

Making a better *York*



York Cares is an independent employee-volunteering charity which brings businesses, employees and communities together to make York a better place.

We match the interests, skills and expertise of employers and their employees to community projects where they can have most impact. Our tried and tested quality programmes deliver tangible benefits for local people, and to employers in terms of workforce development, employee wellbeing and community engagement.

Our city is facing many challenges and so our employers work in collaboration with key city leaders, including City of York Council, to respond to city challenges and develop projects in response to evidenced community need.

York Cares enables employers to make an effective and strategic investment in our community. Our inspirational employee-volunteers give over 5,000 hours of their own time each year to help over 100 worthwhile community organisations and schools in some of York's most disadvantaged areas.

Our priorities include:

- ♥ providing employability support to raise aspirations and enable people from all backgrounds and abilities to reach their full potential
- ♥ volunteering together on practical activities for the benefit of the environment and the long-term sustainability of our city
- ♥ bringing younger and older people together through meaningful connections to bridge the intergenerational divide and reduce loneliness and social isolation.



"York Cares is a fabulous charity with volunteering at its heart, bringing people and businesses together through a variety of employee-volunteering programmes, to make York an even better place to live and work."

Jamie Kew-Robson, Chair of York Cares and Head of Assurance,
UKGI Risk & Governance, Aviva UKGI

Each year,
our volunteers
donate over

5,000 hours

of their time to
support York's
communities.

Our employer
members represent
over a
quarter
of York's workforce.

We support over

50

community, voluntary and
social enterprise organisations,
public services and schools
each year.

Aspirations



"I learnt that there are many different career paths and that you should never be afraid to take a risk." *Year 12 pupil, Selby College*

» Aspirations

By bringing the world of work to life through a variety of encounters with people at work, we aim to inspire people of all backgrounds and abilities about possible futures and empower them to succeed.

The people we work with may have limited access to role models, professional networks and opportunities and limited or no experience of higher education and/or employment in their family. It is likely that they will lack confidence, motivation and will have low aspirations.

"It was great to see the enthusiasm, hard work and commitment from students, teachers, and colleagues from across our business. Great to see such a buzz in the room!"

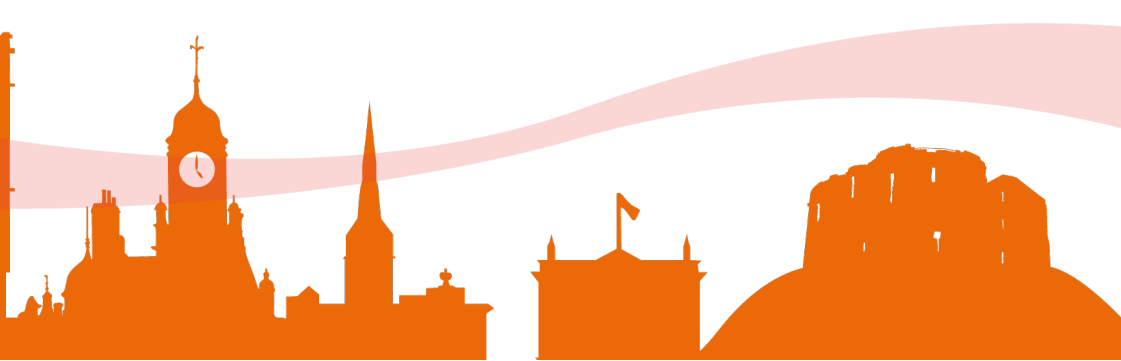
Employee-volunteer, Systra Ltd

Right to Read – provide 1:1 reading support for primary school children to improve literacy.

Day in the Life – deliver a one-hour session to introduce primary school pupils to the world of work.

Insight into Industry – develop a series of exciting and innovative sessions to provide an in-depth look at your sector.

»
e. info@yorkcares.co.uk
t. 01904 323482
w. Yorkcares.co.uk
t @ @YorkCares



» Aspirations

Education to Employment

– deliver themed interactive academic outreach sessions to school pupils linked to specific sectors to demonstrate the link between education and employment.

