

Moving Forward Partnership Day - Friday 9 October 2026

Venue: The Hospitium, York

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.
Key note 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.
Key note 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.
Key note 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: 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

