



# The York Policy Academy 2025-2026



## Agendas

### Session 1: Introductory Session

**Wednesday 3rd December 2025 2-4pm\***

(This session is 1 hour shorter than the rest)

The introductory session will be led by staff from The York Policy Engine. It will provide an overview of the Academy, a chance to meet fellow participants and to discuss the objectives of the programme.

| Approx. Timings | Content  |
|-----------------|--|
| 2-2.10pm        | <b>Refreshments &amp; Settling-In</b>                              |
| 2.10-2.20pm     | <b>Welcome to the Policy Academy + Overview of Activity</b>        |
| 2.20-3.20pm     | <b>Meet the Cohort</b>   |
| 3.20-3.30pm     | <b>Coffee Break</b>  |
| 3.30-3.45pm     | <b>Professor Kiran Trehan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Enterprise,</b> |

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|---|--|
|   | <b>Partnerships and Engagement</b><br><i>The Role of Policy Engagement in the University's strategy</i>  |
| 3.45-4pm  | <b>Feedback: Setting Goals for the Academy</b>   |
| <p><b>Session 2: Understanding the policy environment in different settings: unpacking experiences of policy engagement</b><br/> <b>Wednesday 7th January 2026</b><br/> 1-4pm</p> <p>Our first formal session will feature presentations from a range of University of York colleagues engaged in high profile policy engagement activity, highlighting varied examples of policy facing activity and providing an opportunity to discuss and debate different approaches to policy engagement in practice.</p> |  |
| <b>Timings</b>  | <b>Content</b>   |
| 1-1.10pm  | <b>Refreshment + Settling-In</b>   |
|   | <b>Introduction by Mike Baker</b><br>The York Policy Engine (TYPE)   |
|   | <a href="#"><u>Professor Paul Galdas</u></a><br>Professor of Men's Health, Department of Health Sciences<br><i>Influencing health policy: 5 lessons learned</i>  |
|   | <a href="#"><u>Professor Lucy Carpenter</u></a><br>Professor of Physical and Atmospheric Chemistry, Department of Chemistry<br><i>The Montreal Protocol on the Protection of the Ozone Layer: Personal experience in the "world's most successful environmental agreement"</i> |
| 2 - 2.15pm  | <b>Coffee Break</b>  |
|   | <a href="#"><u>Dr Jed Meers</u></a><br>Senior Lecturer in Law, York Law School<br><i>Engaging With Policymakers As A Researcher: What We've Learnt At The Administrative Fairness Lab</i>  |
|   | <b>Round Table Panel Discussion</b>  |
| 3.50 - 4pm  | <b>Closing</b>   |
| <p><b>Session 3: Research to policy journey and communicating research to policy audiences</b><br/> <b>Wednesday 4th February 2026</b><br/> 1-4pm</p> <p>This session explores how policy change happens in practice and what enables research to influence real-world decisions. It focuses on communicating evidence effectively to policymakers and building trusted relationships.</p>  |  |
| <b>Time</b>   | <b>Content</b>   |

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1-1.05pm      | <b>Refreshment + Settling-In</b>   |
|               | <b>Introduction</b>  |
| 1.05 - 1.55pm | <b>Matthew Taylor CBE</b><br>Chief Executive Office, NHS Confederation<br><i>'Policy change and transformation: from Downing Street to York'</i>                                       |
| 1.55 - 2.30pm | <a href="#"><u>Professor Maria Bryant</u></a><br>Professor of Public Health Nutrition<br><i>'Connection and credibility'</i>   |
| 2.30 - 2.40pm | <b>Comfort Break</b>   |
| 2.40 - 3.50pm | <b>Vasia Passaris</b><br>Senior Advisor, <a href="#"><u>The Open Innovation Team</u></a> (OIT), UK Civil Service<br><i>'Communicating to Policymakers'</i> , Interactive Workshop, Q&A |
| 3.50-4pm      | <b>Closing</b>   |

#### Session 4: Inner workings of civil service

**Wednesday 4th March 2026**

1-4pm

A Director General level civil servant will guide us through the workings of the UK central government and the role universities can play in working with the policy profession at central government level.

