

Moving Forward Partnership Day 2026

Friday October 9th

The Hospitium, York Museum Gardens, YO30 7DR

Welcome

On behalf of everyone at York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority & North Yorkshire Sport, welcome to our 2026 Partnership Day.

“One year on from the launch of Moving Forward, York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and North Yorkshire Sport are delighted to bring together delegates from the public, voluntary and private sectors to reflect on the progress made towards our shared vision of healthy, thriving communities across York and North Yorkshire.

We will hear from Simon Hayes, Chief Executive of Sport England; Chris Boardman, National Active Travel Commissioner; and David Skaith, Mayor of York and North Yorkshire. Together, they will offer both national and local perspectives to spark new ideas and challenge us to think differently about the role we all play in creating an active and thriving county.

Over lunch, poster presentations will showcase some of the fantastic projects funded through the Mayor's Moving Forward funds.

In the afternoon, four showcases will show how Moving Forward, and the work of partners across York and North Yorkshire, is tackling the big issues and opportunities that affect us all.

The day is also about you: meeting colleagues, building partnerships and discovering new opportunities to work together.

I would like to thank all of our regional partners for supporting our work. I would also like to thank Active Travel England for its support in York and North Yorkshire, and Sport England, which has invested in and worked with North Yorkshire Sport for over 25 years. We are grateful to them and to the National Lottery for their continued support. My thanks also go to colleagues at North Yorkshire Sport and the Combined Authority for putting today's joint event together, and to Mayor Skaith for his continued commitment to healthy, thriving communities and for championing every element of Moving Forward as a way to achieve this.

We hope today leaves you inspired, connected and ready to make a difference.

Enjoy the day!

David Watson

Chief Executive, North Yorkshire Sport

Foreword from David Skaith, Mayor of North Yorkshire

Thank you for joining us for our Partnership Day.

We launched the 'Moving Forward' campaign about a year ago. It includes a selection of programmes close to my own heart, and I am proud to say they have had a positive impact on hundreds of people across York and North Yorkshire.

Movement, activity and sport have always played a key part in my life, and always will. Much of my childhood was spent outdoors playing team sports like cricket and rugby. It taught me the value of working with others, of resilience, and of building positive habits that support my physical and mental health. It has brought me friendships and a community who have supported me through good times and more difficult times.

I want everybody in York and North Yorkshire to have access to these things: the ability to move and be active in whatever way they choose, to enjoy the beautiful landscapes that surround us here, and to be part of a community they can grow to rely on.

Over the past year, we have worked with partners across York and North Yorkshire to start breaking down some of the barriers that exist. We have seen what can happen when we bring organisations together and invest in ideas that can make a genuine difference.

There is still much more we can do. I want us to build on that progress and make being active, healthy and connected part of everyday life for more people, wherever they live and whatever their circumstances.

I am incredibly proud of what we have started, and even more excited about what's next.

David Skaith
Mayor of York and North Yorkshire



Event details

Friday 9th October 2026

Venue: The Hospitium, Museum Gardens, York, YO30 7DR

Arrival: 9:30am

Welcome and Introductions: 10:00am

Event finish: 3:45-4pm

Tea and coffee will be provided during the day as well as a breakfast pastry, a finger buffet lunch and afternoon refreshments.

We encourage you to dress in clothes that are comfortable for you. There will be opportunities for movement throughout the day.

Event purpose

Purpose The purpose of the day will be to:

- Showcase the work we are doing in the York and North Yorkshire region both nationally and locally
- Explore and celebrate our early progress around system change and what this means for the York and North Yorkshire region.
- Demonstrate how health unites our work
- Hear from national and local leaders on the opportunities and importance of Movement, Activity and Sport, Active Travel, Men's Mental Health and Connecting to the Outdoors
- Hear from funded Moving Forward projects and how they are driving behaviour change

Arrival Information

The Hospitium is located within the beautiful Museum Gardens in the heart of York city centre, just a short walk from York railway station and the city's park and ride bus services. The 14th century venue is set amongst the historic ruins of St Mary's Abbey within Museum Gardens.

