

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

Area	<b>Outer South – April to June 2024</b>
Core Offer Team Leader	Glen O’ Malley
Enhanced Offer Delivery Partner	
Date of Report	July 2024

### Key narrative regarding the above data (750 Words)

During the April to June 2024 period Leeds Youth Service Core Youth Work Team in the Outer South area delivered a range of good quality sessions for young people aged 11 to 17 years of age, the sessions included a variety of informal learning opportunities that developed life skills through positive interaction. Sessions were delivered in partnership where possible and focussed on issues relevant to young people.

The key elements of the Leeds Youth Work Vision and the Department for Education.

Overall, the Youth Service SSE Core Team delivered **148** Youth Work sessions between April to June 2024. Compared to the same quarter in 2023 this was a reduction of **36** Core Youth Work sessions.

Overall engagement levels in the Core Youth Work programmes were **547** known young people and **106** Unknown young people.

The Accumulative attendance in Core Youth Work sessions by young people across the Outer South area was **3248**.







Individuals from most deprived LSOA areas - **392**

Individuals from least deprived LSOA areas - **154**

Individuals from unknown LSOA areas - **1**

Priorities during this quarter was to ensure that the programme was inclusive and accessible by all, Youth Workers continued to ensure the correct monitoring aspects aligned to young people being a carer, having a disability or from culturally diverse communities was recorded effectively. The level of culturally diverse young people engaging increased by **1%**, the number of Carers engaging was 4 young people and the number of young people with a disability reduced to **5** engaging in Core Youth Work sessions.

<b><u>Core Youth Work Sessions – April to June 2024</u></b>	Distinct YP from Ward engaging in Ward.	Distinct YP from anywhere engaging in Ward.	Distinct YP from Ward engaged within provision.	Accumulative attendance in Ward.
<b>Outer South</b>				
ARDSLEY & ROBIN HOOD	100	168	127	982
MORLEY NORTH	28	47	48	252
MORLEY SOUTH	110	155	141	1051
ROTHWELL	99	177	109	963

<b>Leeds Youth Work Vision:</b>		
 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)**

**Youth work will be valued and understood:**

**Sexual Health Sessions:** - Young people have been engaged in discussions and group activities around sexual health issues, group members participated in discussions around sexualised behaviour, information on the C Card project, responsibilities, risks, and precautions. Group members were made aware of the C Card resources and how they can register. Session activities enabled young people to identify relationships, boundaries and acceptable behaviour. Young people have gained knowledge to help them make informed choices about their own sexual health and their bodies. Working in partnership with Public Health to better deliver the 3 in 1 service to young people.

**Cost of Living Challenge:** - Youth Service Outer South Team has continued offering young people in all our sessions free warm substantial meals to help with the cost-of-living crisis. Surplus food has been given to young people that are known to be financially challenged at home. This has come from an increase in young people reporting to be hungry during sessions. Young people have also been learning how to cook new foods and familiar foods in a healthier way. Youth service have been introducing healthier foods such as vegetables, salads, and fruit to their meals.

**Alcohol Awareness Sessions:** - Young people attending Core Youth Work sessions were able to find out more about alcohol use, drinking culture, binge drinking, health issues, social issues and safety through a fun session when young people were able to invent interesting drinks and mocktails using a range of fruit juices, low sugar mixers, flavourings and decorations.

## **Participation and Empowerment:**

Violence Reduction Partnership Consultation: - A team of Research and Evaluation Specialists from the Violence Reduction Partnership attended sessions across the SSE area and engaged with young people around the Childrens Framework. Young people from Rothwell Windmill really enjoyed this session and felt valued that their voices are being considered and incorporated into the Childrens Frameworks policy.

## **Collaboration:**

Partnership & ASB Reduction: - Local PCs visited to engage with Youth Workers and young people regards anti-social behaviour in the local areas and to build positive relationships between Police & Young People. Youth Workers were able to undertake outreach work in the local area following information on anti-social behaviour, visiting Rothwell town centre, Springhead Park, local housing estates and Lemonroyd Lock. Youth Workers spoke to residents at Lemonroyd Lock who reported high numbers of young people around the canal/river area during warm weather and advised that they had been jumping into the weir. Youth Workers discussed safety concerns in the light of relatively recent tragedies and that the Youth Service would try to visit whenever possible.

## **Inclusiveness, equality, and diversity:**

Cultural Awareness: – Core Youth Groups have been developing awareness of the different cultures across Leeds, group members had the opportunity to take part in interactive quizzes about Ramadan and Eid as well as St. George Day which helped to increase cultural awareness. They learned what Ramadan and Eid were, how they were observed or celebrated and some of the beliefs and cultural practices around them. On St. George's Day, young people learned more about who he was and what he represents to people in different parts of the world as well as creating their own flags and making dragon shaped coasters.

