

York Human Rights Indicator
Report (Report 3)
Human Rights:
**Reclaiming the Positive -
the right to housing**

10th December 2018



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Introduction

- About the Indicator Report
- Changes to this year's report
- How we created this report
- Findings
- Next steps



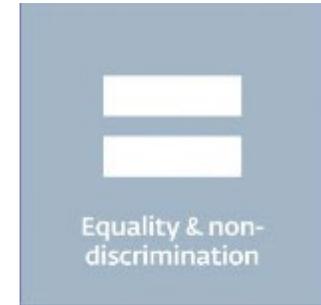
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About the Indicator Report



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Changes for 2018



- Supplementation of statistical data with personal narratives
 - Focus on the right to housing indicators
- Printed report to be finalised after public meeting



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How we created this Report

- Numerical information from public sources (unless stated)
 - City of York Council opendata
 - National statistics
- Interviews from selection of communities with compromised housing rights:
 - Rough sleepers
 - Those in hostels (temporary accommodation), or who had previously used temporary accommodation
 - Refugees
 - Travellers



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How we created this Report - Limitations

- Statistical information from public sources (unless stated)
 - Not all indicators used in previous years was available, so in some cases, year-on-year comparisons are not possible
 - Most data relates to year ending March 2018
- Interviews from selection of communities with compromised housing rights:
 - Small number of interviews (small constituent groups)
 - Data collection between July and September
 - Not all groups with compromised housing rights are covered
 - Perceptions / personal reality



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Findings



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Education - Indicators

- 16-17 year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET)

	2016/17	2017/18
	120	100
York	3.3%	2.9%
Yorkshire & Humber	3.4%	3.3%
UK	3.0%	2.8%
Comparator (cities like York)	2.4%	2.5%

- New indicator
 - Meeting expected levels in reading, writing and maths at end of primary school – disadvantage gap

Disadvantaged Pupils	40.0%
All other Pupils	66.0%
All Pupils	61.0%



Education

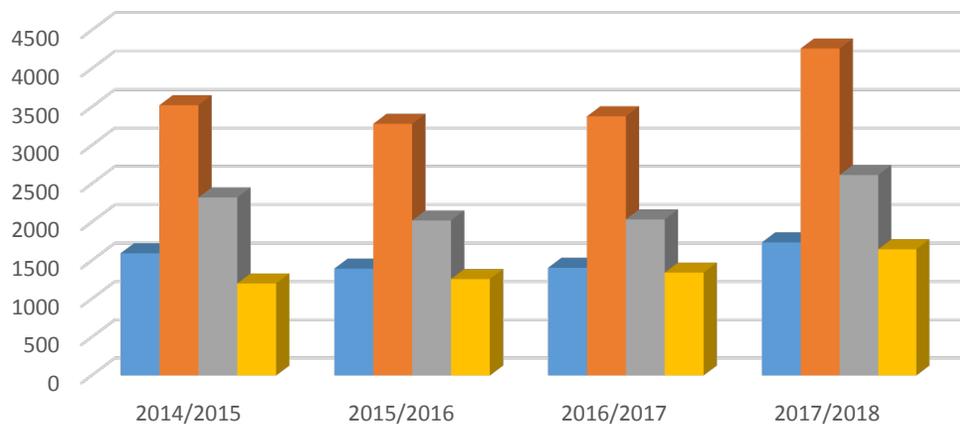


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A Decent Standard of Living - Indicators

Foodbank Use

(data provided by the Trussell Trust)



- Earnings gap – weekly salary

- Gap has grown
- Lower wages have not grown as much as mid-point wages

	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
earnings gap 25%ile to median York	£115.20	£128.30	£135.90	£138.90
earnings median York	£476.90	£496.00	£508.10	£519.30
earnings median UK	£521.10	£529.60	£540.90	£552.70
earnings median regional	£479.00	£480.50	£498.30	£502.30