City Connect – deliver interactive sessions for families to bring the world of work to life.

Behind the Scenes – host workplace visits for small groups, providing an insight into the range of roles available within the organisation and their related career paths.

Skills Workshops – deliver employability skills workshops for small groups, to improve understanding of routes to employment and work practice.

Work tasters – offer short-term, flexible opportunities for shadowing in the workplace.



e. info@yorkcares.co.uk
f. 01904 323482
w. Yorkcares.co.uk
t. @YorkCares



Environment and Sustainability



"It's made such a difference. I have so many ideas but nowhere near enough time or capacity to make them happen. These opportunities made a whole chunk possible!" *Outdoor Learning Practitioner, Community Challenge Partner*

» Environment and Sustainability

Employees have a variety of opportunities to volunteer together, both with and for local organisations.

These opportunities promote positive team-building and wellbeing whilst giving something back to the local community.

We work in partnership with over 50 voluntary, community and social

enterprise (VCSE) organisations who rely on the practical support of volunteers to make their grounds and buildings look their best.

These opportunities are a fantastic way of giving something back to your local community, whilst providing motivational, team-building opportunities for your employees.

“Being together as a team was great but knowing we were doing something worthwhile, valuable and appreciated at the same time was the icing on the cake.”

Employee-volunteer, University of York

Community Challenges

– transform community buildings and urban green spaces over a half or full day.

Big Community Challenge

– a month of opportunities bringing employers from across the city together to make a transformational change.

Environment and Sustainability Week

– half-day, turn up and do practical sessions hosted by a cross-section of community partners.



e. info@yorkcares.co.uk
f. 01904 323482
w. Yorkcares.co.uk
t. @YorkCares



Social Connections



“Volunteers have a huge positive impact. To see residents engaging with volunteers from the community is really special, as this makes them feel valued and appreciated.” *Head of Adult Services, City of York Council*

» Social Connections

Evidence has shown that 36% of people in the UK feel lonelier since the pandemic; more than 50% want to feel more connected to their local community and 73% now recognise that a sense of community is important for wellbeing.

We have been working in partnership with City of York

“Although I’ve lived in York for four and a half years, most of this time has been pandemic time so it’s been quite difficult to build new social networks. It was great to have the chance to have some interesting conversations today with a range of people.”

Younger Neighbour

Council and The Cares Family, to adapt the latter’s existing proven model of intergenerational activity to suit the needs of York. By providing opportunities for younger and older people to share time, laughter, new experiences and friendship, we aim to improve people’s connections and sense of belonging and therefore wellbeing.

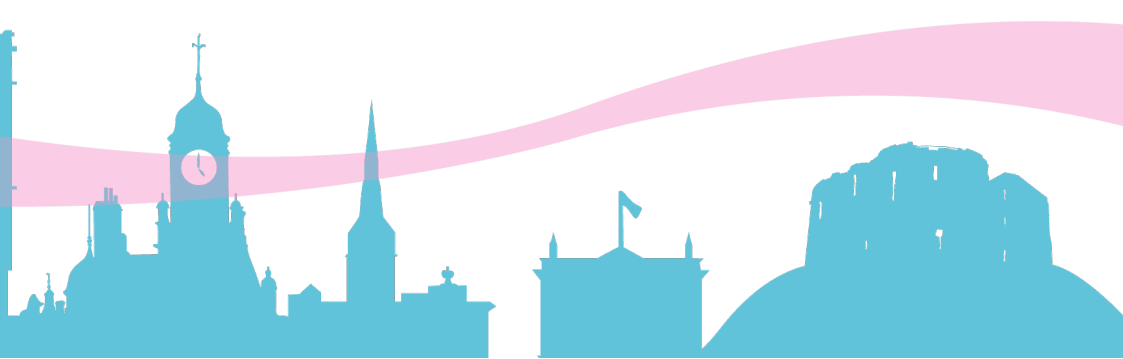
Social Clubs – take part in a variety of activities, including arts and crafts, music, sport, dance and cooking, whilst making new connections.