Postcode: YO30 7DR

What3Words: ///rail.soil.bring

There is no on-site parking at the Hospitium. Delegates travelling by car are encouraged to use one of York's city centre car parks or the Park & Ride services and walk to the venue.

For cyclists, cycle parking is available within Museum Gardens and at various locations nearby in the city centre.

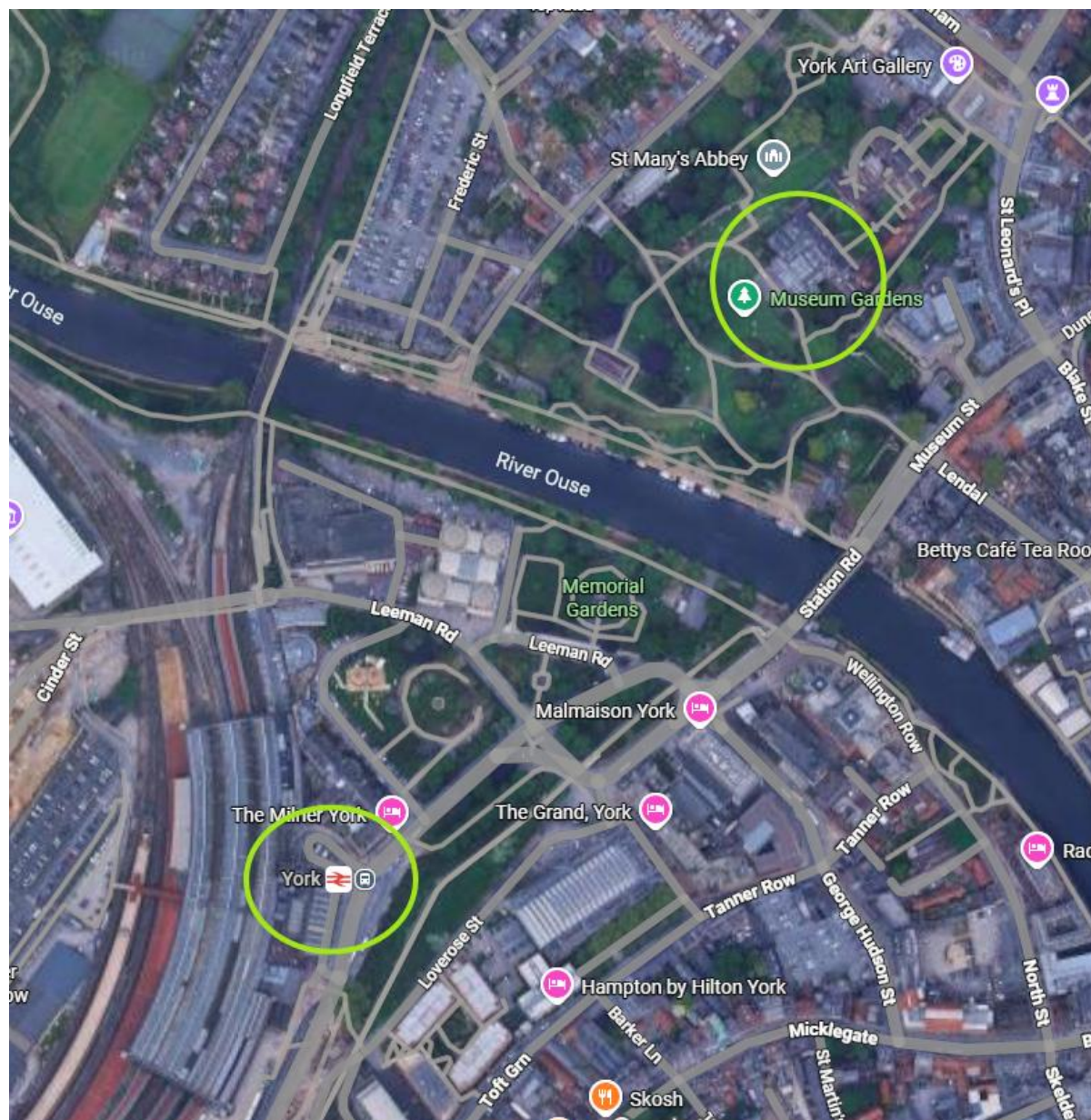
Taxis can drop off and collect delegates on Museum Street, adjacent to the entrance to Museum Gardens.