| Time        | Content  |
|-------------|--|
|             | <b>Refreshment + Settling-In</b>   |
| 1-2.15pm    | <b>Conrad Bailey CBE</b><br>Director General Public Transport and Local Group at the Department for Transport (DfT)<br><i>A guided Q&amp;A facilitated by the Chair</i>  |
| 2.15-2.30pm | <b>Comfort break</b>   |
| 2.30-3.45pm | The following attendees from the <a href="#"><u>Darlington Economic Campus</u></a> will lead a session on <i>The Civil Service and policy making from the inside:</i><br><b>George Whitworth</b><br>Deputy Director for Business, Trade and Culture, HM Treasury<br><b>Beth Davies</b><br>Deputy Director for Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI), HM Treasury |
| 3.45-4pm    | <b>Closing Remarks</b>   |

#### Session 5: Engaging with policy across different levels of governance: From Westminster to local and devolved authorities

**Wednesday 1st April 2026**

1-4pm

An MP will guide us on engaging with Parliament at a local level. They will be joined by external colleagues from York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (YNYCA) and the Yorkshire and Humber Policy Engagement Network (Y-PERN), which connects local authorities and universities in the Yorkshire region. Together, they will discuss the workings of devolved and local government and the role universities can play in collaborating with the policy profession at these levels.

| Time        | Content  |
|-------------|--|
|             | <b>Refreshment + Settling-In</b>   |
| 1.00-2.00pm | <b>Tom Gordon</b><br>Member of Parliament for Harrogate and Knaresborough<br><i>How to engage with the office of an MP, Q&amp;A</i>  |
| 2.15-2.30pm | <b>Comfort break</b>   |
| 2.30-3.00pm | <b>Paul Hayes</b><br>Senior Policy Fellow, University of Leeds<br><i>Working with regional and local government in England, Q&amp;A</i>  |
| 3.00-3.45pm | <b>Rebecca Kerr</b><br>Policy Fellow, Yorkshire and Humber Policy Engagement Network<br><b>Kate McHugh</b><br>Strategy and Policy Manager, York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority<br><i>Academic-Policy Engagement: YNYCA and Y-PERN, Q&amp;A</i> |
| 3.45-4.00pm | <b>Closing and final remarks</b>   |
| 4-4.30pm    | <b>Optional networking</b>   |

### Session 6: Technological, Global Changes and Future Forces Impacting Policy

**Wednesday 6th May 2026**

1-4pm

Using a live case study of policy engagement in action, the session grounds reflection in practice before shifting to structured peer discussion. Fellows will examine how their thinking and behaviours have evolved over the past 6 months, share insights across the cohort, and identify next steps to sustain and extend their policy engagement beyond the Academy.

| Approximate Time | Content   |
|------------------|---|
|                  | <b>Refreshment + Settling-In</b>  |
| 1.00-1.45pm      | <b>Dr Chris Wilkinson</b><br>Hull Medical School, Policy Academy Co-lead<br><i>Defibrillator Access, Case Study and Q&amp;A</i>   |
| 1.45-2.15pm      | <b>Workshop Part I: Small Group Discussion</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What have you learned in the last year as a Policy Fellow?</li> <li>2. How has your thinking changed?</li> </ol> |

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
|             | <p>3. What have you done differently in the last 6 months?</p> <p>4. How will you capitalise on your new skills?</p>                  |
| 2.15-2.30pm | <b>Comfort break</b>  |
| 2.30-3.30pm | <p><b>Workshop Part II: Group Reflections</b></p> <p>Share reflections from discussion and open up questions to the wider cohort.</p> |
| 3.30-3.45pm | <p><b>Individual Reflections</b></p> <p>Return to objectives from session one and consider next steps</p>                             |
| 2.45-4.00pm | <b>Closing and Networking</b>   |

# The York Policy Engine

**Anthonia James**  
Head of The York  
Policy Engine



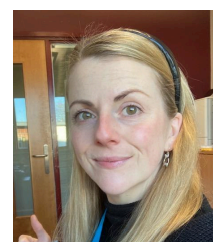
**Dr Chris Wilkinson**  
Hull Medical School,  
Policy Academy  
Co-lead



