

# York Older People's Assembly

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## BUDDING CANDIDATES SET OUT THEIR STALL

The Assembly invited candidates from the two constituencies covering York to address a crowded meeting prior to the General Election. Professor Dianne Willcocks, former Vice Chancellor, of York St. John University chaired the meeting.

The Candidates attending were:

1. Nicholas Szkiler - Brexit
2. Rachael Maskell – Labour
3. Andrew Dunn – SDP
4. Prof. Dianne Willcocks, Chair
5. Tom Franklin – Green
6. Cllr. Carol Runciman – Lib Dem
7. Julian Sturdy – Conservative



Regrettably the Lib Dem candidates were unable to attend and Cllr Runciman stood in for them.

### Key Messages from the Candidates

#### Tom Franklin – Green

Top of the Greens priorities is addressing the climate emergency by reducing the dependence on fossil fuels amongst other initiatives. They would cancel HS2 and replace the existing pension arrangements by guaranteed income for all pensioners.

#### Cllr Carol Runciman – Lib Dem

Emphasised total commitment to remaining in Europe and opposing Brexit. Supported initiatives to address climate change and at a local level stressed importance of adequate provision to meet mental health concerns in the City.

#### Julian Sturdy – Conservative

Placed overriding importance on delivering Brexit by achieving a workable majority at the election. At a local level placed emphasis on transport issues, including dualling of the outer

ring road together with investment in buses. Highlighted the underfunding of schools and welcomed the 6½% increase announced by Government.

#### Rachael Maskell – Labour

Highlighted restoring free TV Licences for 75+ together with free personal care within an integrated Health and Social Care set up. She emphasised the building of new Council Homes for rent and shared ownership all to Lifetime standards. Giving the people a final say on Brexit.

#### Nicholas Szkiler – Brexit

Europe was the sole reason for the Brexit party, supported a full exit from Europe not the current deal on offer.

#### Andrew Dunn – SDP

Occupying the middle ground between the extreme of both the Labour and Conservative parties.



## BOOST TO BUS SERVICES IN YORK

York and Country Blue Buses are becoming a familiar sight in the City after a multi-year partnership was struck with the City of York Council.



They are operating:

Service 20 - Rawcliffe - Heworth/Osbaldwick  
Service 24 - Acomb-Holgate-City Centre  
Service 25 - Fulford-Broadway-City Centre- Foss Islands- Derwenthorpe  
Service 26 - Fulford- Broadway-City Centre - Bishopthorpe Road-South Bank

In addition they operate late evening journeys on:

Service - 14 Foxwood - City Centre - Haxby  
and all Saturday services on Service 19 - Skelton - Rawcliffe - Burton Stone Lane - City Centre

All the new buses are fitted with Visual and Audio next stop announcements and are environmentally friendly.

First York are to introduce 21 new electric double decker buses on some of the Park and Ride routes later this year. They have also replaced buses on services 11 and 12. Whilst an improvement on the existing old buses, they are themselves five years old and hand downs from another Council!! But these still do not include Audio Visual displays. Surely York deserves better!!

## THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD – AT 73 AND STILL GOING STRONG

George Wood, well known member of the Assembly and chair of the Executive Committee has just completed the Yorkshire Marathon for the 7th time. This makes 17 marathons in total together with 29 completions of the Great North Run.

No wonder George champions Health and Wellbeing in the City. Many congratulations from us all.



Marathon Photos

## LEAVERS

Sally Hutchinson the highly respected Chief Officer of Age (UK) York is retiring from the post she has held for the past 22 years. Having arriving from the London Borough of Greenwich where she managed a Disability Resource Centre all those years ago, she will finally depart on 31st March, 2020.

All those who have known her with such a bubbly personality cannot believe she will be out of the limelight for long.



Sally Hutchinson

## FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

Draft plans have been published jointly by the City Council and the Hospital concerning the future of Bootham Park Hospital and the surrounding area. Currently the hospital itself which is in the ownership of the National NHS Property Services is being offered for sale to the highest bidder.

