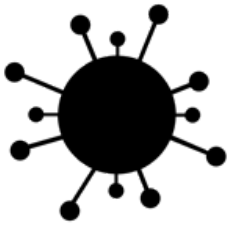


# York Human Rights Report

## Number 5, 2020

## COVID-19 AND HUMAN RIGHTS

## Easy Read Version – April 2021.

This easy read version was made by York People First.

For a full copy of the report, go to – https://www.yorkhumanrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/YHRCN-IndiRep-5-FINAL-2.pdf

York: Human Rights City

For more information about York Human Rights City, go to - https://www.yorkhumanrights.org/

YORK PEOPLE FIRST 2000
PEOPLE SPEAKING UP FOR THEMSELVES

For more information about York People First, go to - http://www.yorkpeoplefirst.co.uk/

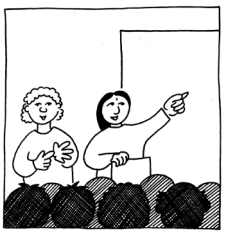
## What this Report is About:

This report looks at how the Covid 19 pandemic has affected human rights in York.

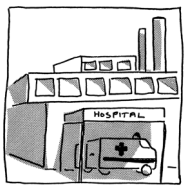
2020 has been a strange year for all of us because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

York: Human Rights City

York Human Rights City say there are 5 important human rights in the city.



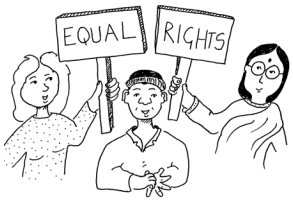
1) **Education** – learning at school, college or university.



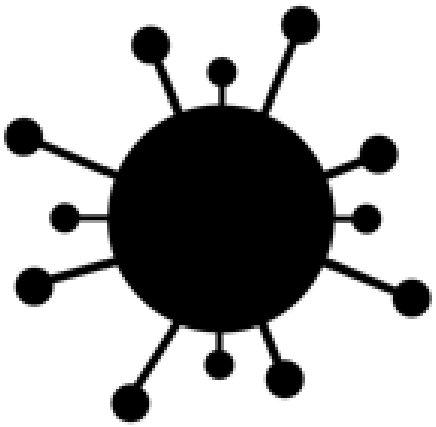

2) **Health and Social Care** – GP's, hospitals, care at home, personal assistants, social workers, support.

3) **Housing** – where you live and support to find and keep a home.

4) **A decent standard of living** – having enough of the things you need to live a good and safe life.

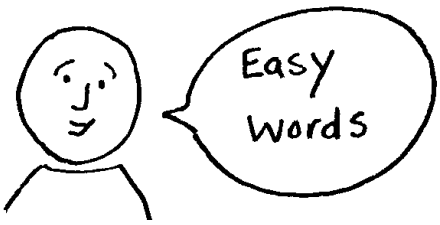



5) **Non Discrimination and Equality** – Not being treated badly because of who you are. Being able to take part in society without facing barriers.



In our other indicator reports, that we do each year, we look at these 5 human rights.

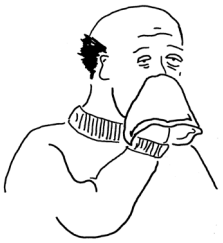
But this report is different because we have just looked at the Covid 19 pandemic and what happened in York.




**Key-Words:**

In this report the following key-words are used.

**Human Rights** – Your basic rights and freedoms. They are about your dignity, fairness, equality, respect and independence. They can never be taken from you, no matter who you are, where you are from or what you do.



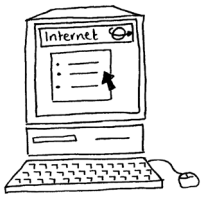
**Covid 19 pandemic** – A serious flu that can be past easily that has affected the whole world and made discrimination worse for some people.

**Indicator Report** – A report done each year by the York Human Rights City Network that looks at experiences of people and their human rights in York.

**Equality** – Being treated fairly and the same. Not experiencing barriers or different treatment because of who you are.

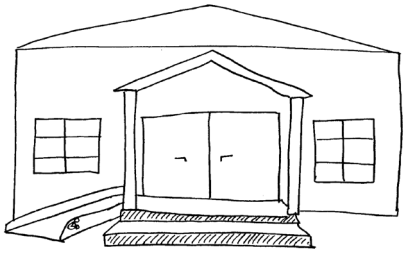
**Socio Economic** – social status or class. A way of looking at why some people live in poverty or face barriers, and why other people are privileged or better off.