Pedestrians should enter Museum Gardens via the Museum Street entrance and follow the signs through the gardens to the Hospitium. The venue is fully accessible, with lift access and accessible toilet facilities available.

Upon arrival, please make your way to the registration desk located inside the Hospitium, where you will receive your name badge and further event information.

Please consider car sharing where possible to reduce travel impacts and support sustainable travel.

Map of the site



Access information

Physical Access

The Hospitium has full disabled access and lift access to the first floor.

Cognitive Accessibility

We are expecting up to 125 attendees throughout the day.

There will be conversational level noise throughout the day, with the chance of louder noise during the break times. There will be louder speaking voices during presentations and in the use of any accompanying videos.

There is no requirement for any physical contact, it is entirely optional whether you shake hands when meeting people.

Language, Communication and Visual Access

Hearing loops are provided by the venue. These look like a black wire necklace and are visible.

Opportunities to Move

There will be movement during the break and lunch to access refreshments and the toilets. Delegates will also be encouraged to move around the room for some facilitated parts of the day.

Photography

We will be taking photographs and videos of the event. Please do let us know if you do not consent to being in footage.

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi will be available at the venue, the details to sign in to use this will be displayed in the venue.

Emergency procedures

The venue has shared that there are no planned fire drills on the day. If you do hear a fire alarm, this is real.

In an evacuation:

- **Do not** use the lifts;
- **Do not** stop to collect any personal belongings;
- **Do not** run - leave the building quickly and orderly manner;
- **Do not** re-enter the building unless advised to do so by a fire warden.

Smoking Policy

- The site operates a **no smoking** policy, including vapes, covering all laboratories, office areas, meeting rooms, restaurant, corridors, lifts, toilets and rest facilities.

Agenda for the day

Time	Session	Speaker
9:30am	Arrival	
10:00am	Welcome	David Watson (Chief Executive), North Yorkshire Sport
10:15-10:30am	Scene Setting	David Skaith (Mayor of York and North Yorkshire)
10:30-10:50am	Keynote 1	Simon Hayes (Chief Executive), Sport England
10:50-11:10am	Keynote 2	Chris Boardman CBE (National Active Travel Commissioner), Active Travel England
11:10-11:30am	Keynote 3	David Skaith (Mayor of York and North Yorkshire)

11:30am-12:15pm	Panel Q&A of keynote speakers	Hosted by Damien Smith (Deputy Chief Executive), North Yorkshire Sport and Laura Farthing (Programme Management Officer), York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority
12:15-1.30pm	Poster introduction & lunch	Dr Jase Wilson (Head of Research, Evaluation and Impact), North Yorkshire Sport
1:30-2pm	Showcase 1	Peter Roderick (Director of Public Health), City of York Council James Metcalfe (Executive Director), North York Moors Trust
2-2:30pm	Showcase 2	Kate Auld (Active Travel Manager), North Yorkshire Sport Christopher Harrison (Headteacher), Oatlands Infant School
2:30-2:40pm	Refreshments	
2:40-3:10pm	Showcase 3	Professor Paul Galdas (Professor of Men's Health), University of York Amy O'Connor (Regional Director), Movember Ashley Green (CEO), Healthwatch
3:10-3:40pm	Showcase 4	Izzy Rhodes (Active Communities Manager), North Yorkshire Sport Paul Downes (Strategic Partnership Advisor), Activity Alliance Liz Byrne (Chair), Richmond Dales Amateur Swimming Club Lindsay Howard (Welfare Officer), Thirsk Bowmen
3:40-4pm	Call to Action & Close	David Watson (Chief Executive), North Yorkshire Sport

