



# Media Release

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## IS THE DISTRICT CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

Delegates at the first annual conference of the Harrogate District Cultural Partnership will be asking themselves whether they have made a difference during their first year of operation. The Partnership was set up last year and brings together a wide range of people who are keen to put culture at the heart of improving people's lives in the area.

The Partnership is holding its annual conference on Friday, 18 June at Ripon Leisure Centre and will be focussing on information and communication and cultural opportunities for young people. These are the two key priorities identified in the Harrogate District Cultural Strategy, which was adopted in 2003

There will be a mix of presentations, workshops and action planning, with contributions from the regional and local press and media, library and information services, with a chance to hear about a variety of examples of successful projects working with young people.

Harrogate Borough Council is supporting the event and Kevin Douglas, Director of Leisure and Amenity Services comments:

“Anyone with an interest in culture in the district is welcome to come along and meet Partnership members to find out about the first year's work and future plans to promote cultural activities in the area. We are working with a very wide definition of culture, which includes sport, play, health and fitness, the environment and tourism, as well as the arts, music and heritage. The emphasis of the event will be on ensuring everyone is able to contribute and to shape the future development of the District Cultural Partnership, so that it can really boost our cultural life and build on the fantastic assets we already have.”

Places are free of charge but numbers are limited and more information and booking forms are available from Karen Weaver on 01423 556706, or via the website at [www.harrogate.gov.uk/culture](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/culture). Lunch is provided and there will be live music from young people across the Harrogate district.

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Work began on the development of the first Harrogate District Cultural Strategy in 2001. The strategy was agreed in January 2003 and the Harrogate District Cultural Partnership was set up in June 2003 and now has 85 members. The vision of the District Cultural Strategy is “to put culture at the heart of improving people's lives in the Harrogate District.”

Attached is a photo which shows children from Saltergate Junior School and members of the Partnership at last year's Party in the Park where at the launch of the District Cultural Partnership.