



**Youth Work Report**

**Reporting Period: 01/01/23-31/05/23**

Our Youth Work Report is a summary of the Youth Work delivered across the wards highlighted below

Inner East	Inner North East	Outer North East
Burmantofts and Richmond Hill	Chapel Allerton	Alwoodley
Gipton and Harehills	Moortown	Harewood
Killingbeck and Seacroft	Roundhay	Wetherby

The delivery of our Core Offer Youth Work is underpinned by the **11 priorities highlighted in the Children and Young People’s plan 2018-2023** alongside the **Leeds Vision for Youth Work**.

Whilst the 11 priorities are embedded throughout our delivery, for the purpose of the report we will be providing a summary of the Youth Work delivered in line with the most frequently identified priorities, these priorities are highlighted below. The report highlights the top four most frequently identified priorities across the East North East and how these aligned on a community committee level. The report will also provide a summary of how Leeds Youth Service ensures that programmes and provision are underpinned by the six pillars of Leeds Vision for Youth Work.

Reporting Period 01/01/23-31/03/23		
Priority	East North East	Inner North East
Reduce Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	391 Sessions	104 (1 <sup>st</sup> )
Encourage Healthy Eating and Physical Activity	196 Sessions	48 (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
Minimise the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco	160 Sessions	33 (5 <sup>th</sup> )
Improve social, emotional and mental health & wellbeing	159 Sessions	58 (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Leeds Vision For Youth Work		
Youth Work will be valued and understood	Participation and Empowerment	Collaboration
Respect and Positivity	Inclusiveness, Equality, and Diversity	Quality, Safety, and Wellbeing

## Provision Data

The below is a breakdown of the associated data with respect to provision delivery and attendance for the period 01/01/23-31/03/23

Reporting Period: 01/01/23-31/03/23				
Ward	Number of sessions delivered	Total Number of Attendees	Total Number of distinct Attendees	Total Number of Attendees *Including those who are not registered with the service
Chapel Allerton	68	270	57	485
Moortown	22	123	33	184
Roundhay	21	210	49	282

## Provision Summary

### Reduce Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Engaging Young People in discussion and activity with respect to positive decision making is integral part the many of our weekly provisions. This work can take many forms and is something that we continually adapt in line with communication with Young People, partners, and communities. This Youth Work is delivered to empower and prevent whilst also respond as and when identified. The very core of our work with respect to Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour is about ensuring Young People to have the education, understanding, and empowerment to make positive decisions. There are several weekly examples of this within our Core Offer programming of issue based support, guidance, and activity to do exactly that. We have run weekly provisions across all three Inner North East Wards which have specifically looked at contemporary issues such as knife crime, drug use, theft, and criminal exploitation.

We continue to run a number of centre-based Youth Provisions across the wedge to ensure many Young People can access various safe spaces to engage with Young Workers / Youth Work Support on a weekly basis. This includes provisions at Prince Phillip Youth Club (Chapel Allerton) Mandela Centre (Chapel Allerton) and Leeds Islamic Centre (Chapel Allerton). In addition to this we have provision at Allerton Grange Fields (Roundhay), and Carr Manor (Moortown). We also have Detached / Mobile sessions across Inner North East which allows us to take provision to Young People and as such ensure a wider coverage of delivery. We have also delivered work alongside partners from West Yorkshire Police (Leeds East and Leeds North East) who have attended a range of our regular provisions to continually develop relationships with local Young People (See picture One). As these relationships develop on an almost weekly basis, it is clear to see that this has a positive impact on several Young People who we previously identified as at risk of engaging in criminal activities.

We have also used a range of resources that have focused on positive decision making, providing Young People with a range of scenarios in which they are able to explore and discuss what decision routes they would take. Over the past quarter we have also seen a rise in reports of bullying, as such we have integrated this throughout our programming and supported Young



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People to recognise the signs and impacts of bullying and how to challenge, report, and stop. Picture Two highlights a recent session in which Young People explored exactly what bullying means to them and the local and wider impacts that bullying can have.