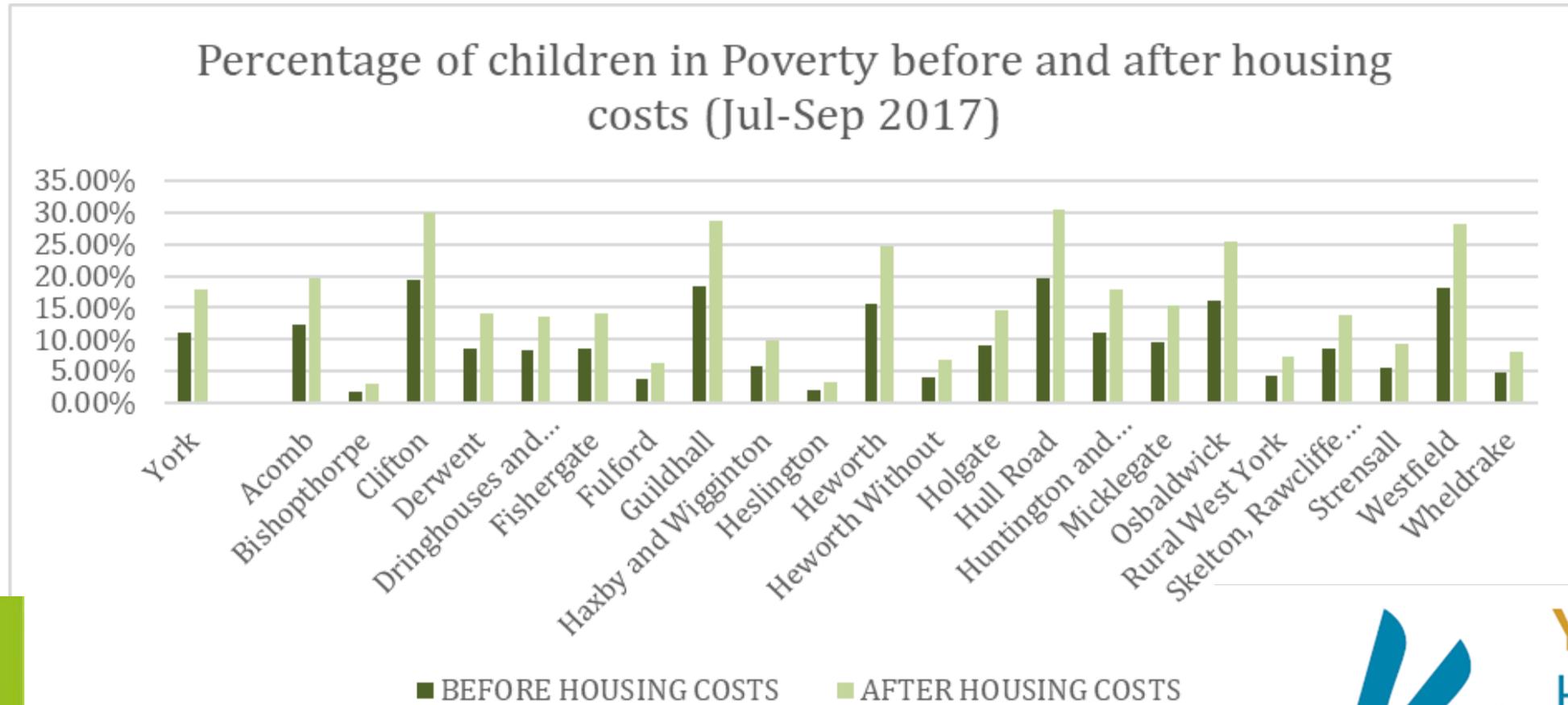


- foodbank referrals
- total people using foodbank
- adults using foodbank
- children using foodbank



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A Decent Standard of Living - Indicators