Order of the day

Arrival and registration
Welcome: David Watson (Chief Executive), North Yorkshire Sport
Scene setting: David Skaith (Mayor of York and North Yorkshire) An opportunity to hear from Mayor David Skaith, twelve months on from the launch of Moving Forward . The day will reflect on the establishment of four clear strands of activity, underpinned by a shared commitment to placing health at the heart of everything we do. Progress has been driven by the growing maturity of delivery programmes and the strong leadership of partners working collaboratively across the system. Together, they have taken important early steps towards meaningful and lasting change. The work showcased will highlight how momentum continues to build, partnerships are strengthening, and tangible outcomes are beginning to emerge.
Keynote 1: Simon Hayes (Chief Executive), Sport England From national ambition to local action: Hear an update from Simon about the next phase of Sport England's Uniting the Movement strategy, the priorities in their five-year plan and what this means for York & North Yorkshire as we work together to tackle inequalities and enable more people to enjoy the benefits of movement, physical activity and sport.
Keynote 2: Chris Boardman CBE (National Active Travel Commissioner), Active Travel England Small journeys, big impact: building an active travel nation: Hear from Chris on how everyday journeys, including the school run, can reduce congestion, improve health and wellbeing and support

local economies. Chris will discuss the role of consistent local leadership and outline Active Travel England's support for regional walking and cycling networks.
Keynote 3: David Skaith (Mayor of York and North Yorkshire) How devolution is empowering communities to make the changes they want to see in their area. From getting more people active, to supporting men's mental health projects, getting more people outside in our beautiful county, and making it safer and easier for people to walk, wheel and cycle. The Mayor will discuss how Moving Forward is at the heart of his regional priorities and the power and impact of strong, empowered, healthy and thriving communities.
Panel Q&A of keynote speakers Hosted by Damien Smith (Director of Operations), North Yorkshire Sport and Laura Farthing (Programme Management Officer), York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.
Poster introduction and working lunch: Dr Jase Wilson (Head of Research, Evaluation and Impact), North Yorkshire Sport Join our funded projects during lunch to discover how the Mayor's investment is supporting communities across the region. Meet project representatives, explore poster presentations and hear first-hand about the people, partnerships and ideas creating change on the ground.
Showcase 1 - Connected to the Outdoors Reducing sedentary behaviour: Co-hosted by Louise Wallace (Director of Public Health), North Yorkshire Council and Peter Roderick (Director of Public Health), City of York Council. An opportunity to hear more about the Natural Health Service: James Metcalfe (Executive Director), North York Moors Trust.
Showcase 2 - Active Travel Safe journeys to schools: Hosted by Kate Auld (Active Travel Manager), North Yorkshire Sport. An opportunity to hear more about the Active Travel Fund Project 'CATCH': Christopher Harrison (Headteacher), Oatlands Infant School/Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust.
Showcase 3 – Men's Mental Health From strategy to local action: Co-hosted by Professor Paul Galdas (Professor of Men's Health), University of York and Amy O'Connor (Regional Director), Movember. An opportunity to hear more about the Men's Mental Health Fund Project 'Supporting men in farming': Ashley Green (CEO), Healthwatch.
Showcase 4 – Movement, Activity and Sport Opportunities vs. Barriers: Disability, Sports and Opportunities: Co-hosted by Izzy Rhodes (Active Communities Manager), North Yorkshire Sport and Paul Downes (Strategic Partnership Advisor), Activity Alliance. An opportunity to hear more from Liz Byrne (Chair), Richmond Dales Amateur Swimming Club and Lindsay Howard (Welfare Officer), Thirsk Bowmen about the Movement, Activity and Sport Fund projects.
Call to action and close: David Watson (Chief Executive), North Yorkshire Sport

About our speakers

David Skaith



David Skaith is the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire. Born in Harrogate and raising his family in York, David is a small business owner and keen cricketer, having played at virtually every cricket ground in North Yorkshire.

Elected in May 2024, he has prioritised building healthy and thriving communities in one of the first devolved regions to bring urban and coastal towns and cities together with vast a vast rural area, comprising three-quarters of the regions area.

He is focussed on improving health, wellbeing and economic opportunities through a democratised local economy, accelerating building of social and affordable homes, better buses and transport links for all our communities, improved access to movement, activity and sport and better support for men's mental health.

David Watson



With over 35 years of experience in the Movement, Activity and Sport sector and a qualified Youth Worker, David joined North Yorkshire Sport in 2005.

Prior to that he worked for Harrogate Borough Council where he gained valuable experience in Facility Management, working and managing both wet and dry sites, and Sports Development. He also worked for eleven years as a part-time Physical Education teacher at a local primary school giving him an insight into the particular needs of education.