What the Tech – provide basic tech support for older people wishing to increase their digital skills.

Seasonal parties – host a party for a group of older people and socialise over music.



e. info@yorkcares.co.uk
f. 01904 323482
w. Yorkcares.co.uk
t. @YorkCares



York Cares Programme



“York Cares connects us with opportunities where we can have a positive impact whilst also bringing our teams together outside the office to enjoy themselves through volunteering: what’s not to like about that!” *Head of IT, Nestlé*

»» York Cares Programme

Our flexible programme enables you to mix and match opportunities to develop a tailored volunteering programme that reflects your business needs and maximises the impact of your engagement in the local community.

We work with an Ambassador in your organisation to promote our annual programme of volunteering opportunities.

A year in the life of York Cares – a snapshot

January Social Connections Social Clubs	February Aspirations activity	March Social Connections Easter Parties	April York Cares annual Stakeholder Meeting
May Social Connections What the Tech	June Big Community Challenge	July York Cares 'Golden Moments' Awards	August Community Challenges
September Work Wardrobe	October Environment & Sustainability Week	November Aspirations Project Dare	December Christmas Collections



e. info@yorkcares.co.uk
t. 01904 323482
w. Yorkcares.co.uk
t @ @YorkCares



York Cares Campaigns



“Many young people who are struggling with the cost of living cannot afford new outfits for interviews and work placements. This means they could struggle to find employment opportunities. We can help by donating good quality work clothing. Aviva staff are happy to be involved in this as it is providing a real service to job seekers and people are glad of the chance to recycle items they no longer need themselves.” *Employee-volunteer, Aviva*

» York Cares Campaigns

We run annual collection campaigns to support causes across York. These include:

Work Wardrobe

– professional clothing is collected and donated to students to remove barriers to employment for all.
Collections run throughout the year.

Christmas Collections

– items are collected and delivered to charities across York to support their work.
Collections run throughout November and December.

“Thank you to all the companies for the wonderful Christmas donations that were given to Kyra, they’ll make a huge difference to our members.”

CEO, KYRA



e. info@yorkcares.co.uk
f. 01904 323482
w. Yorkcares.co.uk
t. @YorkCares



York Cares Membership



"York Cares is really beneficial for everybody – it's a win-win-win situation for the employer, the employees and the community. Get involved and play your part." *Director, The Partners Group*

»» York Cares Membership

We have a range of membership fees to suit different employers. Join around 30 employers in York to help make the city a better place, whilst also enjoying numerous benefits:

Volunteering made easy

We make it easy for businesses to invest in the local community and maximise their impact by designing and delivering aco-ordinated volunteering programme that provides a broad range of reliable, safe and thoroughly checked-out opportunities.

Networking opportunities

We offer unique networking opportunities between public, private, voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations that aim to bridge the gap between sectors and develop collaborative and mutually beneficial working relationships.

PR opportunities

We attract local, regional and national attention through media coverage and our social media networks. Through York Cares, you can access award-winning volunteering programmes.

Celebration and Recognition

Be part of the charity making York a better place.

Our annual 'Golden Moments' Awards ceremony with BBC Radio York Senior Journalist Communities and the Lord Mayor of York, provides an opportunity to thank employee-volunteers for their contribution to the city and celebrate their worthwhile achievements.

Employer of choice


By providing opportunities for your employees to volunteer, you will have a positive impact on staff motivation, development and loyalty and enhance your reputation as an employer of choice.



e. info@yorkcares.co.uk
f. 01904 323482
w. Yorkcares.co.uk
t. @YorkCares





e. info@yorkcares.co.uk **t.** 01904 323482 **w.** yorkcares.co.uk   [@YorkCares](https://www.instagram.com/YorkCares)

Registered charity: 1111899