







The vision for Youth Work in Leeds – ‘Making Connections’ Report

Area	Outer South
Core Offer Team Leader	Glen O’Malley
Date of Report	January 2024

Leeds Youth Work Vision:

 Youth work will be valued and understood.	 Participation and Empowerment.	 Collaboration.
 Inclusiveness, equality, and diversity	 Respect and positivity	 Quality, safety, and well-being

How has Youth Work been delivered in line with Leeds Vision for Youth Work (500 Words)

Participation & Empowerment:

Youth Matter group members across the SSE area have been busy participating in consultation for the October, December & February holiday programmes. The group members consulted their groups and contributed to the October Holiday programme. In November the groups were consulted for Christmas activities and decided on visits to the Leeds Playhouse to see Oliver, Leeds City Varieties to see Rock N Roll Panto & Stockheld Park for Ice Skating. Group members have also been working with Youth Workers to plan the February 2024 holiday programme.

Fire Fighting Sessions – Young people from across the Outer South area engaged in firefighting awareness sessions during the October Half term period, young people from Tingley area engaged in the full day sessions. The young people were engaged in physical & team challenges and focussed on the role of the fire Service. The sessions also focussed on Fire Safety, Fire Work awareness and the role of the fire service in the local community. In total 30 young people from across the three areas engaged in the three different days.



Consultation - Young people across the SSE Core provision have been engaging with Youth Workers to complete the Youth Activities Funding and the Leeds Children’s Poverty Consultations. The YAF consultation enabled the young people to identify how local funds would be spent on young people and the second enabled young people to highlight the main issues for a young person impacted by Child Poverty.

Inclusiveness, equality & diversity:

LGBTQ - Pick ‘N’ Mix group continues to support young people who identify as LGBTQ, the closed session enables the group members to share experiences, focus on hate crime, develop sexual health knowledge, how to use their pronouns and enhancing their communication / coping techniques for when challenged by their peers.

Young Carers – Following the July to September report the SSE team acknowledged the number of young carers registered on the report did not appear to reflect the level of participation in sessions, the Core Youth Work team focussed on how this could be improved and requested young people who identify as a young carer to be reregistered. As a result, the SSE core Youth Work team has seen an increase in young carers included on the report. Awareness sessions have also been provided to the Core Youth Workers to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities to Young Carers.

Windmill Residential (Dec 23) – A group of thirty-five young people were engaged in a three-day residential to Carlton Lodge in December, the group from the Outer South area were able to experience a range of outdoor & educational activities that contributed to team building & life / social skills. Funding was secured via the Outer South Housing Advisory Panel and Windmill Transport. The young people experienced new activities, developed new friendships and enhanced their life skills.



Quality, Safety & Well-Being:

C Card – Sexual Health Awareness – Youth Workers continue to offer the C Card Scheme across the Core Youth Work provisions targeting young people aged 13+, working with Leeds Sexual Health Service the local provisions offer young people the option to access sexual health resources including contraceptives, relationship advice, age of consent guidance, pregnancy & STI's testing. This service enables Youth Workers to develop trust & tolerance with young people enabling them to build their life skills.

Personal Safety - Youth workers have engaged young people in sessions around staying safe this has included discussion around electric scooters and bikes. The importance of lights and wearing something bright, youth workers had provided some snap bands to encourage young people to be seen. Another important discussion has been around not wearing headphones, having phones and electric gadgets out of view and being aware of the surroundings.

Cooking Skills - Young people have engaged in cooking programmes and worked with youth workers on programme planning, eating healthy on a budget where young people have learnt basic cooking skills & health & safety in the kitchen. The sessions enabled young people to recognise the health benefits compared to purchasing take aways.

Collaboration:

Volunteers & Students – Several volunteer and students have supported the delivery of Youth Work sessions across the SSE area, Students from Leeds Beckett University & Leeds Health Watch engaged with young people around developing awareness of poetry & mental health issues. The local volunteers increased during the October to December period with three new volunteers supporting sessions. One of the regular volunteers also delivered an epilepsy awareness session.

Health Watch - Worked with young people to focus on the impact of mental health and what they liked about living in Leeds including the cost-of-living crisis, personal safety, transport etc. Three groups of ten young people engaged with the workers and feedback that they had really enjoyed the session and felt listened too.

Respect and positivity:

White Ribbon Campaign - All groups were provided with information and encouraged young people to support the White Ribbon Campaign, talking to young people about this very important campaign. Having these conversations with young people will provide an understanding of the issues this campaign supports. Youth Workers provided different campaign aspects to discuss such as women and girls feeling safe

in their local areas while out running. It was established that young women and girls don't feel safe in parks alone while boys and young men do mostly feel safe in these areas.

Employment Support - A young person from Holbeck area approached Core Youth Workers to ask for support with their Curriculum Vitae and how they access college courses, the young person had been experiencing some mental health issues whilst at school and as such didn't always attend. Youth workers supported this young person to attend a meeting with the pathways service. (Had previously not attended appointments with Pathways) the Youth Worker followed up with discussion around next steps and encouraged attendance at follow up meetings.