David oversaw North Yorkshire Sport's transition from a hosted organisation to its launch as a company limited by guarantee with charitable status on April 1st, 2014.

David's role is to provide strategic leadership, to manage the financial, human and physical resources assigned to the Partnership and to ensure the sustainability and efficiency of the company.

He is one of two Voluntary Sector Representatives on the North Yorkshire Council Children and Young People Scrutiny Board as well as being a member of a number of strategic groups within the county representing Movement, Activity and Sport.

He is also Chairman of Swim England North East Ltd, a Trustee of Community First Yorkshire and is currently studying for a Professional Doctorate in Sport at Leeds Beckett University."

Simon Hayes



Simon brings a wealth of senior experience in organisational leadership to Sport England, having a strong track record in delivering impact and public sector modernisation.

As chief executive of HM Land Registry, he successfully led the organisation through the unprecedented challenge of Covid-19, before rebuilding capacity and capability after many years of under-investment.

He has accelerated HM Land Registry's transformation into a much more modern, digital and customer-focused organisation, built around its groundbreaking Strategy 2022+, which is helping to drive the development of a world-leading property market in England and Wales.

Simon joined the Home Office in 1997 and held several positions across police, criminal justice and immigration policy, before becoming chief of staff for the UK Border Agency (UKBA) in 2005.

In 2008, Simon became UKBA's first regional director for the Americas, based in Washington DC.

Simon returned to the UK in 2012 and became UK Visas and Immigration's international director and later director of visas and citizenship. His responsibilities included oversight of all visitor, tourist, work, study and citizenship routes, as well as the immigration sponsorship system.

He also set up the EU Settlement Scheme for European citizens residing in the UK, which was successfully launched in 2019.

Simon is a passionate sports fan and an ardent supporter of Nottingham Forest. He still plays five-a-side football every week and has also taken up padel, as well as making sure his three school-age children have similar opportunities to play sport and keep active.

Chris Boardman CBE



Chris Boardman was appointed as Greater Manchester's first ever Cycling and Walking Commissioner in July 2017 by Mayor Andy Burnham. His report, *Made to Move*, published in December 2017, set out a 15 step plan to transform how people get around in the city region. The plan has evolved into a £1.5 billion plan to create a world-class cycling and walking network with the first 100 miles of high-quality routes now being created. In May 2021, Boardman was appointed in an expanded role as Greater Manchester's first ever Transport Commissioner, tasked with accelerating the delivery of the Bee Network – a fully integrated, city region-wide transport system. He is one of the UK's most prominent cycling and walking advocates and has been policy adviser to British Cycling since 2012. A former professional cyclist, Chris won a gold medal in the individual pursuit at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. He also broke the world hour record three times and has worn the yellow jersey on three separate occasions at the Tour de France. Chris launched his own range of bikes, BOARDMAN Bikes, in 2007 and is company chairman. He also worked as Head of Research and Development for the Great Britain Cycling Team from 2004 to 2012, including at the 2008 Beijing Games where the Olympic team won eight gold medals.

Peter Rodderick



Peter Roderick is the Director of Public Health for the City of York, overseeing public health services in the city and acting as the council's chief advisor on health issues. After an early career in academia, he has 15 years' experience working in local government, the NHS, and national public health agencies. He is passionate about improving all aspects of human health, with particular interest in national policy work around tobacco and wider addictions as well as the impact of commercial determinants on health. He co-chairs the ADPH Addictions Policy Advisory Group. In York his team work to improve the health of communities, give every child the best start in life, tackling the wider determinants of health such as poor housing, poverty and declining planetary health, as well as protecting residents from health hazards.

James Metcalfe



James Metcalfe is Executive Director of the North York Moors National Park Trust, an independent charity focused on connecting people and nature to improve health and life outcomes across North Yorkshire and Teesside. As part of his role, James leads the Trust's strategic and programme development and partnership work, with a particular focus on nature-based and protected landscape approaches to health and prevention, including as Programme Manager for the Natural Health Service for North Yorkshire. James has a background in public policy, strategy, communications and programme delivery, having previously worked as a parliamentary and political adviser.

