

Climate Change, Health and the Role of the VCSE Sector

10 October 2024, 10am – 12noon, Main Hall



ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS / FEEDBACK

Scenarios discussed:	Extreme Heat, Fuel Poverty, Air Quality, Antimicrobial resistance and emerging infections
What is the VCSE sector already doing/delivering in this area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adapting volunteer ways of working outdoors – including breaks, bringing shade etc.• Adapting community buildings for net zero and retrofit• Providing warm / cool spaces for community members• Impacting sports and physical activities – adapting and changing activities
What roles and strengths could the VCSE sector bring in terms of mitigating and supporting people to adapt to the health consequences of this scenario?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The VCSE sector is trusted by the communities we work with• Building on and creating networks and communications within and between communities to share resources• The sector can engender optimism and hope• Churches could be used as cool hubs – optimise the outdoor spaces too• Being creative with the use of space across the city to adapt to changes in temperature• Look at adapting wellbeing activities• Free drinking water stations across the city• Use garden spaces to create shade, grow community food and sensory spaces through plants

<p>What would the VCSE sector need to enable this work?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to be able to connect in with each and share resources easily • Be better connected to statutory bodies • We need to empower existing organisations to share best practice, on what health activities are taking place • We need the evidence and knowledge to increase awareness of the links between health and climate change – communications – what are the manageable and achievable impacts • We need more open meetings with health sector for a joined-up approach to these issues • Poverty needs to be viewed as a whole and not just one aspect such as fuel poverty • Building on the vaccination project – we need funding to do this but we could build on the work done so far to understand the barriers and how to implement this further
<p>What's next? What would you like to see happen in this area of work? What's the next stage?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need a bigger profile for climate work connectivity across the climate organisations and groups in York, including groups who work around food, education etc. This is to ensure overlaps are captured. The co-benefits can be identified and issues tackled together. • More open discussion around these topics • We need more public education around these topics and the impacts in our locality • We have a duty of care for the most vulnerable in our communities – is there a way of easily identifying these people? A risk register? • Creating a better flow of information and resources