



# Annual Report of the Activities of the Youth Work Unit Yorkshire & the Humber CIO

Charity no. 1096951  
For the year ending March 2024



## Chair's report

The past year has seen several developments both positive and negative in the Youth Work Sector. The long awaited updated Statutory Guidance published in September 2023, created a sense of renewal. While the end of the year witnessed the closure of the British Youth Council, reminding us all of the challenging financial times the Youth Work Sector continues to experience.

The Youth Work Unit Yorkshire and the Humber CIO (YWU) has also experienced changes with our long-standing treasurer, Gillian Shepherd, leaving the board in December, and Claire Whiteley, who supported our Green Influencers work and West Yorkshire Youth Collective, leaving in February. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their work with the YWU. In November the Board was joined by Chloe Thwaites, who brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to support the continued development of the YWU.

Staff at the YWU have continued to support our regional partners, facilitating a range of networks for practitioners and sector leads, providing a space to share good practice, challenges and meet others in similar roles. The YWU has been a key supporter of the regional #chooseyouthwork campaign aiming to raise awareness of youth work as both a service for young people and a career pathway.

A key development this year has been working in partnership with the Young Partnership Foundation Trust, to support local youth work sector organisations to reflect and or develop their local youth partnerships.

In addition, the YWU staff have continued to support our national partners and advocate for our region, sitting on the Education and Training Standards Committee, Safeguarding Hub Steering group and distributing the National Training Bursary for youth work practice training.

Numerous reports have highlighted the negative impact of a reduced Youth Work Sector on young people's well-being, and the YWU staff continued working extremely hard, ensuring young people had access to activities and events, maintaining a presence and voice in the region. Groups continue to be hybrid, meeting both online and in person, to build those underpinning trusting relationships found at the core of youth work. A highlight was the Regional Youth Climate Assembly's (RYCA) first regional Climate Awards in February, seeing 15 individuals and organisations having their work to address climate change recognised.

Young people and youth voice workers, valued the opportunity to spend time together, pick up old and create new friendships at the regional voice training residential, held in the summer.

Young people in former industrial communities in South Yorkshire participated in the peer research project Authoring our Own Stories, exploring their Civic Identity and how changes in familial employment continue to reverberate and influence their life choices.

I would like to thank to all our partners, regionally and nationally, for their support and collaboration, as well as the staff team and board of trustees here at YWU for their time, commitment, and hard work. I offer you our report and ask you to engage with the work of the unit in any way you can over the next twelve months.

As I drafted the Chair's report, the sad news of our former Chair Sue Atkins's death was announced. Sue was a committed Chair, steering the YWU through challenging years. Sue was generous with her time, sharing her immense knowledge and experience to support youth work locally, regionally and nationally and her contribution and enthusiasm will be missed.

Carol Stone

Chair - Youth Work Unit Yorkshire and the Humber CIO

Members of the YWU Y&H CIO Board : Carol Stone, Chloe Thwaites ,Christine Smith, David Sharp, Deborah Burton, Graham Griffith, Petra Salisbury. Ambassador Steve Duncan

Should members have any questions or matters they wish to discuss regarding the Board, the Annual Report or the Accounts please contact the YWU Y&H CIO: 15 Priory Street, York, YO1 6ET, Tel: 07731386046  
www.youthworkunit.com @YouthWorkUnit @youthworkunit @youthworkunityh



# OUR PARTNERS & FUNDERS



Number of sector engagements providing connection, support, sharing of resources and best practice to create positive outcomes for young people. (Regional networking events and 1-2-1 meetings).

106

Young people from the region were supported to participate in national work including  
National Youth Combined Assembly    Arts Council England Youth Advisory Board  
Authoring our Own Stories

54

in partnership with the British Youth Council, the Network of RYWUs, Mayoral Combined Authorities, and Arts Council England.



The YWU Y&H represented the Region at

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| National Network of Regional Youth Work Units            | National Safeguarding Hub          |
| National Network of Trainers and IQA Meetings            | Local Government Association       |
| National Youth Combined Assemblies Workers Network       | Democracy partnership              |
| Education and Standards Training Committee               | Young Partnership Foundation Trust |
| West Yorkshire Health Care Partnership                   | Workforce Development meetings     |
| Arts Council England Youth Advisory Board Steering Group | YMCA@ George Williams College      |
| Authoring our Own Stories Research Steering Group        | NCS                                |

85



The YMCA George Williams College Regional Impact Network continued to inspire and support the sector through innovation and research into the value of youth work and the YPQI programme. Developing quality Frameworks with sector partners

16

Youth Work Training National Bursary Scheme places on level 2 & 3 courses delivered by training providers across the region with other places offered for the coming year.

