

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

Area	<b>SSE – January to March 2024</b>
Core Offer Team Leader	Glen O’ Malley
Enhanced Offer Delivery Partner	
Date of Report	April 2024

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

During the January to March 2024 period Leeds Youth Service Core Youth Work Team in the South, Southeast 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 **167** Youth Work sessions between January to March 2024. Compared to the same quarter in 2023 this was a reduction of **3** Core Youth Work sessions.

Overall engagement levels in the Core Youth Work programmes were **529** known young people and **125** Unknown young people.

The Accumulative attendance in Core Youth Work sessions by young people across the South, Southeast area was **2825**.







Individuals from most deprived LSOA areas - **355**

Individuals from least deprived LSOA areas - **171**

Individuals from unknown LSOA areas - **2**

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 remained at **64%**, the number of Carers engaging dropped by **-1** young person and the number of young people with a disability increased to **18** engaging in Core Youth Work sessions.

### 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)

#### Youth work will be valued and understood –

National Youth Agency Conference - Core Youth Workers engaged in the National Youth Agency Conference in March 2024, the road show focussed on the responsibility and need of Local Authorities to ensure a Youth Work Offer was available to young people, the conference enabled local partners to explore what guidance was available and to ensure good quality Youth Work was being delivered across the Yorkshire & Humber area.

Publicity & social media - Youth Workers have continued to promote the opportunities for young people by publicising on the three social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram & X (Formally Twitter) to ensure young people and parents are aware of the opportunities for young people. A range of leaflets & flyers are also available and are currently being updated following the young people choosing a new logo for Leeds Youth Service.

### **Participation and Empowerment –**

Knife Angel Consultation - Young people from the Youth Service SSE Core Youth Work sessions have been engaging young people in consultation regards the name of the project to be utilised when the knife Angel come to Leeds, young people focussed on the history of the Knife Angel and the aims for Leeds and used their creativity skills to provide suggestions. The overall winner was “Project Shield”.



IOPC Consultation - Group member from the Independent Office Police Complaints attended several Core Youth Work sessions in January & February, the group explored what young people’s knowledge was of their rights during incidents with Police and how they could complain to the IOPC. The sessions were very informative with feedback from young people being extremely positive and that they learnt a lot regards their rights from the sessions.



YS Logo - Young people from across the South, Southeast area engaged in the choosing of the updated Youth Service logo, young people attending sessions were asked to vote on the three options. Overall, Three Hundred & Ninety-Nine young people engaged in the consultation from the SSE area.

### **Collaboration –**

Project Shield - Youth Workers from the SSE Core Youth Work Team partnered with West Yorkshire Police, Youth Offending Service and the Violence Reduction Partnership to engage 500+ young people in 30 Project Shield sessions during the month of February, the SSE sessions explored young people’s understanding of the law when carrying a knife, the dangers of carrying a knife and the impact it can have on a life using a knife. Using the Virtual Reality Headsets and a programme of awareness the young people explored the potential dangers / consequences.

Community Safety Tasking Meetings - The Youth Service Core Team continues to engage in the Community Safety meetings within each of the areas to ensure issues identified relating to young people are addressed, working with LASBT, Police & Housing the meeting enables respective agencies to address local issues and identify hot spot areas. Detached Youth Workers focus on the areas / locations where reports are aligned to young people.

### **Inclusiveness, equality, and diversity -**

Pick 'N' Mix - Continues to provide support to young people identifying as LGBTQ in a safe and supportive environment, some new young people have joined the group and young people have been focusing on hate crime, sexual health, how to use their pronouns and around being offended.

Volunteers - Youth Service Localities Core offer continues to recruit local volunteers to support with the delivery of Youth Work sessions in the area, some are young people who have experienced Youth Work and what to give something back while other contact the service and express an interest, overall SSE Core Youth Work team has ten active volunteers providing support to Youth Work programmes. The volunteers are inducted, undertake a DBS and offered training relevant to the position.

YAF Consultation - Youth People from across the SSE Core Youth Work provision have been encouraged to have their say on the Youth Activity Fund, young people completed the consultation forms with the aim of influencing how the Youth Activity Fund is spent within each of the respective wedges.

### **Respect and positivity –**

World Religion Day - Young people from Outer South Core youth work sessions were engaged in cultural awareness and celebrations as part of world religion day in January, Youth Workers provided a range of activities for young people to participate in, discussions, recognising cultural festivals, cultural symbols & quizzes, and an understanding around religion and what it means to people. The sessions involved information about the 6 main religions, young people were encouraged to look at similarities in what the groups believe. Lots of young people in the session expressed that they have no religion but have friends that have. Young people shared food to celebrate the day.

Sexual Health Work - Youth Workers from the Core Youth Work Team continue to provide and facilitate the C Card 3 in 1 project across the local provisions where age appropriate. The Youth Work enable young people to ask questions in a safe & confidential space whilst also offering access to relationship information, resources, and testing facilities. The scheme primarily targets the 13+ age group and requires young people to register.