Deaf Awareness Week: - Youth Work staff team engaged in several opportunities provided to inform and educate Young People as part of Deaf Awareness Week. Young People took part in a range of activities which included learning the first steps of sign language and discussing the barriers faced by deaf people and the importance of being inclusive. It was great to see that by the end of the session all Young People were able to confidently state their names using British Sign Language with several Young People committing about how the session had encouraged them to think about things that they had not considered before and the role that they had to play with regards to supporting others.

LGBTQ Pick 'N' Mix: - Had been going well with new young people participating in the group, young people have been focusing on hate crime, sexual health, how to use their pronouns and around been offended. Staffing levels have resulted in this session being difficult to continue.

Rothwell Windmill Youth Club: - Young people participated in discussion-based work around mental health, sexual health, and using vapes. Unusual discussion developed around myths, legends, and fairy tales - young people sharing theories around how/why such tales persist and what value they serve. Introduced to the concept of 'urban myths' and discussed if these were the same. Really good discussion around culture, religion, and ethnicity. Some young people were confusing them and thinking they were the same thing.

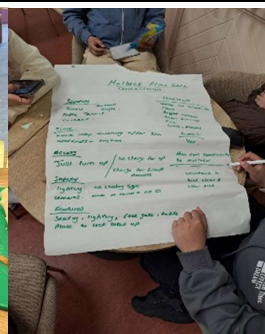
Pride Month 2024: - To celebrate Pride month young people have been involved in discussions around identity. Young people who identify as being part of the LGBTQi community have led discussion about the barriers they have had to face to be themselves. One young person talked about how she didn't feel that she could talk to anyone about it and even struggled with close family. Young people talked about how important it is to fit into a group especially at school and how loneliness is a constant thing. Young people were able to discuss fears and struggles in a supportive environment.



### Quality, safety, and well-being:

Stress Awareness Month: - Young people from the Outer South area have been focussing on stress during the month of April. The month-long campaign enabled young people to explore the causes of stress, the signs of stress and how to manage stress. Some of the younger group members had sats in May and lots of other young people had GCES's coming up. Youth Workers provided young people with ways of reducing stress and anxiety. Making stress balls was a great activity, easy to do however young people did comment that the rice going everywhere was quite stressful 😊.

Personal Support: - The Outer South Core Youth Work Team has supported several young people who have been referred to local cluster for support. When a young person is referred, a Youth Worker will contact the young person or parent and provide information around what youth work is happening in their local area and to invite them along. Youth Workers have also been able to support young people from the youth groups who have been waiting for referrals to cluster counselling service.



**Cultural Awareness:** - Young people at Lewisham & Gildersome have been given the opportunity to explore customs from around the world and looked at the different clothing people wear; young people were also given the opportunity to try on some outfits. The aim of the sessions was for young people to understand the different aspect to people's culture and how clothing can be a big part of how people express themselves. It helps young people explore their own identity as well as young people having more of an understanding of others.

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

**Easter Holiday Diversionary Programme:** - Young people from across the Outer South area were able to access the out of school's activities programme during the Easter holiday period, the programme included Ninja Warrior, Go Karting at Tockwith, VR a new provider in Leeds City centre, young people used headsets to access games and challenges, Wrestling show at UK Wrestling, Ice skating at Planet Ice and theme parks including Blackpool and Flamingo Land. The programme enabled young people to experience diversionary activities at a reasonable price.



**Knife Angel Thank You:** - A group of young people engaged in a fun day at Go Ape in recognition of supporting the Knife angel project earlier in the year. Young people from SSE were able to spend the day with young people from Core Youth Work sessions from ENE and WNW. Young people worked together to complete the course, supported each other using their team building and problem-solving skills.

**West Yorkshire Fire Rescue Service:** - Engaged with young people at Tingley Youth as part of Drowning Prevention Week to focus on the dangers of open water, young people watched a presentation and participated in discussion around what can go wrong and what to do in an emergency. Some young people from the groups had personal experiences of the dangers of open water and some had an experience where



they had a friend who lost their life. The discussions were very respectful and although young people had all the correct answers, Youth Workers will continue to remind them of the dangers as the weather gets warmer.

E Scooter Session: - Core Youth Workers have noticed a rise in the number of young people having access to and riding e bikes and e scooters, across the SSE area, Youth Workers developed a safety session exploring the use and the need to wear safety helmets, speed awareness, road conditions and dangers of riding on paths and roads. Young people are also adapting bikes and making them go faster by fitting their own kits on them. Young people are aware of the risk associated, but will not stop using them, providing sessions around safety is a good way of making young people think about the choices they are making when riding them.

Year 6 transition Groups: - Have reopened for young people in year 6 to help support with the transition from primary to high school, the programmes offer support around mental wellbeing and social skills. The groups are delivered in Morley North, Morley South and Ardsley and Robin Hood Wards. With the support of local primary schools, the sessions have had a big uptake in attendance.

