



Youth Work Report – Outer North East Community Committee – June 2024

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

Outer North East
Alwoodley
Harewood
Wetherby

The delivery of our Youth Work is underpinned by the **14 priorities highlighted in the Children and Young People’s Plan 2023-2028**, the **Leeds Vision for Youth Work**, and the shared priorities of the **Safer, Stronger Communities City Plan 2021-2024**.

Whilst the Children and Young People’s Plan 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 three most frequently identified priorities across the Outer North East and provides a summary of how Leeds Youth Service deliver programmes and provision that are underpinned by the six pillars of Leeds Vision for Youth Work whilst ensuring operational delivery supports the Safer, Stronger Communities Plan.

Data *Based on period 01/01/2024-31/03/2024		
Youth Work Sessions Delivered	Distinct Young People Engaged	Accumulative Number of Young People Engaged
66 Youth Work Sessions	152 Young People	1013 Young People
Children and Young People’s Plan 2023-2028 *Most frequently used		
Improve social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing		
Support Young People to make good choices and minimise risk taking behaviour		
Increase the number of children and young people participating		
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
Safer, Stronger Communities Plan 2021-2024 (Shared Priorities)		
ASB and Public Order	Domestic Violence and Abuse	Hate Crime
Illicit Drugs and Substance Use	Offending Behaviours	Organised Crime and Street Gangs
Exploitation and Radicalisation	People with multiple needs (Street Users and Sex Workers)	Violence and Sexual Crime



Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2028 Priority

Improve social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing

Our top priority for delivery in quarter four (as with quarter three) was to Improve social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing. This featured a total of 74 times with it been the primary focus of 39 sessions, highlighting that this is the key issue impacting upon Young People across the Outer North East. This priority features in a range of different ways, from providing Young People with a safe space at our centre based provisions at Moortown Methodist Church, Lingfield Community Centre, Thorner Community Parish, Deepdale Community Centre, and Barleyfields Community Centre. To ensuring Young People are able to engage in a variety of provisions focused on peer pressure, wellbeing, mental health, and the links between a healthy diet and healthy mind.

Our Youth Work team are regularly provided with the latest resources. To ensure Young People are aware of the latest support and resource available our team have recently introduced Young People to a range of material from Night Owls and Safe Zone with Youth Workers reminding Young People of the support available from both Kooth and Teen Connect. It was great to deliver numerous sessions as part of Mental Health Awareness week (13th-19th May), Young People engaged in a variety of activities, exploring what emotional and mental health meant to them and what actions they could take to support positive mental wellbeing whilst providing a range of resources for when this would not be the case.

Whilst we deliver a range of targeted and issue based work, we continually recognise the impact of simply providing Young People with the opportunity to have fun with their peers and explore their thoughts and feelings on their terms. Young People have also highlighted the value of attending Youth provisions and being able to put the challenges of their day to one side and have fun with their peers, this is epitomised by our recent karaoke night at Barleyfields.

Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2028 Priority

Support Young People to make good choices and minimise risk taking behaviours.

Our core offer to Young People is built upon the foundations of voluntary engagement, this is just one of the many factors that creates environments where Young People are open to discussions and learning, not only developing their current knowledge and understanding but actively challenge current and previous decision making. Our Youth Work Teams are in a privileged position to be able to empower Young People and deliver sessions that really focus on the impact of our choices whilst educating Young People on the importance of self-safety.

Recent examples of this would be taking information about the Walksafe application to several sessions across the Outer North East. Many Young People we engage will often frequent the city centre and by having access to the app they have an increased level of knowledge and understanding with respect to safe spaces and places in which they can access support. Whilst not featuring it the top three recorded priorities, it is important to recognise that **09a - Promote sexual health** and **09b - Minimise the misuse of drugs, alcohol and tobacco** featured in a combined total of 52 sessions. This reflects that key conversations are taking place every week to enable Young People to be educated, informed and empowered when making essential life choices. Our Youth work team have also delivered a rang of sessions with regards to the challenges some Young People are facing within school. Workers have discussed a variety of strategies where Young People are able to identify potential triggers and/or flashpoints with the aim of avoiding suspensions and exclusions.

Our team have also linked in with youth engagement officers from West Yorkshire Police and we will be ensuring Young People have the opportunity to engage with the virtual reality headset session which is aligned to Project Shield. The session will focus on the impact of decision making and the consequences of risk taking behaviours.

Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2028 Priority

Increase the number of children and young people participating

Engaging Young People and getting them involved in a variety of programmes is at the heart of our delivery. We have ensured that Young People have had the opportunity to access opportunities they may otherwise not had the opportunity to do so and this is summarised by our recent residential as part of the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme. Several Young People who attend our Wetherby provisions attended a weekend full of activity built upon the NCS skill builder framework. Teamwork, positive risk taking, confidence building, problem solving, overcoming challenges, and aspirations all featured throughout an enjoyable weekend of informal education and empowerment.

The below is a snapshot of the feedback received following the delivery of the project.

