

North Yorkshire – Partnership Conference

The story below is a ‘story of us’, inspired by Marshall Ganz Public Narrative.

Colleagues worked through a series of 3 prompts in groups to determine the following:

- 1) Who they are – types of organisations, geography, networks etc
- 2) What are the shared values and priorities they all have
- 3) What their hopes are for the future

Using ChatGPT the responses of the groups were crafted into the following story, which articulates how disparate parts of the system can identify commonality and use this as a way to work together and to bring others on board with the mission.

The story that was replayed back to the group is below:

Story of Us

We are a partnership woven from many threads—charities, private-sector employers, public authorities, community foundations, and neighbourhood organisations. We are listeners, supporters, connectors, and capacity builders. Together, we cover most of North Yorkshire, reaching across communities and across the lifespan.

From Harrogate Town Foundation to North Yorkshire Council, Active North Yorkshire, Harrogate Neighbours, Better Connect, and countless local groups, we work alongside people and organisations who share a deep desire to help communities flourish. We are information gatherers and information sharers. We are administrative enablers who care. And at the heart of everything we do is a simple, powerful commitment: to support happier, healthier lives for everyone in North Yorkshire.

Our shared values are what bind us. We come with empathy, compassion, and a genuine concern for people’s wellbeing. We understand the pressures of stretched resources, the realities of rurality, and the barriers so many face in accessing support. But we also understand resilience—our own and that of the communities we serve.

We are driven by a belief that people deserve to live good lives, full of connection, purpose, and movement. We care for the environment around us, and for the social fabric that holds communities together. We value curiosity and non-judgement, recognising that each person’s journey is different. Whether we’re supporting someone facing health barriers, empowering a resident to build confidence, or helping an organisation strengthen its capacity, our goal is always the same: to help people thrive.

We believe in movement as a foundation of health—physical movement, social movement, emotional movement. Movement that keeps people healthier for longer,

especially in an ageing population. Movement that cannot be replaced by technology, because it speaks to a human need to feel alive, connected, and capable.

And when we look to the future, our hope is both ambitious and grounded. We want to see real, tangible evidence of change—not only in data and outcomes, but in the everyday interactions that tell us we're making a difference. A smile of gratitude. A story of regained independence. A moment when someone realises they are not alone. Those small signals matter.

We hope for deeper collaboration, for the kind of partnerships that spark innovative conversations, where our different backgrounds and expertise create new possibilities. We want to build a shared understanding across the region, one that makes services more relatable, accessible, and easy for people to navigate.

We hope for opportunities—opportunities for residents to live the lives they want, opportunities for organisations to grow stronger together, and opportunities for movement and wellbeing to become the norm rather than the exception.

Above all, we hope for a North Yorkshire where every person feels empowered to thrive in their own way. A place where compassion is not just a value but a practice. Where human connection is prioritised. Where caring is recognised as a strength that shapes healthier, more resilient communities.

This is who we are. These are our shared values. And this is the future we are choosing to build—together.