The Assembly rejects this approach and welcomes the comprehensive plans recently published. In particular the Assembly favours

- Retaining and converting the existing Bootham Park for the benefit of older people by the provision of Extra Care accommodation and/or a Care Home to assist with discharges from the Hospital.
- The provision of intermediate convalescent facilities prior to older people returning home – previously delivered by “Archways”.
- The inclusion of housing of mixed tenure including the provision for keyworker accommodation to assist with recruitment at the hospital.
- The development of the existing Chapel to provide an historic record of mental health provision in the City together with future plans and opportunities.



Bootham Park Hospital

The replacement for Bootham Park is developing rapidly on its new site on Haxby Road, due to be completed by Spring 2020. Much of the external building work has already been completed.

It will provide for 18 bed/wards comprising two adult single sex wards and two older people wards (one for people with dementia and one for people with other mental health issues such as psychosis, severe depression or anxiety).

## JOINERS

We welcome Simon Morritt recently appointed as Chief Executive of York Hospital Trust. With 25 years experience of the NHS and the last 3 years as the man in charge at Chesterfield Royal Hospital he welcomes a return to his native Yorkshire.

Simon shared some initial thoughts and impressions at the October Open Meeting. He drew attention to the high use of services generally and particular Accident and Emergency and Urgent services. This has contributed to York having the highest rate of delayed discharges in the region and the 7th highest nationally.



Simon Morritt

The shortage of care beds and appropriate care packages directly affected the performance of the hospital. Recent figures confirm the challenges faced.

	TARGET	YORK	ENGLAND
<b>Treated/Admitted within 4 hours</b>	95%	80.5%	85.1%
<b>Referral/admitted for planned operations within 18 weeks</b>	92%	80.8%	86.7%



## REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS – CAUSES CONFUSION!!

How you order your medicines changed from September. Why? Because in the York area alone it is estimated that stocks of unused medication – some way past their expiry date – was costing around £2million a year.

By transferring responsibility to patients themselves it was hoped it would cut down on this waste and only medicine required would be ordered on prescription.

However advice given as to how this would work is based on older people having access via a computer to the GP surgery website. Otherwise they are advised to download the “NHS app” and order that way.

For those who do not have such knowledge or equipment are advised to fill in and take or post the tear off part of your prescription to the surgery.

One thing all older people have is access to a telephone. They could ring either the GP or the Pharmacy and order what they need. This simple suggestion however, is seen to be far too complicated!!

Healthwatch are currently conducting an extensive survey to establish what difficulties are being experienced by these changes and how they could be overcome.

## Can you share your life?

### Do you have a caring nature and room to spare at home?

The Avalon Group needs Shared Lives Carers: People who open their home to support adults with Learning Disabilities, Mental Health Needs and/or Dementia short or long-term.

Work for yourself, receive generous income tax incentives and earn up to £500 per week, all whilst making a huge difference to the lives of local people.



#### To find out more, contact:

Adriana Kolano - Shared Lives Locality Manager  
email: [adriana.kolano@avalongroup.org.uk](mailto:adriana.kolano@avalongroup.org.uk)  
Tel: 01904 693104

[www.avalongroup.org.uk](http://www.avalongroup.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No. 1048236

 **Crombie Wilkinson**  
SOLICITORS



## Take control and plan for the future

Talk to our specialists about the importance of making a Will and keeping it up to date (e.g. family divorce, grandchildren, getting re-married) making a Lasting Power of Attorney, long term care & funding, inheritance tax planning and what to consider when looking at equity release.

For help and advice please call us on

**01904 624185**

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[www.crombiwilkinson.co.uk](http://www.crombiwilkinson.co.uk)



## HOW SHARED LIVES IS CHANGING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Imagine if instead of staying in a residential facility, or being supported by a team of Support Workers, you could choose to become part of a real family. This is the essence of Shared Lives.

Shared Lives paid carers open their homes so that adults with mental health, learning disability or dementia can stay with them either short or long term. The Service also includes options such as short breaks, respite and day support.

In York, Shared Lives is provided by a local charity called The Avalon Group. If you are looking for support for someone with mental health problems, learning disability or dementia, give Avalon a call and we can talk through the options that are available.

You can contact Helen Ward or John Ward by calling 01904 693104, or you can email: [helenward@avalongroup.org.uk](mailto:helenward@avalongroup.org.uk) or [johnward@avalongroup.org.uk](mailto:johnward@avalongroup.org.uk).