Kate Auld



Kate joined NYS in June 2025 to use her experience in communications, behaviour change, partnership development and hands-on delivery in a new role to support community projects and help kickstart a revolution in active travel in York and North Yorkshire

Kate's had a varied career in media and communications, from Radio 1 and London PR agencies to the London 2012 Olympics.

Kate didn't grow up in a sporty family and only learned to cycle properly as a hesitant adult 10 years ago. Kate's experiences led her to train as a cycling instructor and leader and set up cycling confidence and advocacy firm The Personal Cyclist. Kate's professional and lived experience have shown her there's an exciting opportunity to clearly communicate and share the benefits of walking, wheeling and cycling- for everyone and she's happy to be doing it where she's raising her family.

Outside work Kate tries to challenge herself and others; She's ran the Knaresborough Bed Race several times to fundraise for local schools, volunteered for bike recycling charity Resurrection Bikes and ran women's cycling confidence programmes for Cycling UK. When she's not walking her fox red labrador or ferrying/ coaching/ cheering her sons, she loves to bike, bake & beekeep.

Two of her favourite quotes are "There is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing" and "comparison is the thief of joy."

Chris Harrison



Chris has always worked with children, starting as a badminton coach for Yorkshire, Keighley, Bradford and Durham whilst playing badminton competitively myself at a city, county and university level.

Following the completion of his Human Geography degree at Northumbria University, he embarked on his educational journey as a Teaching Assistant at a school in central Bradford. From there, he moved on to complete his PGCE at Cambridge University, where he was awarded the Charles Fox Prize for his contributions to the course. He returned to central Bradford to teach, where he was awarded the Telegraph and Argus Newcomer of the Year Award for his work in Early Years, and he came to teach in Harrogate from September 2018.

He is passionate about breaking down barriers to physical activity – not just for his children, but for the wider community. His work has resulted in being named one of 8 National Inclusion Champions with the Inclusion Quality Mark, a Healthy Schools Platinum award, a Green Flag Distinction, a Your Harrogate Local Hero Award, and praise from Ofsted.

Chris has worn many hats throughout his teaching and leadership journey, but nothing makes him happier than being a husband and father. He has a son and daughter who fill him with joy and pride every day.

Professor Paul Galdas



Paul Galdas is Professor of Men's Health at the University of York and Chair of the York and North Yorkshire Men's Mental Health Taskforce, supporting the region's work to improve men's mental health and prevent suicide. He also chairs England's Men's Health Academic Network, advising the Department of Health and Social Care on implementation of the national Men's Health Strategy. His research focuses on how health and wider local systems can better respond to the needs of men and boys.

Amy O'Connor



Amy is a public health campaigner who leads Movember's policy work across UK, Europe and Ireland. Amy sits on the National Men's Health Stakeholder group advising DHSC on the Men's Health Strategy for England. She also works with cross government departments, local leaders, campaigners, civil society and researchers to advocate for system changes that improve health outcomes for men, boys and their communities.

Ashley Green	
	Ashley leads the strategic delivery of Healthwatch North Yorkshire, an independent healthcare charity, that helps to influence and shape local health and care services and improve the lives and wellbeing of people living in North Yorkshire.
	Ashley joined Healthwatch in 2020, and prior to this he worked for Yorkshire Cancer Research, and before this the British Lung Foundation. He has over 30 years' experience working across healthcare, national and regional charities and local government.
	Ashley works closely with leaders across Humber & North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership, NHS organisations, North Yorkshire Council, and community and voluntary organisations to make sure the views of people are heard when decisions about services are being made. This includes raising issues people share with Healthwatch and helping services understand what is working well and where improvements are needed.
	Ashley cares passionately that people should be at the centre of healthcare decision making. Ensuring that services meet their needs, are well designed, easy to access and person centred. He believes everyone should have a voice in the care they receive and that services reflect their personal needs.
Izzy Rhodes	
	Izzy joined North Yorkshire Sport in November 2025, and has led on the distribution of over £2,000,000 of funding through the Movement, Activity and Sport Fund. Izzy's background is in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, with a focus on community development. As a qualified swimming teacher, she is passionate about ensuring equal opportunities and positive learning environments for all – from babies to older people – and is an advocate for under-served communities in accessing opportunities for movement, exercise, and life skills.
Paul Downes	
	Paul joined the Activity Alliance in January 2023 to head up the partnership work across Yorkshire and the Humber. He currently leads on managing the relationships with National Governing Bodies of Sport and co-chairs the National Disability Sport Physical Activity Network. He has held several sport development roles in the public, private and third sectors across his career. Most recently Paul has been focussing his work on building insight and engagement with Active Partnerships across his region and he has been successful in delivering various forums that have highlighted themes such as embedding inclusive practises, place-based approach and partnership working.

