

OUR PLAN FOR 2012–2014

We want lasting change for people and places in poverty, communities where everyone can thrive and a more equal society. Now and for future generations.

This is what we're doing during 2012-2014 to make that change happen.



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

We are two charities, working together for social justice, and sharing trustees and directors.

We were established over 100 years ago to provide housing in communities and to understand the root causes of social problems. In the twenty-first century we continue to do just that.

We are independent, but we are not neutral: we are on the side of people and places in poverty.

JRF

Joseph Rowntree Foundation is an endowed foundation funding a UK-wide research and development programme.

JRHT

Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust is a registered housing association and provider of care services managing around 2,500 homes.

At JRF and JRHT we:

Search out the underlying causes of poverty and inequality, and identify solutions – through research and learning from experience

Demonstrate solutions – by developing and running services, stewardship of our land and buildings, innovating and supporting others to innovate

Influence positive and lasting change – publishing and promoting evidence, and bringing people together to share ideas

Our priorities 2012–2014

The future currently looks uncertain for us all. But the risk that people and places in poverty will suffer most is very real. We think that would be wrong, practically and morally. We aim to provide evidence, ideas and solutions which show how as a society we can combat inequality and promote the common good.

POVERTY

Our aim: To identify the root causes of poverty and injustice

In a time of globalisation, economic strain and austerity, the poorer members of our society are at greatest risk. But poverty isn't just about money. We want to understand both how much money does matter and what other factors affect equality – housing, education, aspirations, culture. We will search for practical ways to reduce both poverty and wider social and economic inequalities.

How? We will:

- be a place to get the facts about poverty and inequality and how people experience it;
 - produce an anti-poverty strategy for the UK;
 - track the impact of the deficit on poverty and inequality;
 - develop practical solutions to reducing poverty;
 - investigate the role of skills and work in reducing poverty and inequality;
 - equip policy-makers to understand the complex causes and dynamics of poverty;
 - challenge negative perceptions of people in poverty;
- inform policies for regional economic growth in the North of England that also benefit people and places in poverty;
 - support practical ways of reducing poverty, destitution and inequality in York and Bradford;
 - refresh JRHT's anti-poverty strategy to maximise the income of JRHT residents;
 - become an anti-poverty employer.

PLACE

Our aim: To support resilient communities where people thrive

Where you live is central to your quality of life. We want to know what kind of housing suits different households and different stages of life. We believe it is vital to address persistent issues of homelessness and access to affordable, quality housing. We want to understand what makes good neighbourhoods and resilient communities in our diverse and changing world.

How? We will:

- be a place to get the facts on housing and neighbourhoods and how they affect people's prospects;
- explore ways of improving housing for disadvantaged groups;
- equip policy-makers and practitioners to plan future housing and weigh the impact of climate change on social justice;
- connect people across diverse communities, sectors and agencies, working in Bradford;
- build quality homes to rent, part-own or buy at Derwenthorpe, York;
- innovate in housing design, energy efficiency, sustainable construction and community development;
- strengthen our relationships with housing providers, local authorities, and neighbourhood organisations;
- invest in housing and neighbourhood services across JRHT operations;
- enable JRHT residents with learning difficulties to live independently and engage with their community;
- support JRHT residents wanting to contribute to its management;
- ensure our land and properties meet our strategic priorities and our residents' needs.

AN AGEING SOCIETY

Our aim: To respond positively to the opportunities and challenges of an ageing society

UK society is ageing. Whatever our age, there are implications for every part of our lives – relationships, money, work, housing, benefits, health, social care, media, technology and design. We want to explore what our ageing society means for us all, across the age range.

How? We will:

- be a place to get the facts about an ageing society;
- bring people together to explore how society can respond to a diverse and ageing population;
- be a place to learn what older people who need a lot of support want from life;
- explore how risk and regulations affect care and support for older people;
- run imaginative, high-quality services for older people;
- develop extra-care services for older people in New Earswick, York, and facilities to support community life and relationships between generations there;

- learn from people excluded from power, to understand what will bring positive change;
- work in York and Bradford to develop and evaluate inspiring, practical examples of:
 - a city with a dementia plan, in York, with people with dementia playing a central role;
 - neighbourhoods where people feel less lonely;
 - neighbourhoods which are good places to live for all generations.

HOW AND WHERE WE WORK

We learn from and share evidence from research and experience to develop solutions. We are committed to our long-term aims. And we're not afraid to tackle difficult issues, to ask hard questions, and to take risks with new approaches.

Diversity is at the heart of our work as an employer, service provider and research funder. We work across the political spectrum and with partners in all sectors. We engage with different policy, practice and research networks. And we value the expertise of people with direct experience of the issues we are working on or the services we deliver.

For our staff we aim to be a responsible employer and an anti-poverty employer. For our residents we aim to provide them with the best service possible. In our expenditure we aim to spend wisely and ambitiously. Throughout this three-year period, we will measure our impact against these aims, listening to those we exist to serve.

Where we work

Based in York, we work across the UK. We cover policy and practice in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Our services operate across Yorkshire and in Hartlepool. We are eight years into a ten-year programme in Bradford. Over the next three years, we will take on more work specific to the North of England, drawing lessons for public policy across the UK.

OUR SHARED FUTURE

Times of change bring opportunity as well as risk. We have the chance to:

- foster social solidarity;
- try new approaches;
- promote the common good in a way that enables everyone to thrive and participate.

We intend to make the most of these opportunities. And we look forward to working with others to make positive social change a reality.



