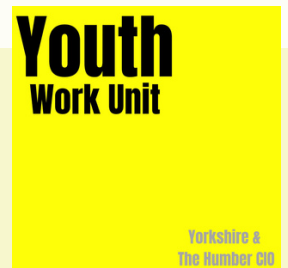
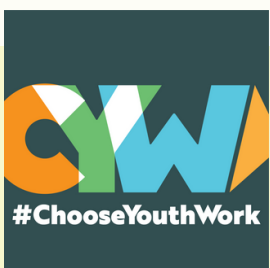


Youth Work Unit

YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER CIO

Annual Report 2024 - 2025



Introduction

Since we began in 1998, we have remained an active infrastructure organisation being in the unique position of delivering dual functions of support and development to the youth work sector across the Yorkshire and The Humber region. Achieved through

Promoting and amplifying voice through both our youth voice social action groups and sector workers networks

Innovating and collaborating with national, regional and local partners through building shared knowledge and understanding

Advocating for youth work

This year has been no different where we were busy hosting events, collecting and sharing information, supporting the development of local youth partnerships, facilitating practitioner networks, representing local and regional at a national level and reversing it. We continued to support and promote the regional campaign #ChooseYouthWork, taking it on the road talking about the profession of youth work and the training available from introductory to masters. The year also saw the launch of our An Introduction to Working in Youth Work Settings course and the proceeding Train the Trainer course as part of our workforce development work.

At our AGM last November our long-standing board member and chair Carol Stone, stood down and we thanked Carol for all her hard work both for the YWU and the wider youth work sector. As the year came to an end our staff team was strengthened by Kathryn Comins who joined us as Youth Voice Work Coordinator. As well as by two young leaders who joined us as youth voice workers to provide group support whilst developing their knowledge and skills.



Sector Support



The 15 local authority areas of the region were supported through varied methods of engagement providing connection, support, sharing of resources and best practice to create positive outcomes for young people.

'I just wanted to say thank you so much for our chat yesterday. I have lots to go away and think on, and it was very helpful to be able to chat to another youth worker about things.' Family Support/Youth Worker

We continued (over 120 meetings) to engage the sector by providing connection, support, sharing of resources and best practice to create positive outcomes for young people. (Regional networking events and 1-2-1 meetings).

Our team is constantly learning through the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information, data and research which used to inform, develop, and support the sector. The most visible is our e-newsletter, In the Loop. It continued to see a steady increase in subscribers, the website continued to develop and build including a bank of resources and reports.

'Just to say that I find the newsletter really helpful, informative and to say thanks'

'I always enjoy reading In the Loop.'



Sector Support

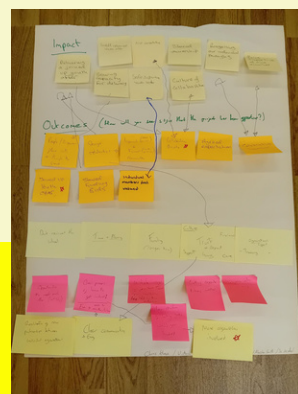
We represented the region and advocated for youth work at

National Network of Regional Youth Work Units ~ National Safeguarding Hub ~ National Network of Trainers and IQA, including standardisation & quality sessions ~ 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 ~ Co-op Foundation Learning Network ~ Paul Hamlyn's young funders learning network ~ YMCA@ George Williams College ~ national and regional Y&H Higher Education Providers meetings ~ Authoring our Own Stories Research Steering Group

" The support and dedication of the team at the Youth Work Unit has been superb this year, they help to coordinate events to allow assessors and trainers to come together and feel part of a group when otherwise it is likely that we would be very isolated. There is an agreed way of working within this region that means we can all work together and support each other. The standardisation events and national assessors' meetings give a platform to ensure we have a voice and can develop and progress in a structured way, offering constructive feedback and sharing practice. The bursary is an essential part of supporting the workforce and the Unit has found a way to ensure that this is offered fairly and productively so that the best outcomes can be achieved." Tina Ratnik, Trainer

