

Guidance to submitting evidence to inform the Yorkshire and Humber Strategy

Yorkshire Forward has published details of how the Yorkshire and Humber Strategy (formerly the Integrated Regional Strategy), will be developed using a robust and credible evidence base. The document sets out the questions that are being asked and explains the process for submitting evidence. It will be available on the Yorkshire Forward website. This guidance summarises the content from a voluntary and community sector (VCS) perspective.

The Regional Forum believes that the sector should, within its capacity to do so, provide evidence to inform the development of the Strategy, because this will be the framework for the way we address economic, social, and environmental challenges for the next 20 years. If we leave it to others we cannot complain if we get more of the same! The VCS has important knowledge to share.

Information being sought

- Anything on the nature of an issue. For example, the extent of fuel poverty in the region. This could be statistics and other data from reliable sources.
- Anything on how the issue could be tackled. For example, what works and what doesn't from your own or your organisation's experience. Specific examples of projects or approaches that have produced results will be really valuable. Ideally these will be from this region, but need not be exclusively.

How the Information should be presented

- It **must** be relevant to one of the Key Lines of Enquiry (see below)
- Keep it **brief!** A single page with a concise summary of the key messages from the evidence, the source of the evidence, and how it relates to the Key Line of Enquiry is all that is necessary. Don't forget to give specific examples.
- If you know that there is going to be a co-ordinated sub regional response, perhaps via a Local Economic Assessment or Sub Regional Partnership, it would be a good idea to be part of that.

Who to send it to

- Send it electronically to evidence@yhstrategy.com by **31st March 2010**.
- Please send a copy to stephen.fox@regionalforum.org.uk. We will use it to inform our own response.

Workstreams and Key Lines of Enquiry

There are six workstreams (see below), with a common theme:

“How can development benefit the places and people that are currently worst off and reduce widening inequalities?”

Each Workstream has a number of questions, (Key Lines of Enquiry), of which there are 50 in total!

We have identified below the Key Lines of Enquiry, within each workstream, that we feel are most relevant to the sector and therefore most important for all in the VCS to respond to. However, if you have time, please feel free to respond to as many of the Key Lines of Enquiry as you feel you can make a positive contribution. (See the full set of Key Lines of Enquiry on the Yorkshire Forward website.)

1. Economy and Skills

- How can the region address deprivation and worklessness and their links to issues like health, crime, environment and ambitions? How far would market driven economic growth reach the excluded communities, and what additional action is required to make a difference? What role might community economic development play?
- How far can economic infrastructure and renaissance improve quality of place, social and economic outcomes?

2. Housing and Regeneration

- What type, mix, and offer of housing is needed to meet the different and future needs of communities across the region and to support sustainable economic growth?

3. Transport

- How can transport networks be developed to enhance social inclusion and the regeneration of deprived areas by enabling disadvantaged people to connect with employment opportunities, key local and cultural services, and social networks?

4. Spatial Planning

- What roles should different settlements play across the region, and what are the associated patterns of development that will best address climate change, environmental, social, and economic needs?

5. Climate Change and Environmental Resources

The Regional Forum is supporting the evidence submitted by the Regional Environment Forum on this Workstream. If you would like to submit evidence contact Andrew Wood at Andrew@yhref.org.uk

6. Quality of Life and Equalities

This is the Workstream that we would expect the sector to focus on.

- What are the key contributors to Quality of Life in the region, and how can the Strategy positively influence and utilise these?
- How can we unlock latent potential and help the region's residents achieve their ambitions and aspirations?
- What demographic changes are likely, and what would be the implications of a growing, changing, and ageing population across and in, different parts of the region?
- What are the key regional and sub regional 'social' challenges and opportunities for creating and sustaining diverse, cohesive, safe, and inclusive places?
- What are the key health issues that the Strategy can influence and what pro-active action is required?
- What areas or communities within the region should be a priority for regeneration action and investment based upon relative deprivation, worklessness, health,

environmental and social inequalities? (Tying in to housing stock, infrastructure, economic and skills issues emerging from other workstreams).

- What effect do the above issues have on the other workstreams e.g. on the economy, transport and housing?
- How can we maximise the contribution of heritage, culture, and sport to the economy, communities, health and well being, and to making the region an attractive place to live, work, and play?
- What distinctive contributions can different sectors make to sustainable economic growth - **including the voluntary, community, and faith sectors?**

This final question in particular offers an ideal opportunity for the sector to show how different / complementary approaches can offer solutions to problems. We need to come up with specific examples and highlight the reasons / principles behind this success.

For further information please contact stephen.fox@regionalforum.org.uk

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