact Ruth Beattie on 0113 394 2300 (Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Forum)

Age Concern England: Yorkshire and Humber Regional Team

Working to support Age Concerns within the region, focusing on service development and sustainability, operational effectiveness, and achieving influence in the region.

☎ 0113 244 1860

@ heather.stephenson@ace.org.uk

🌐 www.ageconcern.org.uk

Bassac

A national network of multi-purpose, community-based organisations, with a regional base offering support, policy development, networking and partnerships.

☎ 0113 394 2316

@ tatum@bassac.org.uk

🌐 www.bassac.org.uk

BME VCS Regional Panel

A panel for BME organisations and groups across Yorkshire and the Humber, working to influence policy and enable the sector to thrive.

☎ 0113 394 2300

@ info@bme.org.uk

🌐 www.bme.org.uk

Business in the Community Yorkshire and Humber

Business in the Community inspires, engages, supports and challenges companies to continually improve the impact they have on society and the environment.

☎ 0113 205 8200 (Leeds),

☎ 01482 638 610 (Hull),

☎ 0114 201 8983 (Sheffield)

@ yorkshire@bitc.org.uk

🌐 www.bitc.org.uk/what_we_do/where_we_work/yorkshire_and_humber/index.html

The Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber (CRC)

Works to represent the churches at regional level, to raise the profile of faith in the region and to act as partners in regeneration.

☎ 0113 244 3413

@ liz.carnelley@crc-online.org.uk

🌐 www.crc-online.org.uk

Citizens Advice North Area

Offers support to the network of local Citizens Advice Bureaux on business planning, quality of advice, information technology, governance, training and funding issues.

☎ 0113 389 5528

@ allyson.whisker@citizensadvice.org.uk

🌐 www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Clinks

Based in York, Clinks aims to strengthen partnerships between voluntary and community-based organisations and the Prison and Probation Services in England and Wales, and to work on issues relating to the introduction of the National Offender Management Service.

☎ 01904 673970

@ info@clinks.org

🌐 www.clinks.org

Community Alliance

A partnership of DTA, bassac and Community Matters, involved in the development of 'community anchors' (community organisations that are focal points for a range of local activities) and supporting community organisations to take on local authority buildings.

☎ 0114 250 0613

@ n.berry@dta.org.uk

🌐 www.dta.org.uk

Community Matters

The National Federation of Community Organisations provides a range of services to member organisations which run and manage community buildings.

☎ 01724 710819

@ yorkshumber@communitymatters.org.uk

🌐 www.communitymatters.org.uk

Co-operatives Yorkshire and the Humber

A part of Co-operatives UK, a member-owned and led organisation that promotes the interests of co-operatives; works to increase awareness and understanding of co-operative values and principles, and supports the growth and development of new and existing co-operatives.

☎ 07970 075704

@ info@cooperatives-yh.coop

🌐 www.cooperatives-uk.coop/regions

Development Trusts Association

Helps people set up development trusts (community owned and led organisations), helping trusts learn from each other and work effectively, and addressing policy and funding issues.

☎ 0114 250 0613

@ n.berry@dta.org.uk

🌐 www.dta.org.uk

Electroville

Electroville provides ICT services to the sector across the region through a) the work of the Regional ICT Champion b) net:gain training for senior operational managers c) technical support and installation d) web design services and e) ICT training. They currently run a Capacitybuilders Improving Reach project in the region.

☎ 01924 488725

@ colin.harrison@electroville.org.uk

🌐 www.electroville.org.uk

🌐 http://yhictchampion.org.uk

Future Years

Future Years is the Regional Forum on Ageing, a multi-sector partnership that exists to achieve regional influence on issues relating to age, the experience of ageing and associated demographic change

☎ 0113 246 1543

@ futureyears@googlemail.com

🌐 www.futureyears.org.uk

Housing Action Yorkshire and Humberside

HAYH is a network of housing and homelessness services operating across Yorkshire & Humberside. www.hayh.org.uk is the premier site for information on homelessness issues in the region. HAYH is free to join and members can post items on the website including: vacancies, upcoming events & training, research, consultations, campaigns and more.

@ info@hayh.org.uk

🌐 www.hayh.org.uk

Homeless Link

Homeless Link is the national membership organisation for frontline homelessness agencies in England. Our mission is to be a catalyst that will help to bring an end to homelessness. Homeless Link has a regional manager in Yorkshire & the Humber who provides infrastructure support services.