First Aid Skills: - Young people attending the Core Youth Work sessions in Winthorpe's, Tingley YR6, Lewisham YR6 & Gildersome YR6 have been looking and learning lifesaving skills by learning D.R.A.B.C, learning CPR and how to use a AEDs. The sessions have been well attended with young people asking for more sessions.



St. Gabriel's Youth Club: - Young people attending the Youth group have helped clear away weeds and overgrown plants from the planters around the centre. The group also planted an Apple tree in the garden area talked about what they would like to see growing in the areas and how they would achieve this. The young people also learned how to make their own 'slime', using different recipes to create different textures and experimenting with adding colour and scent. A new, active 'balloon' game caused lots of laughter and has become the group's new favourite way to end a session.

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

Staffing Levels in SSE: - The Youth Service SSE team has experienced its worst ever staffing situation, the April to June quarter has seen several staff becoming ill, people leaving for full time positions and others having to take time off for caring responsibilities. This added to the reduction felt in the January to March period has required the team to review delivery of sessions and some sessions have been closed. Whilst recruitment of staff is being undertaken, delivery of sessions is currently being negatively impacted.

St Gabriel's Youth Club: - Has been difficult to deliver the weekly session at the venue due to problems with the drainage system, during one session sewerage was coming out of urinals, kitchen sink and back up the toilets. The matter was so serious that the building was closed immediately and has been closed for six weeks. Core Youth Workers did not want to let young people down and utilised outdoor space when weather permitted and a mobile unit when weather conditions were poor. The young people have been thanking Youth Workers for keeping the session running.

Funding Applications: - Youth Service SSE has applied for funding for the delivery of the school holiday diversionary programme, whilst applications were submitted between January & March funding has not yet been either declined or approved. This is creating operating challenges as planning for the holiday programme starts months before to ensure all venues comply with LCC Safety requirements & systems.

Lewisham Park Youth Centre: - Was targeted during the May Spring Bank Holiday period, work had just been concluded to improve the outdoor area with play facilities and plants. During the holiday period young people accessed an outdoor cupboard and obtained paint throwing it all over the newly laid tarmac, over windows and benches. Additionally, they accessed packs of paper towels and threw them all around the outside of the building. After receiving reports of the incident via social media, the Outer South Advanced Practitioner & Team Leader attended and cleaned the damage up as much as possible and communicated with Local Cllr regards ensuring the building become secure. The incident has been reported to Police with some local young people been identified vis CCTV footage.

Anti-Social Behaviour Gildersome: - Youth Service were requested to attend a meeting in relation to ASB incidents increasing within the Gildersome area, the meeting with local people, councillors & Police focussed on incidents reported, aimed to identify the perpetrators, and focussed on potential action. A group of young people have been identified and they do not feel they are doing anything wrong. Working with Youth Workers it become apparent the young people felt riding e-scooters was not a problem, while residents had concerns for safety. The group is now engaging with Youth Workers on a weekly basis and recognising how their actions can be perceived in the community.

Building related Issues: - Youth Workers have seen some sessions disrupted due to building repairs, from rain coming through the roof, to locks being changed, to flooding issues along with Rat infestations it has been a difficult quarter. Youth Workers have been advised they should contribute to reporting building issues in a timely manner, it is not their responsibility to attend whilst repairs are undertaken – Especially when staffing levels are so low!

Retirement: - The Youth Service said goodbye to a respected staff member that had been with the Youth Service for over 20 years and has changed many young people's lives in and around Leeds. The Youth Service SSE Team and the young people wished Robina Rehman all the best in her retirement. She was awarded a retirement gift by Leeds City Council for the many years of service.

#### **Compliments and Feedback (500 Words)**

1 – Outer South Tennant Engagement Officer: - Jan Cleverly on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 14:15:

Awwwww thanks so much for the kind words, James.

It is really you and your colleagues who are making a difference every single day with young people so long may you all continue to provide the excellent service you do to change lives and make things better for young people - who are the future of us all.

I will let you know who the new TEO is as soon as I know.

Keep well, Jan 😊

**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 complete and submit funding applications to support the delivery of School Holiday Programmes. **Achieved – Awaiting Outcome.**

To plan and deliver an Easter Holiday diversionary programme. **Delivered.**

To review and adapt SSE programme to reflect updated staffing levels. **Undertaken & completed.**

To continue to engage with partners and address ASB in the local community and hot spot areas. **Achieved & ongoing.**

To further deliver the Violence Reduction Partnership Work in Inner South areas. **Additional VRP sessions secured.**

To focus on updating all Youth Service publicity to enable sessions to continue being promoted. **Youth Service Publicity updated, and Youth Service logo rolled out.**

To engage in community events promoting the Youth Service programme. **Ongoing.**

**Next Quarter Priorities:**

To increase the number of Casual staff, Youth Workers & Volunteers.

To deliver a Summer Holiday diversionary programme.

To focus on delivering and engaging young people in the NCS program where possible.

To develop a partnership with Chapel FM with the intention of engaging young people in developing skills around podcasting and radio skills.