**Professor Mike  
Baker**  
Policy Academy  
Co-lead.  
Professor of  
Practice, TYPE



**Katie Heffron**  
Capacity and Policy  
Engagement Manager,  
TYPE



**Dom Watson**  
Project Delivery  
Officer, TYPE



**Duncan Mcknight**  
Research  
Communications  
Manager, TYPE



**Dr Rebecca Kerr**  
Y-PERN Policy  
Research Fellow,  
TYPE



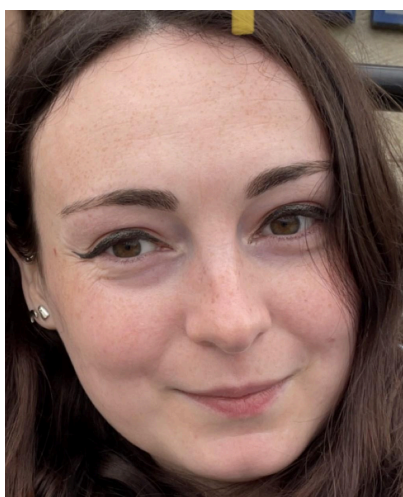
**Professor John  
Hudson**  
Academic Director,  
TYPE



## POLICY ACADEMY FELLOWS 25/26



**Dr Adam Formby**  
Policy Fellow,  
Department of Health Sciences



**Dr Amy Holmes**  
Lecturer in Social Sciences,  
York St John University



**Emma Standley**  
Research Fellow,  
Department of Health Sciences



**Dr Gul Dag**

Faculty Partnerships Manager,  
Faculty Impact and Knowledge  
Exchange team



**Isabel Jagoe**

Head of Faculty Operations,  
Department of Language and  
Linguistic Science



**James Parker**

York Graduate Research School  
Project Officer,  
Research Innovation and  
Knowledge Exchange (RIKE)



**Jana Busch**

Communications Specialist,  
Stockholm Environment Institute  
(SEI)



**Dr Jennie Lister**  
Research Fellow (Social  
Epidemiology),  
Department of Health Sciences



**Dr Jenny Spear**  
Faculty Impact Manager,  
Faculty of Sciences



**Jessica Farnhill Young**  
International Employability Officer,  
Careers and Placements



**Dr Julia Sarju**  
Senior Lecturer in Chemistry  
Education,  
Department of Chemistry



**Dr Kate Mooney**  
Research Fellow,  
Department of Health Sciences



**Dr Katie Harrison**  
Research Environment and  
Development Coordinator,  
Department of Environment and  
Geography



**Laura Barrett**  
Research Associate,  
Department of Health Sciences



**Dr Laura Fox**  
Lecturer in Psychology in  
Education,  
Department of Education



**Dr Lisa Huddlestone**  
Research Fellow,  
Department of Health Sciences



**Prof Lorna Hamilton**  
Professor of Developmental  
Psychology and Inclusive  
Education,  
York St John University



**Dr Magdalena Furgalska**  
Lecturer in Law,  
The York Law School



**Maroula Hill**  
Postgraduate Research  
Administrator,  
Department of Environment and  
Geography



**Dr Maryna Kapas-Romaniuk**

Research Associate,  
Department of Language and  
Linguistic Science



**Dr Nathalie Noret**

Senior Lecturer in Psychology in  
Education,  
Department of Education



**Dr Nicola Favretto**

Associate Lecturer in Human  
Geography,  
Department of Environment and  
Geography



**Dr Pete Dale**

Lecturer in Music Education,  
School of Arts and Creative  
Technologies



**Dr Saima Afaq**

Associate Professor (Senior Lecturer) Global Public Health,  
Department of Health Sciences



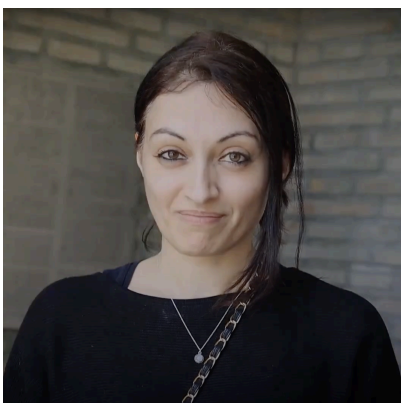
**Sam Farnhill Young**

Student Services Administrator,  
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**Sarah Dwyer**

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**Dr Simona Manni**

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**Dr Smriti Safaya**  
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**Tracy Dancer**  
Project Manager,  
Centre for Health Economics



**Dr Victoria Hoyle**  
Senior Lecturer in Public History,  
Department of History