*Picture One*



*Picture Two*



*Picture Three*



*Picture Four*

### **Encourage Healthy Eating and Physical Activity**

Physical activity is a feature of many of our weekly provisions, when engaging Young People in our programme design the desire to play sports is something that continues to be an extremely popular theme. As such our Youth Work team ensure this is something that features throughout our core offer provision within each of the three Inner East Wards, this is highlighted further in pictures four (Islamic Centre), five (Roundhay Kicks), six (Mandela Centre), seven (Roundhay Kicks and Carr Manor) and Picture Eight (Islamic Centre and Prince Phillip). The need for sporting provision and physical activity was further re-enforced by the most recent Youth Activity Fund Questionnaire which supports that current provision is aligned to what Young People from the community committee areas want.



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**Picture Five**

**Picture Six**

**Picture Seven**

**Picture Eight**

Our approach to encouraging healthy eating has been something that has been a continuous feature of many provisions for several years. We continue to offer healthy eating ‘cook and eat’ sessions as part of several programmes across the Inner North East. This however has developed further over recent months due to the cost of living crisis and we are committed to providing food at all our centre based sessions. This has taken the form of toasties, sandwiches and make your own pizzas. In doing this there is the acknowledgement that these may not always be the most nutritionally complete options, however for many Young People this provides the only option to have something to eat that evening. The cooking and sporting activities also provide a perfect foundation to not only engage in a range of activities but focus on some key learning with respect to making healthy choices in our everyday lives. This provides the perfect environment for a range of issue based sessions noted below.

**Minimise the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco**

Over recent months we continue to see an increase in Young People reporting issues with drugs, alcohol, tobacco and most recently vaping. As such we have ensured this is incorporated in regular provisions, taking time out of a busy sports session, a cooking group, or an intense game of chess to really explore the reasons behind the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco and the subsequent impact this has upon your health. It’s been powerful to see the impact that positive social peer pressure can have with respect to this and this is something that has featured across several provisions. Young People have lead conversations about the negative impact that drugs and tobacco in particular can have on your sporting performance. In providing the sessions we do, several environments are created for Young People to divert away from negative choices and enjoy time away from negative influence and alongside positive peers and our Youth Work Team. This has been evident as we have recently re-established our provision within the Mandela Centre and after only a few sessions numbers/attendance is growing week on week.

**Improve social, emotional, and mental health & wellbeing**

Supporting Young People with respect to their social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing has been a key component of several of our Youth Work Provisions. Whilst recorded as the fourth most addressed priority across the East North East, this priority is the second most recorded priority in the Inner North East. This once again further cements the need for the provisions that are not only delivered, but how they are delivered. Having opportunities for Young People to access sports, health, and wellbeing sessions in all three wards is paramount to our offer and provides a great structure for targeted and bespoke pieces of work. There are many direct and indirect positive impacts with respect to this priority, Young People not only get the direct benefits that exercise and sports can have on social, emotional, mental health and wellbeing but also have time at each and every session to check in with Youth Workers with respect to how they are feeling, how things are at home, and how things are going at school, something that is particularly poignant at the current time with a range of exams been taken.

Leeds Vision For Youth Work		
Youth Work will be valued and understood	Participation and Empowerment	Collaboration
Respect and Positivity	Inclusiveness, Equality, and Diversity	Quality, Safety, and Wellbeing

For the purpose of each report, we will also be highlighting how Youth Work delivered across the Inner North East aligns with key areas of Leeds Vision for Youth Work. **Ensuring Youth Work is valued and understood** is something that has been particularly poignant in the Inner North East recently. Whilst the impact of high quality Youth Work is recognised by the number of Young People who attend across the Inner North East (with over 1000 registrations in the reporting period of this report), it was raised that by local members (Cllr Dowson – Chapel Allerton) that this was not reflected in the social media account of the East North East Youth Service. This was addressed by Youth Service Manager James McCarthy with the Inner North East Team been appraised of the importance of ensuring the work was publicised across the community as well as via the weekly interaction with Young People. It has been positive to see an improvement with regards to this with Chapel Allerton area featuring weekly over the past month.

