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Deputy Mayor Newsletter: Summer 2025



Deputy Mayor Jo Coles discusses neighbourhood policing with Insp Holly Nicholls at Ripon Police and Fire Station

Welcome to the latest update from Deputy Mayor Jo Coles and the Police, Fire and Crime Team at the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Public updated on Langdale Moor Fire

25th August 2025

- Sustained period of hot, dry weather with no rainfall continued to dry out the vegetation, and the peat beds continued to burn.
- Strong wind gusts created a large and powerful flame front and preexisting control lines were compromised.
- Fire spread at unprecedented speed and was powerful enough to jump significant fire breaks including the B1416.
- Nature and cause of this fire spread is being investigated by multiple agencies and partners.

Progress. People. Community. **NORTH YORKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

Ben Hiley (External) www.northyorksfire.gov.uk

The Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime last week led an Online Public Meeting to hear a public briefing on the recent Langdale Moor Fire. The session provided a clear and candid overview of the incident, the emergency response and the ongoing recovery efforts.

Thursday's meeting offered a real-time opportunity for the public to hear directly from operational leads about what happened, the challenges they faced, and the number of different agencies involved in the incident.

The incident presented significant challenges, including unexploded military ordnance, extreme weather conditions, multiple fire fronts, deep peat and dry vegetation, limited access and water supply, and a lack of natural fire breaks. NYFRS and partners maintained a continuous presence throughout.

Speaking after the meeting, Deputy Mayor Jo Coles said:

"The Langdale fire is an ongoing incident and has been the largest wildfire North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue service have ever had to respond to.

I want to thank the tireless efforts of all our firefighters and those from other fire and rescue services who have worked so hard to keep us all safe recently.

I also want to thank the firefighters' partners, families, the employers of on-call firefighters, as well as farmers, contractors and businesses who have come together to tackle the Langdale incident and to bring it under control."

[Watch the full meeting](#)

[Read the full story](#)

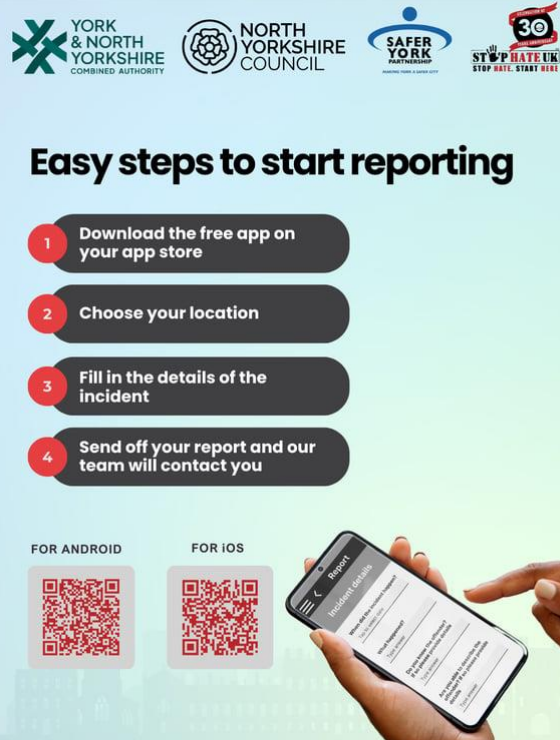
"Start Safe, Stay Safe" New Street Harassment app to improve street safety in York and North Yorkshire.

A new app, *Start Safe, Stay Safe*, has been launched to improve street safety in York and North Yorkshire.

It offers a straightforward, and confidential way for members of the public to report street, town and city centre incidents. It also enables authorities to quickly identify patterns of abuse and criminal behaviour and help them to respond more effectively.

The app has been designed to help more people in York and North Yorkshire report street harassment and feel safer in public spaces.

Street harassment primarily affects women and girls but the app can be used by anyone who may have been a victim or witnessed harassment in public spaces.



YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY **NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL** **SAFER YORK PARTNERSHIP** **STOP HATE UK**

Easy steps to start reporting

- 1 Download the free app on your app store
- 2 Choose your location
- 3 Fill in the details of the incident
- 4 Send off your report and our team will contact you

FOR ANDROID FOR IOS

Report

[Read the full story](#)

[Download from the Google Play Store \(Android\)](#)

[Download from the Apple App Store \(iOS\)](#)

Rural Crime Action Week – We're supporting women in rural and isolated areas across our region



Many women who are victims who reside in rural areas in our region can often feel isolated, unheard and at times feel they are overlooked.

One of the services supported by the Combined Authority is Liberty Links', provided by St Giles Trust and offering mobile and outreach services to women in rural communities throughout the Ryedale and Craven districts.

These services are delivered via a specially converted van, called '*Libby*', which offers local women gender-specific support in a trauma-informed way.

Other services have also been jointly delivered from the Liberty Links Van including Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS), Substance Use Support and Mental Health support.

Feedback from women who have accessed support from '*Libby*' shows how much they've appreciated having a service available to them as a safe space:

“What a great idea. Living in the sticks is lovely but also lonely and isolating, it can be tough. It’s a brilliant idea, just wish there were more of you!”

“When you move to a new place, especially when it is to get away from a bad man you feel scared and alone, and when you have children, you have to pretend to be happy all of the time, it’s hard. The van coming is a calm, happy place for me to chat and drink coffee, you help me, but I can also forget for a little while. Thank you”

[Read the full story](#)

Deputy Mayor Jo Coles is committed
to tackling rural crime



This year’s National Rural Crime Week of Action focusses on the experiences of victims of rural crime, who are often overlooked and ignored.

The Deputy Mayor praised North Yorkshire Police for their role in a Combined Authority-funded project providing DNA marking kits, allowing people to invisibly mark their property and aiding in its retrieval in the case of theft while deterring criminals from targeting properties taking part in the scheme.

The Combined Authority has provided 8,000 DNA kits to more than 1,500 farms, representing the largest roll-out of its kind in the UK.

Since the start of the scheme in 2024 through to April 2025, only three farms using the kits had been targeted, with a 30% reduction in quad bike theft also being noted.

[Read the full story](#)

Online Public Meeting

Scrutinising the performance of the police and fire service on YOUR behalf



Jo Coles

Deputy Mayor for Policing,
Fire and Crime



As Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime, Jo Coles is responsible for holding North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to account for their performance.

The purpose of these regular online public meetings is to hold both services to account for their delivery of the Mayor David Skaith's Police and Crime Plan and Fire and Rescue Plan, to ensure they are achieving the objectives, set through public consultation and generating positive outcomes.

Click the link below to find out how you can tune in, submit questions, and find out how the Police and Fire Services are performing in your area.

[Find out more about the Deputy Mayor's Online Public Meetings](#)

For the latest information follow the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Bluesky](#)



Discover your local policing team and crime statistics

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Police.uk has:

- Names of your local Policing Team - [Police.uk/yourarea](#).
- A breakdown of the number and nature of reported crimes in your area.
- Crime prevention advice.
- How to report a crime online.

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