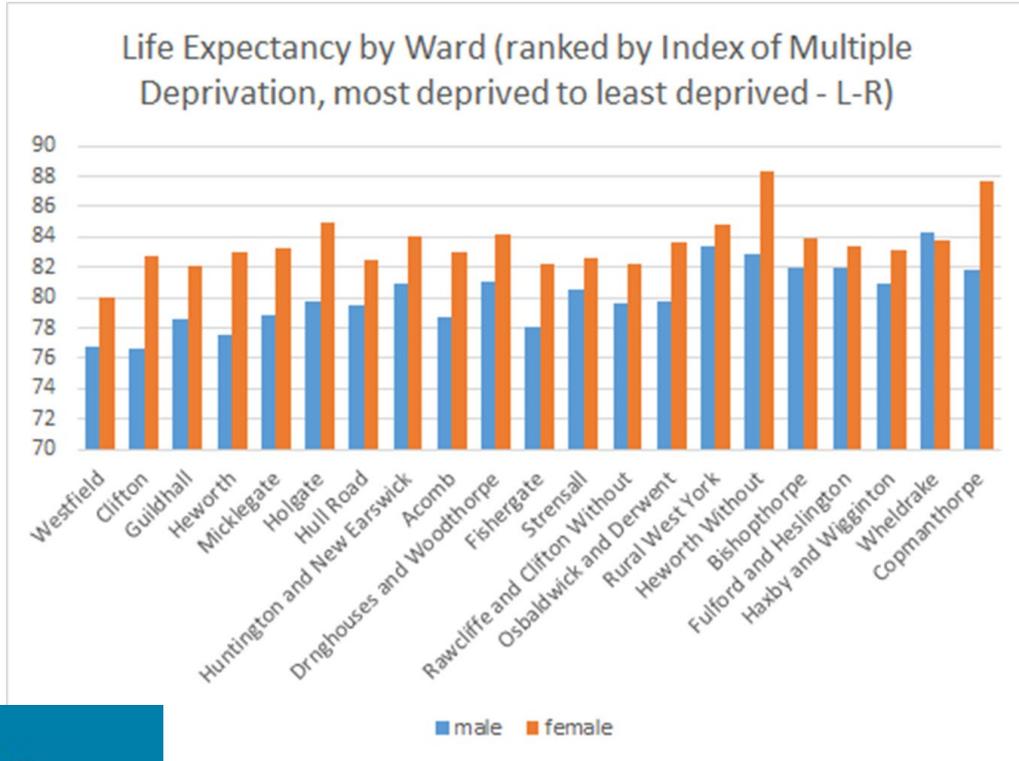


Decent standard
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Health & Social Care - Indicators



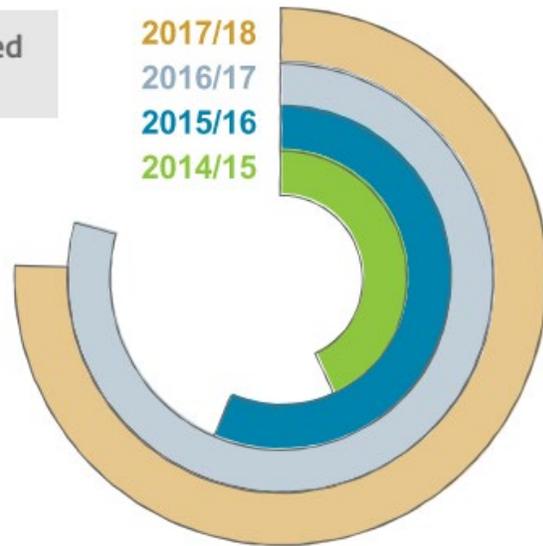
- Proportion of Service Users who have as much Social Contact as they would like:



