

York Older People's Assembly St Sampson's Centre Church Street, York YO1 8BE

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Progress at York and Scarborough Hospital Trust – but still some way to go

Our main speaker at our last Open Meeting was **Martin Barkley** (*pictured*), Chair of the Trust.

Martin had been a Chief Executive of other hospital trusts including Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Mental Health Trust before retiring. He took on the non-executive role of Chair of the Trust 2 years ago after a poor review by the Care Quality Commission. An unannounced review in January showed marked improvement, and no services are rated as inadequate although some need improvement.

The Trust is concentrating on improving its services on Urgent Care, cancer diagnosis and treatment and on waiting times for elective services. All of these are below the national standards but improving.



A crucial task is to reduce the waiting time for beds and a new approach is in hand. This will allow a discharge to assess giving people time to improve before going home. Other new developments include joint clinics with Nimbuscare (GP service provider) and the Frailty Hub has allowed people to be treated and cared for at home without having a hospital stay.

A wide range of questions and topics were discussed and members were pleased with the frank and open manner in which Martin responded to the questions. He said that the key immediate task is to recruit a replacement for Simon Morritt who is retiring as Chief Executive. Interviews are due to take place in August and hopefully an appointment will be made soon – Best wishes to Martin and the team!

REMINDER - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of York Older People's Assembly, will be held at 2 pm on Monday 15th September 2025 at The Friends Meeting House, Friargate.

A buffet lunch will be available from 1 pm in the Penn Room.

We will welcome **Sara Storey**, Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Integration for City of York Council. Sara came to talk about the Social Care strategy last year shortly after joining the council and she will be giving us an update on progress. She is also keen to hear your views and questions!!

STOP PRESS 1

Nimbuscare Appoints New Chief Executive Officer – **Simon Morritt** to lead next Phase of Development.

STOP PRESS 2

York and Scarborough Hospital Trust appoints **Clare Smith** as new Chief Executive Officer. Clare was previously Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

HEALTHWATCH

Local Healthwatch Services Unite to Fight for Independent Public Voice

Our last Open meeting included a slot from **Ruth Stockdale**, (pictured right) the Engagement Co-ordinator from Healthwatch York, who brought us up to date on the Government's proposals to close Healthwatch England.

The proposals need to be agreed by an Act of parliament and it is unlikely that any change will take place before late 2026. Healthwatch York has been vocal in drawing attention to local issues such as the lack of dentists.

Several speakers emphasised the quality of the reports produced by Healthwatch York and how effective it is as a local independent voice of patients.

131 local Healthwatch services across England have signed an open letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, urging the government to reconsider proposals that would bring public voice functions under the control of local authorities and NHS bodies.



Petition: Review the decision to abolish independent local Healthwatch

If you share our concerns about the lack of an independent voice in health and care following plans to abolish the Healthwatch network, please sign this petition!

Further details can be found at [Healthwatch York - Home](#)

Combined Slipper Social and Information Fair

When Friday 19th September 2025

From 10-30 to 12-30

Where New Earswick Folk Hall,
Hawthorn Terrace,
York, YO32 4AQ

The Falls Prevention service, Age UK York and York Older People's Assembly have come together to present a combined Slipper Social and Information Fair.

This is an opportunity to pick up a free new pair of slippers, have a cuppa and have a look at information provided by a range of local organisations who will be present.

Come along and bring a friend!

Did you know?

A well-fitting pair of slippers can reduce the risk of older people falling by **60%**



Join us at a local event and pick up a free, new pair of slippers!

Amy Faulkner-Gadd - Charity Director

Amy Faulkner-Gadd joined OCAY as new Charity Director on 31 March 2025.



With more than 20 years of experience in the charitable sector and six years in the public sector, Amy has always been driven by a passion for supporting vulnerable young people, adults, and marginalised communities.

Older Citizens Advocacy York (OCAY) has remained true to its original aims since 2001 - to help older people to have their voices heard, linking them to the right support for their needs.

OCAY provides a free, independent and personal advocacy service for anyone 50 years and over in York and surrounding areas. OCAY helps its clients either at its accessible office at the Priory Street Centre in York, by telephone, home visits or through community outreach.

OCAY supports clients with a diverse range of issues including:

Attendance Allowance	Universal Credit
Pension Credit	Consumer complaints
Medical appointments	Blue Badge applications
Financial issues	Housing
Employment issues	

The people supported often experience ill health and disability. In helping over 400 people in 2024-25 OCAY has seen numbers rise dramatically over the last 3 years.

OCAY is a volunteer-based organisation with 3 part-time paid staff supporting the volunteers, and governance provided by a board of 7 trustees.

OCAY is currently looking for additional volunteers to increase capacity, whether it be a volunteer advocate, admin, communications or events role.

To contact OCAY or find out more please visit their website

<https://oldercitizensadvocacyyork.org.uk/> or call 01904 676200, or email info@ocay.org.uk.



Bus Improvements

Over the last few years, there has been a significant York Bus Service Improvement Plan. See [York's bus improvement plan reaches milestone – City of York Council](#)

Bus stops have been improved including:

Improvement	Installed	Planned	Total
Bus Shelter	24	7	31
Bus Shelter Lighting	6	7	13
Bus Shelter Seating	4	0	4
Real Time Display	138	57	195
Kerb Improvement	19	15	34
Other Scheme	1	1	2
Total Improvements			279





This year's festival takes place from the **20th September to the 1st October**. Programme brochures are available from local Explore Libraries, community hubs, St Sampson's centre, Visit York and many other places.

Last year's acclaimed YOPA exhibition trail around city centre venues - across the 50+ festival period - will for 2025 feature images and messages from the stunning Alzheimer's "Sea of Forget Me Nots," installation - symbolising hope, unity, and support for everyone in our city affected by dementia.

The compelling story of the forget me nots will be found in the foyer at York Explore Central from 20th September to October 1st.

Full details of the programme are at <https://www.yorkassembly.org.uk/50-festival-2025/> including a summary by themes, such as socials, advice and information, walks, talks, sports and leisure activities. For more information contact yorkfiftyplus@gmail.com

Those who love the challenge of social media can find us on Facebook & loads more.

And meanwhile, there are great plans for our celebratory day on September 27th Honouring the International Day of Older People, we will be filling St Helens Square with diverse musical treats; 'dressing' York Theatre Royal foyer with school - led leaf motifs on hanging branches (signalling growth and positivity in ageing); Studio events are booked for the morning of 27/9; and for this year's Grand Parade through Museum Gardens, all paraders will wear knitted leaf brooches kindly offered by York Minster Crafters.

Email Dianne Willcocks, Festival25 coordinator d.willcocks@outlook.com for more information.



Home Care and Live-in care

Being able to live at home can be one of the most important comforts in an older person's life. Family and friends can't always be there, so Home Instead is here to help.

Owners Ann-Marie Roche and Luke Norbury take pride in helping people to achieve their aim of remaining as independent as possible in their own homes.

Tailored Services

Designed around you – bespoke packages of care built around individual needs and outcomes.

Longer Calls

The standard length of our visits is 1 hour or more – we also deliver companionship and respite care to meet your needs.

Dedicated Team

All our care professionals are introduced so there are never any strangers. Small local teams ensure continuity and you'll receive a dedicated time slot.

01904 690884

care@york.homeinstead.co.uk

www.homeinstead.co.uk/york