### **Quality, safety, and well-being –**

February School Holiday - Youth Workers from the Core Youth Work Team engaged young people in a diversionary programme during the February School Holiday period, Youth Workers worked with local Youth Matters groups to identify which venues to visit. The week offered a range of local and wider afield venues including Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Go Karting at Tockwith, Wrestling at UK Wrestling Batley, Tree Top Challenge at Go-Ape, Bowling, E Karting & Snow-zone at Castleford Xscape, Ninja Warrior at Leeds, and a range of outdoor team challenges at Carlton Lodge, York. The engagement levels were high and feedback from young people was positive.

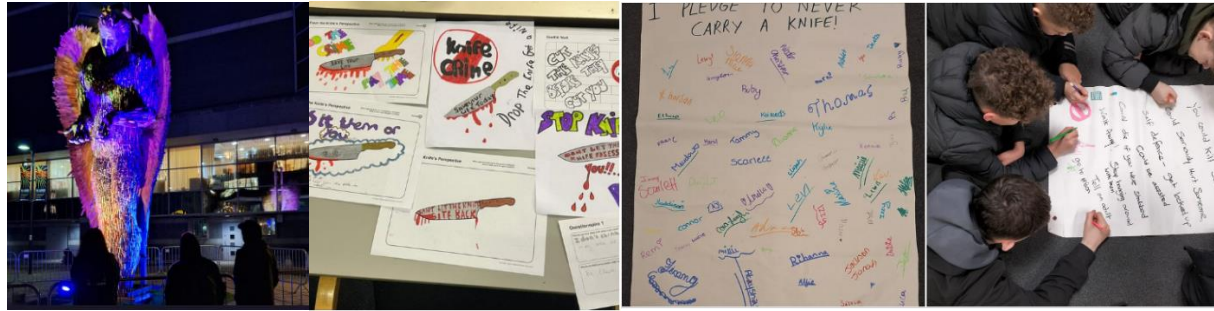




Alcohol Awareness Sessions - Young people were able to find out more about dangers & legality of alcohol use, young people explored drinking culture, binge drinking, health issues, social issues and safety through an informative session and were able to invent non-alcoholic drinks and mocktails using a range of fruit juices, low sugar mixers, flavourings and decorations.

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

Knife Angel Sessions - Have been received well across the SSE area, with young people now being more aware of consequences and potential injuries from carrying knives / weapons, young people are more aware of Youth Service policy on being in possession of a weapon and the bag search policy to ensure young people remain safe while attending provisions.



Daily Intelligence Reports - Detached Youth Work teams have been engaged at locations where information around young people engaging in Anti-Social Behaviour has been reported, the Advanced Youth Work Practitioners deploy the detached teams based on the information in the daily reports which complimented the Capable Guardians approach.

Free Warm Food - Youth Service SSE Core Youth Work sessions continue to offer young people access to some free food while attending the weekly sessions, working with Youth Workers the young people choose what they would like during sessions and Youth Workers advise of an available budget. Group members then chose what food they would like during the sessions. One of the key aims is to encourage young people to develop cooking skills and to eat warm home cooked food rather than having expensive take-Aways. In some areas the young people have been provided free food to take home.

Cost of Living Crisis - Working in partnership with Imagine Theatre the Youth Service SSE Core Team have been supporting vulnerable families during the cost-of-living crisis, the partnership has enabled local families to receive vouchers to assist with purchasing new washing machines, fridge freezers and able to pay gas, electric, water council tax bills. This has helped families get out of debt and back on an even keel. Each family were given around £200 in supermarket vouchers so family members could focus on paying off bills and not having to worry about food shopping. The Youth Work team were able to offer their knowledge of young people's home life and family situation to help with the referrals and assist in assessing families in need.

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

Staffing Levels - January to March has been a difficult period for the SSE Core Youth Work Team, losing two eighteen-hour Youth Workers and then a full time Advanced Youth Work Practitioner has resulted in a reduction of sessions across the SSE area. This was further complicated by sickness absence levels and annual leave.

Anti-Social Behaviour – Core Youth workers have been experiencing a higher number of ASB incidents due to young people being out during the dark nights during the Winter period, some reports were related to groups hanging around while other did include substance misuse and damage. The darker nights seemed to make young people feel like they would not be noticed engaging in ASB.

Challenging Behaviour – Some sessions have increased a higher rate of challenging behaviour, young people being strongly opinionated regards situations, challenging staff, engaging in unacceptable behaviour has required the team to ensure the Behaviour Policy is on display and made available to young people. Youth Work staff have provided firm guidance, challenged attitudes and when necessary, implemented short term exclusions.

**Compliments and Feedback (500 Words)**

1 – Young Person - "We made cookies by ourselves!" Outer South Transition group member.

2 – Young Person - "I like being able to have good talks with the youth workers when there are less people here" Outer South Lewisham Park Youth Group.

**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 develop a diversionary holiday programme that is accessible to vulnerable young people during the February 2024 Half Term period.

(Delivered)

To provide young people with to access to regular educational & recreational activities through Youth Work sessions to ensure their leisure time is used positively. (Achieved)

To focus on the development of more senior members & volunteers in the South, Southeast area. (One more volunteer recruited)

**This Quarter Priorities:**

To complete and submit funding applications to support the delivery of School Holiday Programmes.

To plan and deliver an Easter Holiday diversionary programme.

To review and adapt SSE programme to reflect updated staffing levels.

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

To focus on updating all Youth Service publicity to enable sessions to continue being promoted.

To engage in community events promoting the Youth Service programme.