

York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority

Start Safe, Stay Safe App Toolkit

Introduction

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 developed by Stop Hate UK was funded by the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and supported by City of York Council, North Yorkshire Council North Yorkshire Police and Leaders Unlocked.

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 accessed by anyone who may have been a victim or witnessed harassment in public spaces.

This toolkit includes -

- Press release
- Website copy
- Newsletter copy
- Social media copy
- Graphic Attachments – Posters, Artwork for Electronic Screens, Social Media Images – Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn)

Please share any information with your networks, colleagues and staff.

If you have any questions, please contact news@yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk

Thank you

Press Release

16/17 September 2025

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



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York and North Yorkshire Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime, Jo Coles, said:

“Street based harassment has no place in our region. The Mayor and I are determined to ensure everyone in our region feels safe. But we know that too often, for women and girls in particular, the streets, town and city centres don’t feel safe, and many incidents go unreported.

“This app will help the police and other agencies get better evidence of incidents that take place, ultimately enabling them to do more to tackle violence against women and girls.

“Anyone who experiences street harassment in our region can now report it via the app which I hope will lead to more people reporting unacceptable behaviour. But there’s much more to do and I will continue to work with partners to look for other measures that can be put in place to make our streets, town and city centres safe places for everyone.”

Rose Simkins, Chief Executive of Stop Hate UK, said:

“All forms of Hate Crime are significantly under-reported and some individuals and even whole communities are reluctant or unwilling to talk to the police or their council.

“The award-winning app gives people who experience or witness harassment, Hate Crime or Hate Incidents a safe and independent place to seek advice and support and explore their options for taking things further.

“Contact with our app might be the first time an individual has sought support about the things they are experiencing. Other people may have tried to get help but find they are not satisfied with the response they received.

“We can support people who feel they have nowhere else to turn or when other services are closed or busy and give people an easy way to report. We are committed to working with agencies and organisations across the County to reach more people. No one should have to suffer hate, harassment or discrimination in silence.”

Detective Chief Superintendent Ian Scott from North Yorkshire Police said:

“It’s vitally important that people feel safe across North Yorkshire and the introduction of the Start Safe / Stay Safe app is only going to enhance that.

“Working with our partners it’s important that we do everything we can to prevent incidents taking place. We will listen to all information which is passed to us and where appropriate robustly pursue any offences to achieve a criminal justice outcome.”

Cllr Michael Pavlovic, Executive Member for Safer Communities at City of York Council, said:

“This new easy-to-use app makes reporting all forms of street harassment simple and fast. It not only supports women and girls, but for all those who experience verbal abuse including hate-related harassment. I’d encourage everyone to download it. Introducing the app is another action that we can take in York, a Purple Flag city and one of the UK’s safest.”

North Yorkshire Council’s executive member for corporate services, Cllr Heather Phillips, whose responsibilities include community safety, said:

“The introduction of this app will support a number of priorities within the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership, specifically our determination to ensure people and communities across the county remain safe.”

Emily Blavins, Women Unlocked, said:

“It’s great to see the Combined Authority taking street harassment seriously. The young women on Women Unlocked reviewed the app and found it a great way to reduce barriers to reporting and are

keen to get their friends and peers downloading it too. We think it will make a huge difference in empowering women to both report and access much needed support. "

York and North Yorkshire Start Safe, Stay Safe app

The app is free to download and available 24-hours a day to people affected by street harassment in public places to report their experiences and get independent support and advice.

It will enable users to:

- Report anonymously for information only
- Access specialist support
- Capture audio, video and picture evidence
- Report the incident for formal investigation by police or council

It also provides a route through to Stop Hate UK 24/7 helpline providing further [guidance on support and reporting](#). The Street Harassment App increases reporting from those individuals and communities who are reluctant to report directly to the police or other statutory agencies.

Download the app from Apple Store:

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/start-safe-stay-safe>

Download the app from Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.stophateuk>

ENDS

For further information: amanda.bowers@yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk

Notes to editors

Additional Information –

A survey undertaken by [All About Respect](#) in 2025 surveyed young adults aged 16-25 on their understanding of gender-based violence and Hate Crime. The survey found that over half of respondents said they had experienced sexual harassment, and a quarter reported experiencing Hate Crime.

About York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority

The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority has been created by the City of York Council and North Yorkshire Council and is a legally recognised, single body. Our role is to use some of the money and powers, that up to now have been held by central government, and work with local leaders and communities to invest in ways that will help to make York and North Yorkshire a better place for you to live, work and do business. The Combined Authority is led by David Skaith, Mayor of York and North Yorkshire.

Deputy Mayor [Facebook/Instagram/BlueSky](#)

Combined Authority [Website](#) / [Facebook](#) / [X](#) / [LinkedIn](#) / [YouTube](#)

Website Copy

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



Report Street Harassment Anytime, Anyday

Residents and visitors in York & North Yorkshire can now report street harassment using the Stop Hate UK **Start Safe Stay Safe** 24HR Helpline app.

Download here

FOR ANDROID 

FOR IOS 

Street Harassment Report and Support App

Start Safe Stay Safe

Loading

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Newsletter Copy

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Social Media Copy

Graphic Image – available in Facebook/Instagram/Twitter/LinkedIn Formats:



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To find out more about the app visit: <https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/start-safe-stay-safe-new-street-harassment-app-to-improve-street-safety-in-york-and-north-yorkshire/>

Social Posts - FIRST COMMENT:

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