☎ 07798 631347

@ joe.kent@homelesslink.org.uk

🌐 www.homeless.org.uk

LGB Regional Workers and Groups Forum

Networking, information sharing and co-ordination for groups across the region, to help build good practice and strategic involvement.

☎ 01274 727759

@ kath@equitypartnership.org.uk

Mentoring and Befriending Foundation Yorkshire and Humber

The Foundation works with over 900 projects and organisations in the Yorkshire and the Humber region, often focusing on socially excluded and isolated people; pupils and students and asylum seekers and refugees.

🌐 www.mandbf.org.uk/yorkshire_humber/about/

National Children's Centre

National Children's Centre is a medium sized charity based in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire serving communities locally and regionally. The Centre provides practical services aimed at improving the lives of children, young people and families most in need and in working to influence national policy and delivery of services for children.

☎ 01484 519988

@ simon.cale@nccuk.org.uk

🌐 www.nccuk.org.uk

Northern Network of Travelling People and Gypsies

A network bringing together and representing Gypsies and Travellers and their organisations, across the North of England.

☎ 0113 240 2444

@ helen@leedsgate.co.uk

🌐 www.northern-network.co.uk

Novas Scarman Group

Works with grass roots activists to bring about positive change in their communities – in Yorkshire and Humber this has included the development of easy access small grants (CDIFs) to support social entrepreneurs or community action to address local concerns.

☎ 0113 380 5665

🌐 www.novasscarman.org.uk

Open College Network Yorkshire and Humber Region

The OCN is a membership organisation, working in partnership across all post-14 sectors to maximise opportunities for learners in all settings through credit based courses and qualifications.

☎ 01924 434600

@ enquiries@ocnyhr.org.uk

🌐 www.ocnyhr.org.uk

Regional Community Empowerment Network

Brings together the local Community Empowerment Networks and other voluntary and community sector organisations delivering the Empowerment Agenda across the Region and within each of the Districts.

☎ 01977 691927

@ tony@voxnet.org.uk

🌐 www.voxnet.org.uk

Regional Empowerment Partnership in Yorkshire and the Humber

The Regional Empowerment Partnership seeks to increase the number of people, especially people in disadvantaged areas, who participate in public issues, press for and contribute to the improvement of public services and help to shape the future of their locality.

☎ 0114 268 7070

@ mail@cogs.uk.net

🌐 www.yhep.org.uk

Regional Infrastructure Consortium

The Consortium is open to any voluntary or community sector organisation working in at least three of the four sub-regions: North, South and West Yorkshire and Humber. It aims to build collaboration, share information and help build good practice around regional level infrastructure. Many of the organisations listed here are members.

☎ 0113 394 2300

@ ruth.beattie@regionalforum.org.uk

🌐 www.regionalforum.org.uk

Regional Mental Health Network (Yorkshire and the Humber)

The Regional Mental Health network exists to inform and support voluntary and community organisations that provide services to users and carers of mental health services. Their remit includes providing information about commissioning and procurement opportunities, providing opportunities to develop provider delivery partnerships and sharing information and best practice, in mental health service delivery, at regional level.

☎ 0113 394 2300

@ mark.crowe@regionalforum.org.uk

Rural Community Councils

There are two Rural Community Councils in our area: Rural Action Yorkshire and Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council. Both provide advice and support to rural communities, enabling them to influence policy and help secure a range of community facilities and services.

☎ 01430 430904 (H&W)

☎ 0845 313 0270 (Rural Action)

@ info@hwrcc.org.uk (H&W),

@ info@ruralyorkshire.org.uk (Rural Action)

🌐 www.hwrcc.org.uk (H&W)

🌐 www.ruralyorkshire.org.uk (Rural Action)

Social Enterprise Yorkshire and the Humber

SEYH is the regional voice for the social enterprise sector. It provides social enterprises with high quality information resources and promotes the contribution that social enterprises make to people, business and communities in the region.

☎ 0114 281 2222

@ dave@scedu.org.uk

🌐 www.seyh.org.uk

Sport England Yorkshire

Works at regional level to raise the profile of a wide range of sports issues, to influence strategy, promote and improve volunteering in sports, carry out research and ensure access to funding and infrastructure support for clubs and other voluntary organisations through partnerships at regional, sub-regional and local levels.

☎ 0113 243 6443

@ francesca.wood@sportengland.org

🌐 www.sportengland.org

UK Advocacy Network (UKAN)

Focuses on advocacy and service user involvement in mental health, and provides information and training to advocacy groups and other groups that are led by mental health service users across the region.