Equality & Non-discrimination - Indicators

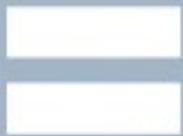
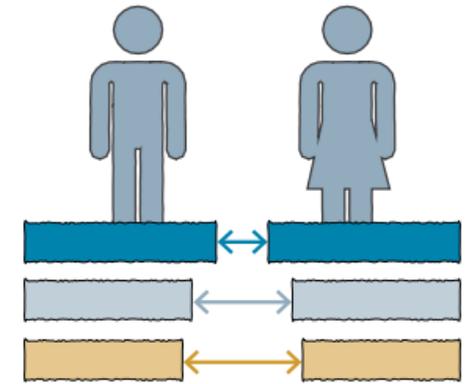
Hate crimes or incidents recorded by the North Yorkshire Police

2014/15	108
2015/16	141
2016/17	189
2017/18	180



Gender pay gap

2015/16	£85.10
2016/17	£117.00
2017/18	£117.30



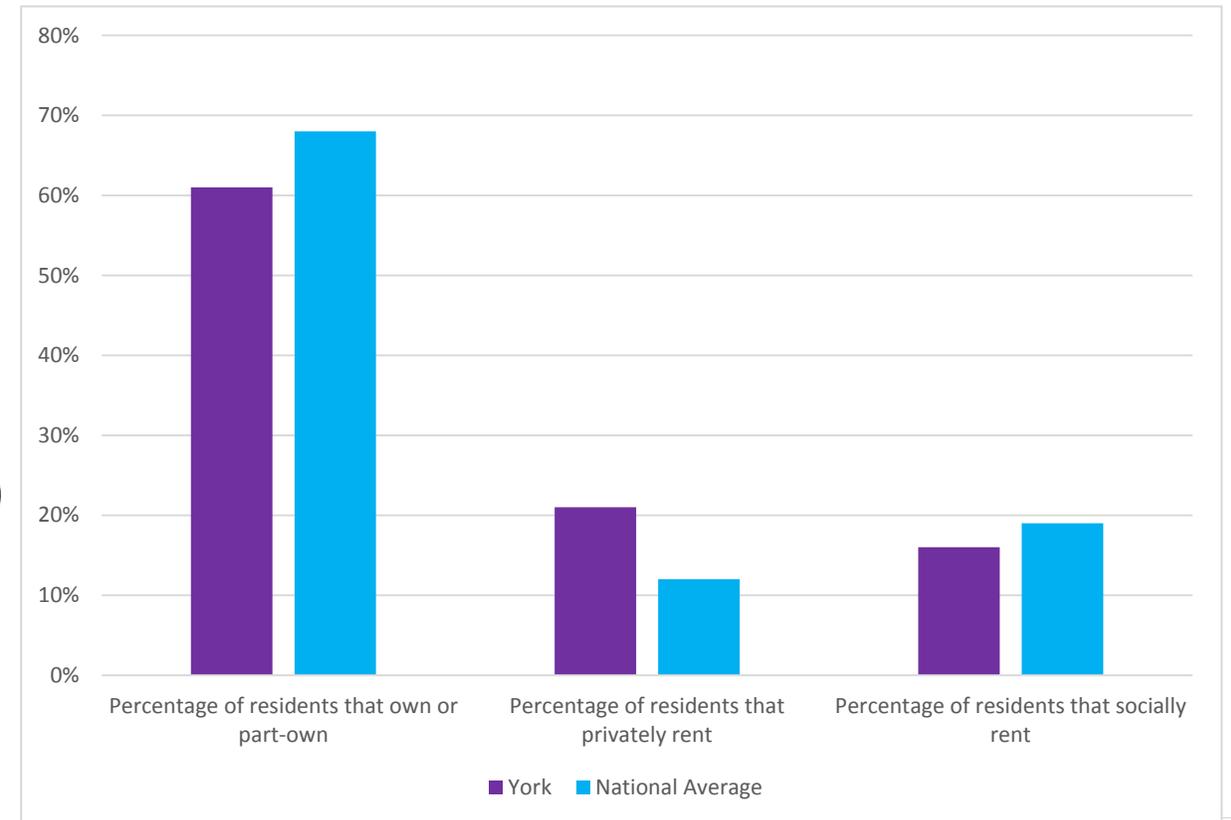
Equality & non-discrimination



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Housing - Overview

- 208,000 people live in York
- 100,000 households
- Average house price - £264,580
 - Mid-point salary for York c. £27,000
 - Affordability ration 9.92
 - York is the 15th least affordable city in the UK (for housing)
- Average monthly rent - £892
 - (UK average £829)