Youth work will be valued and understood:

Youth Work Conference - Youth Workers from across the SSE Core Team participated in a celebration of Youth Work event in November 23, the celebration at Leeds Metropolitan University enabled Youth Workers to develop awareness of other services available for young people and to celebrate the good work being delivered across Leeds. The SSE team also consisted of five volunteers at the celebration event.



Issue Based Work – Youth Workers from across the SSE team have been engaging young people in a range of issue-based work during the last quarter, vaping, hate crime, road safety, epilepsy awareness, alcohol awareness, national recycling week & World Mental Health Day. The group members explored the issues in an informal learning environment with aspects of fun included where possible.

What has gone well and why? Contributing Factors (500 Words)

The examples above of Core Youth Work Activities along with the details in this section are testament to the good work of the Youth Service SSE Core Youth Work Team undertakes with young people across the South, Southeast area.



Championing the voice of young people – The Outer South Youth Matters group have been extremely active working with local councillors to focus on Youth Summits, explore local priorities and working with Youth Service management to recruit Advanced Youth Work Practitioners. These groups have enabled the group members to be active members in their local areas.

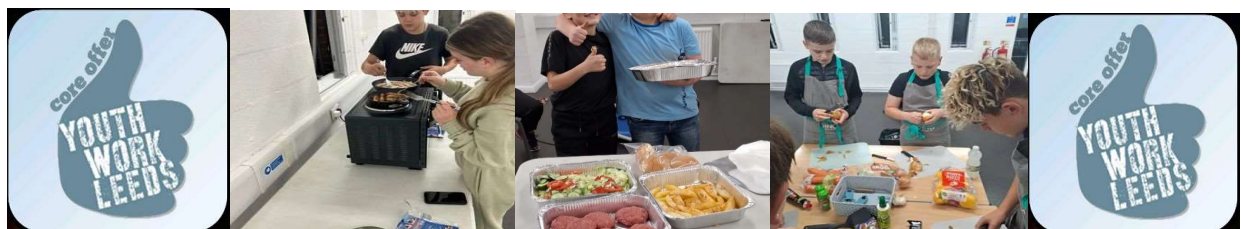
Anti-Social Behaviour Work – Youth Workers from the Core Youth Work Team have been engaging with partners to identify hot-spot area and young people identified as being engaged in unacceptable behaviour. Utilising both detached & mobile sessions locations have been visited and young people engaged in discussions regards their actions / behaviours. Two young people who were causing ASB in the community had meetings individually with Youth Workers to discuss their behaviour, actions and consequences and since the meetings took place, the young people are now positively attending and engaging in two sessions a week and their behaviour has improved.

October Half Term – Youth Service SSE Core Youth Work team have worked with local young people to create and deliver a diversionary holiday programme for the October Half term period. Young people were able to participate in Scare maze events at Yorkshire Scare-fest, bowling at Escape, swimming at Barnsley Metro-Dome & Flamingo Land Theme Park.



Halloween Events – Three Halloween events were delivered across the SSE area by the Core Youth Work team and several local volunteers & senior members, the “House of Madness” events provided a diversionary activity with a challenge. The scare mazes were created by the Youth group members and Core Youth Workers focussed on participants and their contributions. Overall, 75 young people participated in the three events with many providing very positive feedback. The local volunteers & senior members contributed to the planning, designing of costumes, applying make-up, staffing the events and being part of the Scare Maze Characters.

Bonfire Period / Fire Safety – Youth Workers from the Core Youth Work team offered additional activities over the Bonfire Weekend, some Youth Work sessions remained open later, additional mobile & detached sessions were provided and on Saturday 4th November over 70 young people participated in a full day trip to Flamingo Land for a fun day that included an evening Firework display. This additional work contributed to a reduction in young people related Anti-Social Behaviour across the SSE area with reports for Service calls being lower than previous years.



Health – Vaping - An ongoing issue with young people is vaping, more and more young people are starting to vape from a very young age. Youth Workers have designated sessions in all areas to raise awareness on vaping and the effects nicotine has on the body. Young people discussed why they vape and the census is that young people are vaping because of the flavours that the vapes are. Young people that vape have said they do not smoke cigarettes because they do not like the smell or taste of them, but as vapes have nice flavours they use them. Additionally young people have been very stressed with exams and used vaping to relax. Discussions took place about finding different relaxation techniques and new things to do to relax other than vaping. Youth workers were pleased to discover that local shops around Belle Isle don't sell Vapes to young people, however the flip side of this is that young people are visiting the City Centre to buy vapes and then hanging around in town.



What has not gone well and why? Contributing factors? (500 Words)

Mobile Provisions – The age and level of maintenance on the 2008 vehicles is causing a number of sessions to be cancelled, regular maintenance and repairs means vehicles are spending a lot of time off the road, this frustrates both staff and young people who are keen for sessions to be delivered.