**Coproduction** – A way of working together in an equal and shared way to make things better. People who use services and those who deliver them are valued the in same way.




**Digital Divide** – The barriers some people face because they don't have access to a computer or the internet.

**Digital Literacy** – Skills you might need to use a computer, smartphone or tablet to use the internet, join in video calls and other things.



**Civil Society Organisations** - faith groups, charities, trade unions, drama groups, campaign networks and other communities that share an interest or come together.

**What we found out:**

In making our report, we found out 9 things.

**1) Talking about human rights**

The City of York Council and Civil Society Organisations did not use human rights in the way they talked about COVID 19 and what happened.

But when people did talk about human rights, they said it was useful to think about Covid 19 in this way.

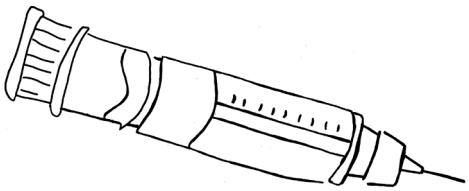
This makes us think that more needs to be done to make York a Human Rights City.

**2) Working Together**

During the Covid 19 pandemic the UK government was sometimes slow to respond.

But in York, the council and local communities worked well together to support people in lots of different ways.

This good way of working together is an example of how we can help make York a human rights city.



**3) Barriers and Discrimination.**

The Covid 19 pandemic has made things worse for people who face barriers and discrimination.

This is because of COVID 19 illness affects some peoples' health much worse than others.

And because Covid 19 has made the barriers and discrimination faced by some groups worse.

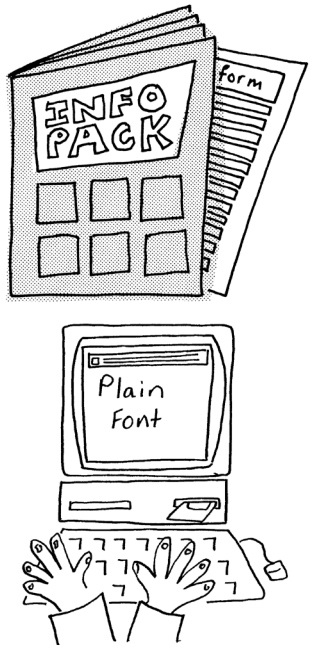
For example, disabled people had to shield and stay at home more, and so have faced more isolation.

## 4) The impact of the Covid 19

The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic will last a long time in York.

This will make things like poverty, inequality, mental health and isolation worse for people.

It is important that York does something about this so that people who face barriers are properly supported.




## 5) Information

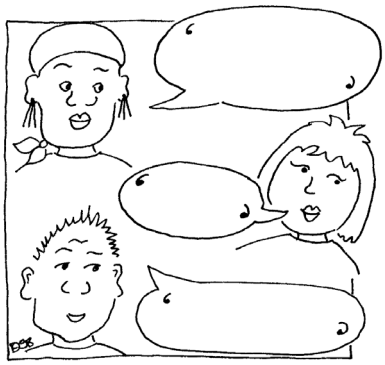
The way the council gave information to people was better in the second wave of the Covid 19 pandemic.

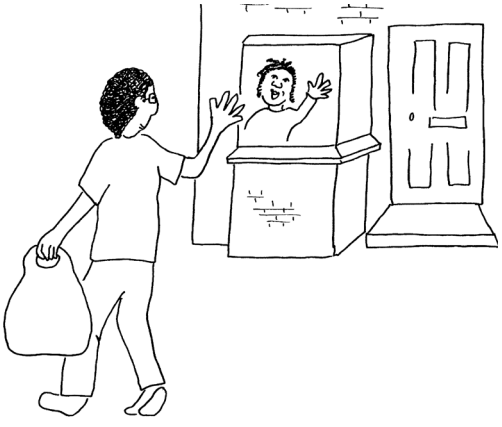
But there are still lots of problems for some people to get online, to use the internet and join in video calls.

## 6) Learning

York should learn from the things that worked well during the Covid 19 pandemic.

And it is very important that York looks at doing something to stop the discrimination and remove the barriers that some people face.