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Housing - Indicators

- Statutory Homelessness Acceptances (per 1000 households)



- Homelessness – an unclear picture
 - Statutory homelessness figures relate to people in priority need (not everyone who is homeless)
 - A different measure - figures for known rough sleepers - rose from 9 to 29 between 2014 and 2017, but dropped to 9 in November 2018's count
 - No indication on hidden homelessness numbers



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Housing – Homelessness

Assumptions:

- rough sleeping is a lifestyle choice
- people who become homeless are to blame for it

“I want to look for work, get my own place, and have my kids stay with me now and again like they were before I ended up on the streets.”

- Perception of discrimination
- Limitations on use of public space
- *“As soon as they knew I was homeless they changed their attitude, no matter what I said they weren’t going to give me a bed.”*



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Housing – Homelessness

“The Minster Steps... I go here because I know there’s tourists constantly going past, I know I’m safe, that no one is going to come up at random and attack me, just like that.”



- Most of the participants who sleep rough said they had been the victims of physical or verbal harassment. Attacks included name-calling, physical assaults, and being urinated on.



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Housing – From Homeless to Home

- Traditional Route

Rough Sleeping

- Hostel
- Room in a shared house
- Private rented accommodation

“jumping through hoops”

- Housing First

- Adopted by York in 2015
- Permanent housing is a more stable environment for people to manage complex issues that cause or exacerbate homelessness
- Human rights approach