@ officeukan@btconnect.com

Voluntary Youth Organisations Network (VYON)

VYON is a key strategic group within the Youth Work Unit for Yorkshire and the Humber. VYON supports new and existing networks of voluntary youth organisations in the region. Regular meetings are attended by local network co-ordinators and representatives from large or nationally based youth organisations in the region.

☎ 0113 270 3595

@ billeve@youthworkunit.com

🌐 http://www.youthworkunit.com/VYON/index.htm

VCS Equality and Human Rights Network Yorkshire and the Humber (VEHRN)

The regional network ensuring that excluded groups in the region influence developments through having a united voice. Bringing together the experience and expertise of equality and human rights in Yorkshire and the Humber, VEHRN's focus is to tackle inequality and discrimination by taking a human rights based approach to equalities.

☎ 0113 394 2300

@ ruth.beattie@regionalforum.org.uk

🌐 www.regionalforum.org.uk

Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies

Works to support and represent at regional level the 76 civic societies in the region (civic societies are independent voluntary organisations made up of groups of people who care about local planning issues and housing development).

☎ 01723 513754

@ pete@coope26.freeserve.co.uk

🌐 www.yhacs.org.uk

Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum

Encourages and educates faith communities to work together in matters of policy, strategy and action, and works to challenge all forms of discrimination and injustice, particularly on the grounds of religious belief. Promotes the contribution of faith communities to the region and ensures that issues faced by faith communities are considered at a regional level.

☎ 0113 245 6444

@ inderjit.bhagal@yorkshireandhumberfaiths.org.uk

🌐 www.yorkshireandhumberfaiths.org.uk

Yorkshire and Humber Funding Advice Workers Network (FAWN)

Supports funding advice workers across the area, participates in research projects, builds links between members, and lobbys on relevant issues.

☎ 01653 600120

@ pauline@rva-cvs.org.uk

Yorkshire and Humberside Community Development Network

Aims to bring together individuals and organisations from within the region that are committed to improving the quality of life within the communities they work with and bringing about strategic change and development on all levels.

@ valharris@phonecoop.coop

🌐 www.yhcdn.net

Yorkshire and the Humber Healthy Living Consortium

Provides information and support to a membership made up of health living centres across the region.

@ ann.rushman@healthylivingnetworkleeds.org.uk

Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Environment Forum

YHREF is the environmental knowledge and advocacy network for the region. It is a partnership organisation, driven by a committed and involved membership of regional bodies, local authorities and NGOs, working to develop and influence regional strategy and practice.

☎ 0113 815 5471

@ info@yhref.org.uk

🌐 www.yhref.org.uk

Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Forum

The Forum brings together voluntary and community sector organisations to ensure that the sector has the right support and structures to contribute to regional activity. It has over 150 members representing approximately 20,000 voluntary and community sector organisations from across the region.

☎ 0113 394 2300

@ mark.crowe@regionalforum.org.uk

🌐 www.regionalforum.org.uk

Yorkshire and the Humber VCS Regional Learning and Skills Group

Yorkshire and the Humber VCS Regional Learning and Skills Group works to support and develop the role of the VCS as a provider of learning and skills, as an employer with its own workforce development needs, and as a source of expertise, communication and co-ordination.

☎ 0113 394 2305

@ amanda.vickers@regionalforum.org.uk

🌐 www.regionalforum.org.uk

Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Disability Network

Y&H Regional Disability Network aims to promote the contribution made by the voluntary and community sector to supporting disabled people across the region. The network aims to achieve this by improving communication, developing collaboration and responding to policy and strategy.

☎ 0113 394 2300

@ ruth.beattie@regionalforum.org.uk

🌐 www.regionalforum.org.uk

Yorkshire Chapter of Credit Unions

Brings together all the credit unions and study groups in the region to ensure membership is accessible to everyone living or working in the region.

☎ 01482 318524

@ bnavier@hullandeycu.co.uk

🌐 www.abcul.org

Yorkshire Rural Support Network

YRSN is a partnership of statutory and voluntary agencies working to alleviate stress in Yorkshire's rural communities by promoting sources of practical, financial and emotional help.

☎ 01423 546215

🌐 www.yorkshireruralsupport.org

Youth Work Unit

The YWU is the strategic development agency for youth work and work with young people in the region. It provides strategic, expert and objective support and development work to voluntary, local authority and private providers as well as working with regional and national policy makers.

☎ 0113 270 3595

@ theunit@youthworkunit.com

🌐 www.youthworkunit.com

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Disclaimer: The Regional Forum accepts that it may not have included all relevant infrastructures bodies in this guide. It has done its best to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of going to press.