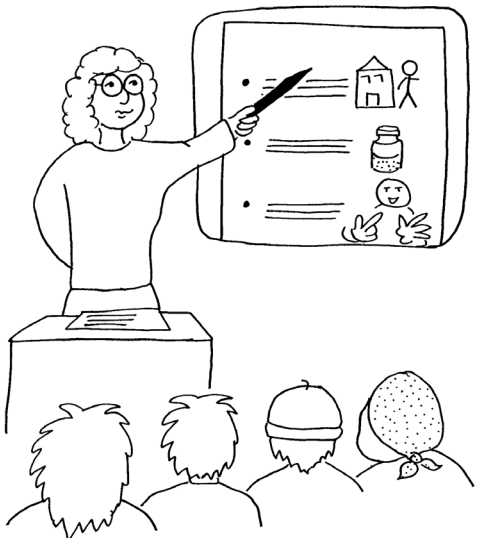


## 7) Coproduction

Lots of people who were interviewed for this report said that York should work together and coproduce more of how it does things.

York has lots of good community spirit and people want to work together.

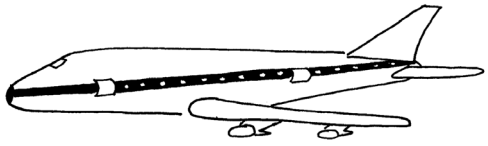
We should use this to make things better for everyone.



## 8) Training

There should be more training about Human Rights in York for the council and community groups.

This is so we can stop the impact of future pandemics and build the city back in a good way for all people.



## 9) Looking at what happened in other places

York should look at what other human rights cities, in other parts of the world, did during the Covid 19 pandemic.

This is so York can learn about what works, and how what to do in the future.

**What we think should happen next:**

Because of what we found out we think 6 things should be done.

**1) Stop poverty and inequality.**

The Human Rights and Equalities Board that is run by the council should make a plan to do this.

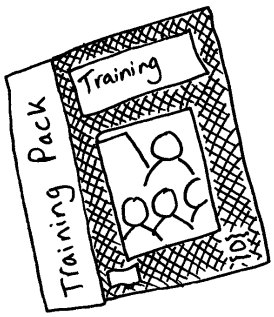
This plan should be clear and easy to understand by all the people it will have an impact on.

This will make things better for all people in York.

**2) Improve the way York communicates information.**

Look at the language that is used, think about how to use more human rights terms.

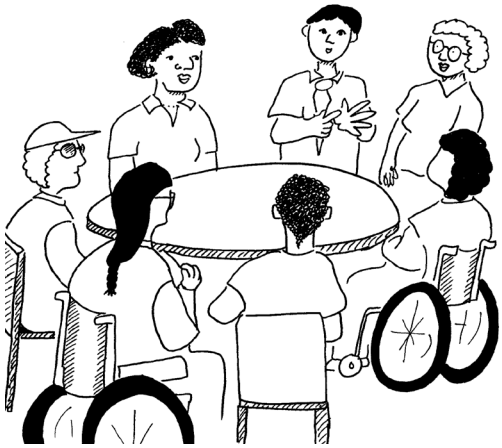
For example, don't say 'people are vulnerable', say 'people in vulnerable situations' or 'people facing barriers'.




**3) Provide more digital support to people.**

Look why people struggle to use the computers, tablets and smart phones to do things like use the internet and join video calls.

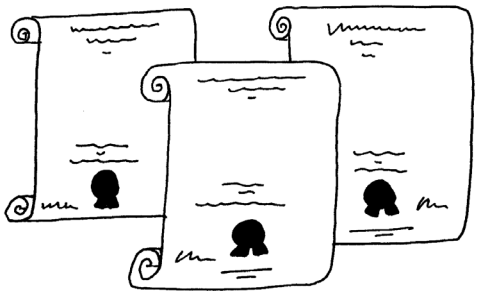
Provide support and training to people that is accessible, helpful and flexible.



**4) Work together more.**

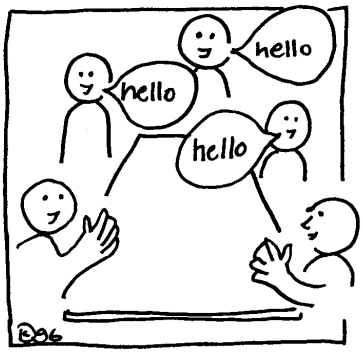
Look at how all people in York can coproduce answers to problems.

Listen to, learn from and value the input of people who use services as much as those who deliver and manage them.



**5) More human rights training.**

Give some training about human rights and other types of discrimination to the council and civil society organisations.




**6) Share and Learn.**

York should carry on sharing our experience with and learning from other Human Rights Cities.

**More Information:**
This easy read version of the York Human Rights Indicator Report Number 5, 2020 - COVID-19 AND HUMAN RIGHTS was made by York People First using images from the CHANGE Picture Bank (2006).

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