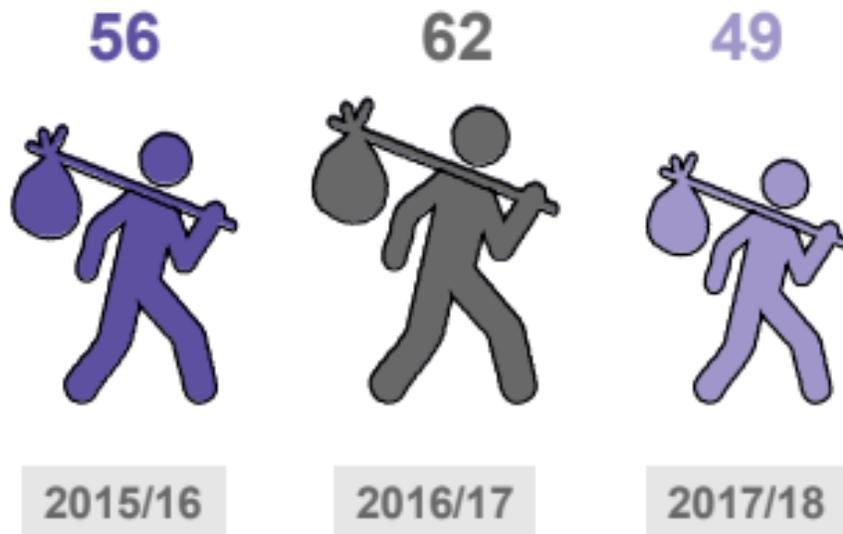
Housing



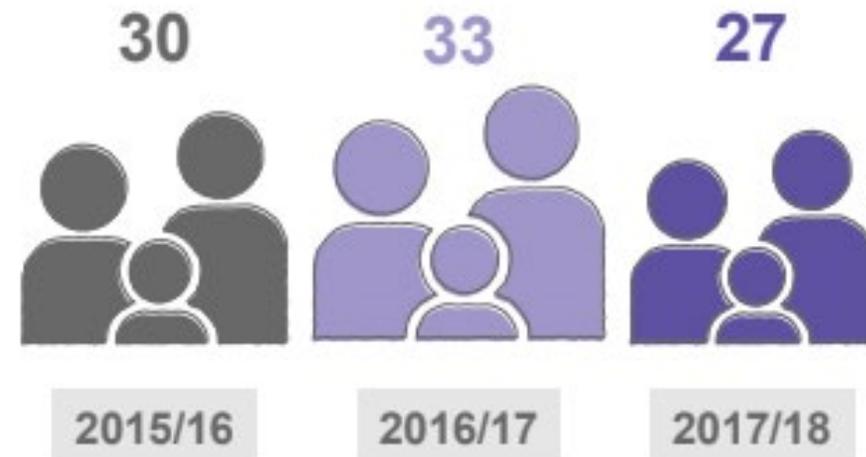
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Housing - Indicators

- Number of Households in Temporary Accommodation



- Number of Households in Temporary Accommodation with Children



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Housing – Temporary Accommodation

“It started, partially, when my mum died. She’d wanted the house to go in my name which the Council didn’t agree, it went into her partners name. Then he died last year. We told the Council and they gave us a notice to quit basically and leave the house. So that left just me and my brother, we asked if they would rehouse us and they said that you aren’t suitable.”

- Homelessness Reduction Act (2017)
 - Came into force in April 2018
 - Allows earlier intervention for those at risk of homelessness
 - Expands the groups covered by the duty to rehome
 - Focus on helping households to secure accommodation (of their choice)



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Housing – Temporary Accommodation

- How temporary is temporary?
 - Hostel
 - Room in a shared house
 - Private rented accommodation
- Some participants indicated that they found the structure of living in a hostel and undergoing skills training positive
- Others indicated a perception of little support, and concern that living in hostel accommodation could lead to drug use or crime



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Housing – Into a Permanent Home

- Challenges around affordability of rent, saving for a deposit
- Those entering council-provided housing were generally satisfied with accommodation
- Significant variation reported in quality of private rental accommodation
 - Participants were concerned that refusing accommodation would result in sanctions



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Housing Case Study – York Travellers Trust

- Around 350 families
- Oldest ethnic minority in York
- 66 pitches on 3 sites in the city – insufficient but unclear how provision will be extended in local plan
- Living on designated sites or in council-provided housing
- Licensees not tenants – fewer protections
- Close community
 - Concerns for impact on mental health
 - Perception that cultural and community rights are not met
- Unclear on housing rights
- *“The Council is trying to help, but has steps to follow”*



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Housing Case Study – City of Sanctuary

- *“Welcoming places of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution”*
- Most accommodation through private letting
 - *“ridiculous and unfair requirements”*
- High rents compared to local housing allowance
- Landlords are responsible for checking immigration status
- Universal credit impact (housing benefit no longer paid direct)



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Housing - Summary

- For some people in York, the right to housing is not being met, or not being met fully
- Participants were generally positive about the support provided by charity sector organisations
- Participants' opinions about statutory services were more mixed
- Significant challenges for homeless and those in temporary accommodation:
 - High housing costs (rent, deposits); quality of private rented accommodation
 - Discrimination; insecurity; disempowered
 - Perceptions of overly-complex systems; one size fits all



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Next Steps - Suggested

- The Human Rights and Equalities Board should oversee the implementation of the other recommendations in this report whilst investigating ways to mitigate the wider issues around housing affordability within the city.
- City of York Council should review how housing officers and service providers are implementing the Housing First policy in the city to ensure that it adheres to its human rights framework for all categories of people.
- City of York Council should engage more closely with marginalised communities, such as the Gypsies and Travellers and asylum seekers and refugees, to better understand the particular needs of each group, and work collaboratively to ensure that city-wide plans and strategies address unmet housing rights.
- City of York Council should take steps to identify and sanction the small number of private landlords that provide substandard housing



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