I just got back from the pre-meet but I just wanted to share what a delight it has been to work with Lynne and her enthusiasm is wonderful and just how she is generally as a person! She does so well to engage young people and just so thankful for all the support she has provided. I just wanted to let you know and a huge thank to you for letting her support with this so much! - Kiran Soor, Employability and Community Health Manager - BARCA

Dear team,

X went on the Herd Farm Residential this weekend and loved it and would love to get involved in more youth groups. - Alice Nxt Steps Engagement Worker

Hi Lynne,

I've visited X this afternoon and she has clearly had a fab weekend on the residential. She speaks so highly of yourself and staff and felt really respected within the whole experience. Much of my work has been opening up options for social opportunity and peer time for X and she has benefitted as time has passed. She did mention that you would look to include her in information about future opportunities? and this would be great for her. Many thanks - Mark, Engagement Worker



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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

1. Youth Voice / Youth Involvement *Participation and Empowerment is at the very heart of our delivery. This has taken numerous forms over the past quarter with Young People across our provision been consulted on a range of issues. We have recently delivered several sessions in partnership with the Violence Reduction Partnership to support the development of their Child First Framework. Of the 425 Young People engaged across the Yorkshire and Humber Region, 111 of these were Young People from Leeds Youth Service with several coming from our provisions in Wetherby. As a reward for the engagement in the February intensification month aligned to Project Shield and Serious Youth Violence, we recently took a number of Young People to Go-Ape, whilst this was a great day for all Young People who attended, this was the first session as part of a city wide voice and influence group. We were also incredibly proud to ensure our volunteers Alex (Thorner) and Matty (Wetherby) received recognition as part of National Volunteers Week. Both Alex and Matty started out as Young People attending service provision and it has been wonderful to see the skills they have developed and the impact they have on Young People each and every week.

2. Partnership Work *Collaboration is evident across our delivery. As noted above, members of the Youth Work team have recently worked in partnership with the Violence Reduction Partnership to ensure Young People from then Outer North East supported the shaping of their new Child First Framework. It was also great to link in with colleagues from across the service as we explore the development of a city wide voice and influence group. As a service we have worked in partnership with Leeds Young Carer service to identify ways in which our service can better identify and support Young Carers. We are very pleased to share that as part of this work Leeds Youth Service is now officially recognised as Leeds Young Carer friendly service. It was also great to work in partnership with the Lingfield Centre as part of their EID funday and a brilliant day was had by both Young People and the team.

3. Inclusiveness, Equality, and Diversity is a feature of both our ethos and quarterly programme planning. Our team have worked alongside Leeds City Councils Equality Team to integrate the Religious Events and Celebration Calendar alongside our service curriculum calendar. A recent example of this would be Young People taking part in a range of activities that explored both religion and culture and how this can shape both self and community. Our Youth Work team have also recently joined the Equality, Diversion and Inclusion working group for Safer, Stronger, Communities and we look forward to sharing further updates in the near future. Our Outer North East team also delivered a number of sessions in celebration and recognition of the recent Refugee Week, this provided another great opportunity for young people to learn and develop understanding. As a service we are constantly exploring how we can continually best reach Young People who may not be able to access our provision and as part of this we have worked in partnership with Child Friendly Leeds to ensure we are meeting the needs of care experienced Young People. The data has highlighted how a significant percentage of care experienced Young People who engage across the entire service are based within our Outer North East provision with the most frequent and sustained engagement coming from Young People who attend our Wetherby provision.

4. Respect and Positivity. Our Youth Work team are in the privileged position of educating and empowering huge numbers of Young People on a weekly basis. At the heart of this sustained positive engagement are our centre based provisions. Whilst our Mobile, Outreach, and Detached provisions create various opportunities, it is our centre based provisions across the Outer North East that provide a safe space in which to build the foundation for engagement, education, and empowerment. We have also taken numerous strides with regards to promoting the value of Leeds Youth Service, following an extensive re-brand process we now have a fantastic new logo and in the coming weeks will have our final brand guidelines meaning a complete overhaul of all publicity documents and we are excited to share these far and wide.

5. Quality, Safety, and Wellbeing is evidenced within the Children and Young People's priorities that are most frequently featured across our provision. Ensuring Youth Work is delivered by a professionally qualified workforce and the issue based delivery in line with these priorities is further evidence of this. At the core of our practice is ensuring Young People have a safe space/s within their community to access support and have the opportunity to have fun whilst learning and developing alongside their peers. With this in mind we are pleased to report that Service Manager James McCarthy is now the co-lead for the Children and Young People's **Wish 2: Children and young people have safe spaces to play, hang out and have fun** with a specific focus on safety. This is another great opportunity to have the service represented at a city wide level and further promote the work of our Youth work team.



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6. Youth Work will be valued and understood. Recent months have provided yet more examples of the vast value of Youth Work, with huge numbers engaging voluntarily across our universal offer, from sports sessions, cooking groups, trips and activities capturing Youth Voice, and targeted issued based work – the value to Young People from the local community is immeasurable. Ensuring our service and delivery is promoted across the city is pivotal to the continued development and growth of Youth Work across Leeds and as a service we have a responsibility to lead on this. The value of Youth Work is continually recognised by our colleagues with Safer, Stronger, Communities and this is evidenced by multiple new and developing work streams and we look forward to enhancing upon this in both the short and long term future of the service.



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.

Leeds City Council Budgetary Challenge and Staffing

We continue to feel the impact of the current budgetary challenges faced by the local authority however as a service we constantly find new and innovative ways to deliver high quality Youth Work. Unfortunately we have also experienced staff turnover, both service wide and within the Outer North East team but once again this is something that we will overcome and it is important to acknowledge the continued and unwavering support from our Senior leadership team within Safer Stronger Communities and Executive member (Cllr Harland) in developing the best possible team and service for Young People.

Youth Work Forward Planning

The below are the key aims for the service in the coming months.

- To continue in the development of Youth Voice, both internally and in partnership with Leeds 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 and Young People's Plan being embedded in the delivery of all Youth Work Sessions (alongside the Leeds Vision For Youth Work)
- To work with partners to ensure vulnerable young people are protected and engaged in diversionary activities.
- To create opportunities within Youth Provisions for young people to access free food and develop skills around Healthy eating on a budget.
- To ensure the continued promotion of the Outer East provision via the East North East social media accounts.
- To deliver a range of provisions underpinned by our service curriculum calendar, ensuring key days, weeks, and months of awareness are integrated throughout our delivery.
- To share our updated promotional material far and wide (as soon as this is finalised)



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