**Participation and Empowerment** is at the very core of Leeds Youth Service delivery, from having Young People engaged in all aspect of a programme planning, highlighted recently by our Prince Phillip Youth Group requesting that we have chess available as part of our weekly sessions, to ensuring Young People feel empowered to speak up and ask for help. This could not be highlighted to a greater extent, that at the request of a Young Person who has attended provision in the Inner North East for many years, a member of our Youth Work team supported them to attend the crematorium to visit their biological parent for the first time since their passing. Had it not been for the support of their Youth Worker this opportunity may not have been possible and the support provided would not have been in place. As part of the Youth Work review, the importance of having Youth Work delivered outside of formal learning hours was highlighted. Whilst this is the case for 100% of our current provision, this is further re-enforced by having sessions run up to 20:30 three evenings per week and also provision in Chapel Allerton (one of the nine priority wards highlighted in the review) on both a Saturday and Sunday.

**Inclusiveness, Equality, and Diversity** runs throughout the service and this has been further cemented by the Equality, Diversion, and Inclusion Frameworks which has recently been drafted by senior appraising manages within the service to role out and embed with the Youth Service Team. Key features of this include a range of staff training and development opportunities, grasping a range of consultation chances to ensure the voices of Young People across the community committee area are not only highlighted within the community committee and service area but across the whole city, this includes (but is not exclusive too) the Community Cohesion Survey and current practices available to support Young Women and Girls in the city centre. Needless to say we also have a range of diversity within each and every session delivered, whether this be based upon recognised protected characteristics or the individual and group uniqueness made up of the Young People in attendance.



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## Youth Work Challenge – What has not gone well and contributing factors

### Mobile Units

We continue to face the associated challenges linked to the age of the mobile vans (approx. 13 years). On occasions this has led to lengthy periods in which Youth Service Mobile Units are off the road awaiting scheduled repairs. This has and will continue to result in mobile provision been re-aligned to Detached Youth Work. Whilst this ensures a consistent presence across several key areas, this is also a very useful resource that can be absent. The local authority is currently going through the final stages of the procurement process to have some of the units (service wide) replaced.

### Passing of our Colleague Margaret Mckean

On 01/03/23 the service lost our much loved and highly regarded colleague Margaret Mckean. Margaret's passing continues to have a daily impact on the team (and wider service) and she is very much missed by us all. Whilst secondary to the impact this has had upon many colleagues and many Young People, this has also had operational consequences which have resulted in a significantly increased workload for a number of staff. This has subsequently linked to the closure of a small number of provisions across the service due to current staffing capacity.

## Youth Work Forward Planning

The below are the key aims for the service in the coming months and remainder of 2023.

- To continue to focus on key ASB hot spots across the Inner North East and respond / divert provision as required.
- To explore the recruitment of Youth Work Staff in line with new budgets.
- To continue in the development of Youth Voice
- To explore the potential to develop senior youth members and volunteers (in line with revised volunteer programme).
- To continue to focus on the Children & Young people's plan being embedded in the delivery of all Youth Work Sessions and adapt to the 2023-2028 priorities once sign off at full council
- To work with partners to ensure vulnerable young people are protected and engaged in diversionary activities, specifically those who are aligned the Enhanced Youth Work Offer.
- To create opportunities within Youth Provisions for young people to access free food and develop skills around Healthy eating on a budget.
- To explore the potential for an increased level of involvement in Inner North East Youth Summit in line with that of the Inner East
- To ensure the continued promotion of the Inner North East provision via the East North East social media accounts.
- To prioritise the re-opening of The Reginald Centre provision in line with future staff recruitment.



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