Dark Nights & Weather Conditions - The recent weather and dark nights have been impacting on the Kicks sessions across the SSE area, Youth Workers are arriving at sessions with full kits including lights to then have the football sessions cancelled. The sessions that have a mobile provision available have been able to go ahead as a regular session. The lack of inside space is becoming more of an issue with the outdoor sessions struggling.

Behaviour of young people - Youth workers have been responding to reports of Youth ASB in Rothwell, Tingley & Morley this had consisted of young people hiding and setting fire to parks. Youth Workers have witnessed this behaviour first hand and had challenged young people. Some young people haven't responded positively to the challenge. Youth workers will continue to challenge this type of behaviour with young people.

Gang Culture – Youth workers are coming across more difficult situations while dealing with local gang culture and at times have been challenging for staff, Youth Workers are working with local partners to explore options and responses to address evolving situations.

Compliments and Feedback (500 Words)

1 – October School Holiday Feedback:

"My kids loved the scare houses thanks for taking them – I was too scared to!" – parent of siblings accessing YAF October half term trip to HallowTween scare event at York Maze.

2 - Cooking Sessions:

Parents have given positive verbal feedback to youth workers about the love food project, some of the feedback from one of the parents:- YP really looks forward to attending the project. He has enjoyed learning how to make new things. He's a very fussy eater but because he's spent time cooking for everyone, he has also tried the meals. As a family we all look forward to seeing what meal he brings home for everyone. Everyone has enjoyed eating the different meals and trying foods that we would not normally cook. He was really upset he couldn't come this week as he was poorly. Thank you for dropping the pizzas off even though he couldn't come this week.

"We made cookies by ourselves!"

3 – Core Youth Work Sessions:

I was really worried about x attending the youth group, but she loves it and the new friends she has made has helped her so much at school: amazing thank you - Parent.

"I like being able to have good talks with the youth workers when there are less people here" – Young Person.

"Loved the air hockey tournament and I won a prize" – Young Person.

"The tattoos are really good"– Young Person.

4 - Rothwell Residential (Dec 23) – Via Facebook

Sarah Crow
thank you so much for this weekend Riley has loved it
2 w Like Reply Hide

Julie Taylor
Tyler has had a great weekend, thank you to all staff for taking them. Xx
2 w Like Reply Hide

Leisa Pattison
Thank you for this weekend - Ronnie had a great time - there so lucky to have the use of this facility - keep up the hard work guys!!! Xxx
2 w Like Reply Hide

Kryssie Castle
Alfie had the best time! Thank you 😊 xx
2 w Like Reply Hide

Leonie Clarkson
Looks like you all had a great time x
2 w Like Reply Hide

Rachael Roberts
Thank you so much to the staff for their hard work this weekend. Josies just about thawed out!
2 w Like Reply Hide

Have the plans and priorities for the last quarter been achieved? What are your plans and priorities for the next quarter? (500 Words)

- **Last Quarter Priorities:**
- To continue supporting young people impacted by the cost-of-living crisis, offering free food at Youth Work sessions, linking into local sessions at reduced rates and by offering discounts during school holiday programmes. Sessions will also focus on healthy eating and alternatives to take-aways. – **Achieved – See Cooking Skills Sessions Above.**
- Core Youth Work team currently developing a diversionary programme during the October School Holiday period, working with local Youth Matters groups an enhanced programme will be delivered. **Achieved – See Youth Matters Above.**

- Halloween & Bonfire Period, Core Youth Work team have several additional work elements planned. Sessions with West Yorkshire Fire Service planned to develop knowledge of Fire Fighting and the dangers around fires & fireworks. During the Bonfire weekend the Core Youth Work team is looking to offer some late-night youth work sessions, detached sessions, diversionary activities with the aim of diverting young people's interests into positive activities. **Achieved – See Fire Fighting Above.**
- Core Youth Work team has organised several Halloween events to focus the attention of young people into positive activities, the House of Madness events are a local scare fest targeting young people to participate in a safe scary event. **Achieved – See House of Madness Above.**
- To maintain engagement levels in outdoor sessions during the dark nights, working in partnership with Leeds United foundation the outdoor sessions require more focus to ensure the provisions can continue. Outdoor sessions with minimal or no lighting require Core Youth Workers to arrange portable lights and have cover available for poor weather conditions. **Achieved.**
- To continue supporting young people with mental & sexual health concerns and to ensure sufficient support is available up to and during the Christmas period. **Achieved – Support offered on a one to one basis and via social media information.**

What are your plans and priorities for the next quarter?

- To develop a diversionary holiday programme that is accessible to vulnerable young people during the February 2024 Half Term period.
- To provide young people with to access to regular educational & recreational activities through Youth Work sessions to ensure their leisure time is used positively.
- To focus on the development of more senior members & volunteers in the South, Southeast area.