National and Y&H regional Network of Training Providers meetings, including standardisation & quality sessions.



62

Y&H Higher Education Providers meetings.

23

Training sessions and conferences delivered:

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Youth Work Curriculum                              | Participation and Voice |
| Supervision  | Evaluation              |
| On Line Safeguarding                               | The Golden Thread       |
| Level 3 management units x 4                       |                         |
| Media Training - delivered by external facilitator |                         |



39

Reports and Strategy Documents Written:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Authoring our Own Stories 2023         | The Golden Thread   |
| Youth Work Training and Career Pathway | RYCA Manifesto 2023 |

4

Meetings, consultancy, sharing resources, partnership support, assisting the region's Youth Sector.

57

What an inspiring event - amazing young people and loved the inclusive, inter-generational and participatory approaches. All round wonderful and important contribution to what youth work can be in enabling young people to flourish. Thank you and please extend my thanks to young people.

Such a good newsletter Charlee!

I just want to say a huge thank you to you for all of your support while I have been completing my level 2. You have been fantastic and so supportive! Thanks so much!

Thank you for the training today. It's great to re-ignite the memory and realise we are all doing a great job.

Our partners said...

Due to your wonderful connections we have been able to offer 9 residential experiences to groups in your area

The session was great, everyone was encouraged to get involved and you could see everyone learning throughout the session. For anyone that might face a time where they are needed to talk on radio, TV or social media, my advice would be to do this session



Thank you again for yesterday, it was really insightful and gave me a different perspective and practical experience of how to approach media/ press interviews.

Standardisation meetings - I think this is great what's going on

Absolutely brilliant training and really beneficial. Before the training I wouldn't have entertained facing the media but now I feel confident enough to do any media interviews. Well needed training for all organisations. Thank You!



# REGIONAL YOUTH VOICE WORK HIGHLIGHTS



Youth Voice & Social Action Work continues to inspire. The **Y&H Youth Voice Board (YVB)** have worked hard to support a range of opportunities for their peers, planning, facilitating and evaluating both online and in person events, including Pride events, climate change workshops, Members of Youth Parliament catch ups and Children in and Leaving Care regional days.



In April the Ethnic Majority Youth (**REMY**) group hosted a seminar with professionals including West Yorkshire's Deputy Mayor, staff from West Yorkshire Police, the Independent Office for Police Conduct, the Chair of #blackcurriculum, to discuss how they could increase the representation in the National Curriculum, tackle Racism in Schools and improve relations with the police. The Regions Children in and Leaving Care Council (**CILC**) met in York supporting the work of Coram and meeting staff from England's Children Commissioners office.



**June** - members of **SY YCA** and the **Yorkshire SEND Alliance** attended the Northern Powerhouse, Education, Employment and Skills Summit 2023 - at Sheffield Hallam University. Members of the **UK Youth Parliament**, met for the Spill the Green Tea environmental summit in Doncaster. Participating in Workshops facilitated by Cycling UK – a training session on campaign work using cycling as the focus and SYMCA green jobs task force to support strategy development and young people's understanding of 'green jobs' and preparing for the Annual Conference, which last year was hosted in Leeds in July .



**July** - Members of South Yorkshire Youth Combined Assembly (**SY YCA**) and **RYCA** presented at the South Yorkshire Sustainability Conference and the wider Yorkshire Sustainability Conference in Leeds, along side experts in Climate, MPs and activists. **Authoring our Own Stories** delivered their first of many workshops specifically focussed on exploring Civic identity with young people from ex industrial and mining areas. The Arts Council England Youth Advisory Board (**YAB**) held their final meeting, celebrating their contribution and amazing project.



**August** - **Regional Youth Voice Social action training residential**, developing skills and knowledge in campaign planning and implementation. On the final day they were joined by South Yorkshire Mayor Oliver Coppard, who shared their experience of being a Metro Mayor and participated in a Q&A session. Youth Pride hosted by the regional **LGBTQI+** youth group and partners. The West Yorkshire Youth Collective (**WY YC**) hosted a Careers Showcase Event co-designed with the WY HCP ICB for young people, raising awareness of both the medical and non-medical areas of work undertaken across the Partnership and ICB, career paths, employment and educational opportunities. Members of the National Youth Combined Assembly (**NYCA**) met in person in Manchester to share their work and identify common projects.



**September** – members of **REMY** met to develop their campaign work.

**October** – young people from across the region participated in **Media Training** developing their skills and confidence.



**November** – The Brunswick Centre - Huddersfield hosted the regional **LGBTQI+ youth event**. Young people from Leeds Youth Alliance participated in Participation and Voice Training.