Liz Byrne



Liz Byrne has been Chair of Richmond Dales SC for just over a year, helping lead the club's focus on financial sustainability, inclusion and expanding opportunities for children and young people through swimming. A particular priority has been growing para-swimming and disability provision and working with partners, including Swim England, to share the club's lived experience and help strengthen inclusive swimming opportunities across the wider region. The club has secured significant grant investment to support this work. increase access and participation.

Alongside her voluntary role, Liz is a senior civil servant with the Animal and Plant Health Agency and is co-founder to Believe Solutions, a consultancy designed to increase partnership between private and voluntary sectors. She has more than 25 years' experience leading large-scale transformation and developing strategy across sectors and is passionate in increasing inclusion in everything she does.

Lindsay Howard



Lindsay is a Thirsk Bowmen para-archer and the club's Welfare Officer. Lindsay has been central to the club's growth with over 200 members aged 8-83 with varying abilities from beginner to Olympian. Lindsay has been a member of Thirsk Bowmen for ten years and competing Nationally since 2019. Alongside her achievements at Thirsk Bowmen, she is a Yorkshire County team member, 2026 England team and National champion. Lindsay is also a UK top 20 Ladies compound ranking and holder of six British records. She is currently sponsored by the Sport England talented athlete programme and a member of the Archery Great Britain para-academy.

Submitting questions for the panel

In the last session before lunch, we will be hosting a Q&A session with the panel of speakers. To manage this process, we will take questions via a short webform and our team will put the questions to the panel on your behalf. To complete the form please visit the QR code (or the link below)

Panel guests

- Mayor David Skaith
- Simon Hayes
- Chris Boardman CBE

Question submission form: [Question Submission Form](#)



Project Posters

Moving Forward Working Lunch Poster Presentations	
Title	Organisation(s) / Partnerships
Moving Together: Supporting Unpaid Carers Through Movement, Wellbeing and Self-Care	Age UK North Yorkshire Coast & Moors, Carers Plus Yorkshire and Everyone Active
Barrowcliff Unstoppable Girls	Gallows Close Community Centre
Creating Safe Spaces for Women to Move, Connect and Thrive	Cultural Connections York CIC
Changing the Mindset: Embedding Movement into Dementia Support Across North Yorkshire	Dementia Forward
Opening Access to Nature, Movement and Wellbeing	St Nicks Nature Reserve & Environment Centre
Building Independence Through Inclusive Cycling	Get Cycling CIC
Future-Proofing a Community Hub for the Next Generation	Helperby & Brafferton Sports Association
Reaching Men in Construction and Trades Through Conversation, Humour and Connection	New Light / Bright Sparks Training
Next Gen Men: treating young men as the experts	Next Door But One
Building Richmond's Cycling Future	Richmond Bike Park

Share your thoughts on the event

Your feedback is important for us to understand the impact of this event. We will send an evaluation form out following the event.

York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority - Contact details

Email: <https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk>

Website: <https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/>

Social media:

Instagram- @ynycombinedauthority #MovingForward

LinkedIn- @York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority #MovingForward

Emergency contact on the day: Laura Farthing - 07974494882

North Yorkshire Sport - Contact details

Email: info@northyorkshiresport.co.uk

Telephone: [01423 637650](tel:01423 637650)

Website: <https://northyorkshiresport.co.uk/>

Social media:

Instagram- @northyorkssport #MovingForward

LinkedIn- @North Yorkshire Sport Ltd

Emergency contact on the day: Damien Smith – 01423 537652