**December** – **NYCA** met with representatives of the M10, to explore future collaboration and areas that young people can support such as Votes@16, national transport or Net Zero policy.

**Authoring our Own Stories** peer researchers presented their findings at a national roundtable event, highlighting the need to consider how young people have been impacted by the closure of familial employment.

**January** the 3rd meeting of the **Y&H region Youth Parliament Sitings**, preparing young people to deliver the Make your Mark ballot, support youth elections, celebrate their achievements with national and regional awards and met with a range of decision makers and influencers including the Minister for Youth, Leeds City Council Cllrs, Manager C&YPs WY Health Services, DL West Yorkshire.

The regional **CILC** met to share their work, sing, celebrate and be creative, meeting the Youth Minister and Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire.

**February** The Regional Youth Climate Assembly (**RYCA**), hosted the first regional youth climate awards. The group worked incredibly hard over the year, speaking at a range of conferences, roundtables, advising Government bodies and local groups and sitting on the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission representing young people voice.



**March** **RYCA** supported the Y&H Climate Commission, young people across the region supported their peers to vote and got the results of their Make your Mark ballot.

## WHAT WE'RE PROUD OF

'It was great to be on the economy an finance panel at the Yorkshire sustainability conference yesterday. Fantastic discussion around the social and technical aspects to a green economy.'



## ACTIVITIES



'The Zoom pass is one of the biggest and most personally meaningful things I've ever been able to call an achievement. It makes me grin to no end when I see people using it or talking about it. It's a mobility stepping stone to education, work, and socialising for close to 35000 people in the place I've lived all my life.'



## Feedback

'Thankyou so much for today. M has had such a wonderful time. It made my heart soar seeing her grinning from ear to ear as she came to meet me. Thankyou to you and all involved in the event. I am so impressed by your organisation, support, communication and understanding. It really helps a worrying parent so much when you know your child is in such safe hands and they are going to have an awesome time too.'

## Feedback from Young people

'I want to say thank you to everyone, I started this not communicating to other people I did a co chair and got confident and I did a presentation at Stratford and used my VOCA I have become very confident doing presentations and going into schools to deliver and explain art workshops thank you YAB.'

**'Incredible day! Definitely inspired me a lot.'**

**'I had problems talking to people before but now I can work up the courage to start a conversation.'**

**'A good way of meeting more people and building confidence.'**

**'I enjoy talking to the professionals and the fact that we were able to talk to multiple.'**

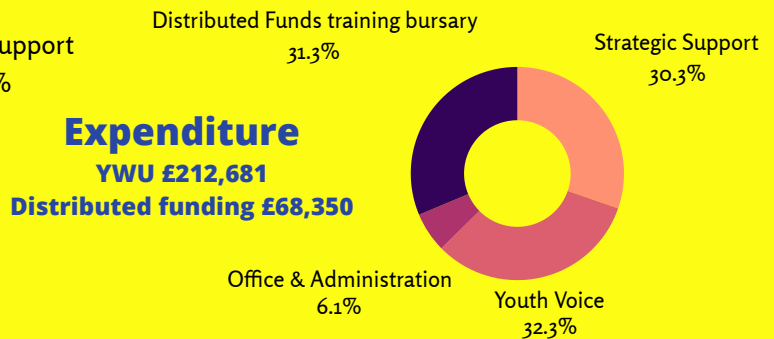
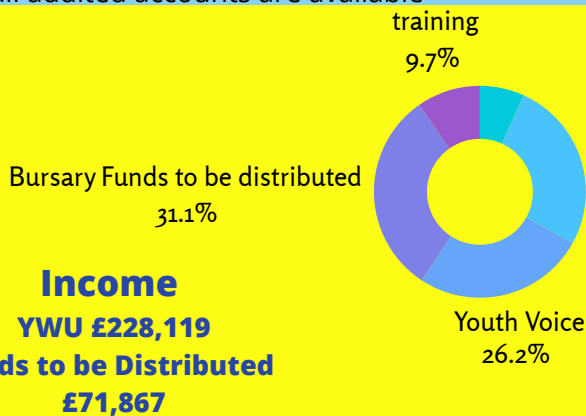
**'I really enjoyed the diversity of opinion and voice.'**

**'It's been lovely to watch the young people grow in confidence, make new friends and learn new skills.'**

## Income & Expenditure Accounts for the Year Ending March 2024



Full audited accounts are available



## Treasurer's Report 23-24

The Youth Work Unit's financial position remains consistent, with healthy reserves. Funding streams change and fluctuate but overall, the funding picture for this year has remained steady. Grants towards core costs have enabled the team to provide more strategic support, with a particular focus on supporting Partnerships, delivering a wide-ranging high-quality youth voice offer to young people, and training and consultancy services to the region.