Training

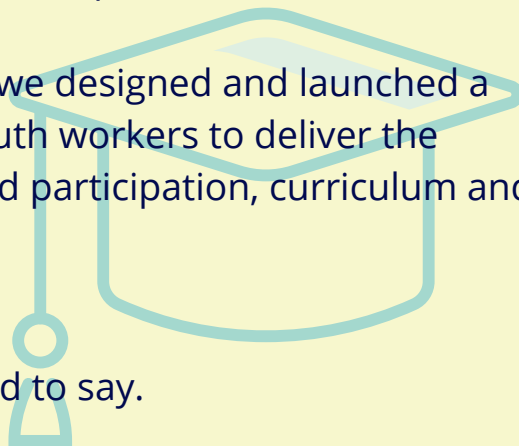
Once again, we worked with the National Youth Agency and Department for Culture Media and Sport to cascade out the youth work bursary scheme. In 2024-2025 we enabled 64 youth workers to achieve a level 2 or 3 youth work qualification delivered by 5 regionally based training providers. 59% of these qualifications were level 3 including those topping up a previously gained level 2.



Sector Support

The unit also facilitated several CPD (continuing professional development) training opportunities for youth workers including the creation of 'An Introduction to Working in Youth Work Settings' a twelve-hour course designed to prepare those new to working in the sector for both paid and unpaid roles.

To support and encourage the use of this training we designed and launched a Train the Trainer course to enable experienced youth workers to deliver the former course locally. Other sessions have included participation, curriculum and planning, and supervision.



Here are what some of our training participants had to say.

'I am excited to deliver and share the wonders of youth work to my team and external providers'

'I'm just grateful that someone has ran with this and we can now embed in our inductions as well as our practice to share knowledge and experience with other practitioners in the field of youth work.'

'I'm proud to be a part of the change in standardizing Yorkshire's youth work practice in our new generations.'

'I enjoyed the day learning with fellow Youth Workers coming from a varied range of backgrounds and experiences. The day was fun and interactive from the outset, and the facilitators were approachable and well informed. Thank you'.

Local Youth Partnership (LYP) development across the region continued to build momentum with over 50% of the region's local authority areas actively receiving support from the YWU in the form of a critical friend and facilitator. This has given space and time for locally based organisations to come together and explore what a LYP could and would need to look like for them. Many have been working on partner engagement, creating terms of reference, and identifying priorities.

Sector Support

'We have benefitted from working with Yorkshire and Humber Youth Work Unit for the last 8 years. It therefore felt natural to turn to them for advice when developing our Local Youth Partnership.'

We already had a Youth Partnership. The task was to rejuvenate this post pandemic and give it direction in the new Youth world. Sally worked with Justin and us to redefine the vision, look at membership and work through the framework. Her support and challenge led to a range of reflective questions that has helped us move forward. This has included developing a steering group with clear terms of reference to ensure that we are developing a true Partnership.

The discussions with Sally have been invaluable, especially in the "messy times" when direction decisions must be made. Allowing time for reflections and not being afraid to move two steps back to move forward has given us the courage to change direction and try something new, treading the path less trod. A huge thank you to the Yorkshire and Humber Youth Work Unit for the support they have given us both with developing our Youth Activity Partnership and the other joint work we complete with them.'

Mags Smithson Lead Officer: Universal Participation & Wellbeing, Community Enablement, Governance and Communities North Lincolnshire Council

#ChooseYouthWork the region's campaign to promote youth work as a service and offers various career options. Demonstrating that Youth Workers are professionals who go far beyond the pool table. The campaign was taken around the region to careers fairs, local events and employer engagement activities, In March we hosted a celebration event for all those who had benefitted from the National Bursary funding as it reached its fifth anniversary.

Reports and strategy Documents produced this year

During the year the YWU, many times with young people, produced or contributed to various reports. Such as end of year project reports, the year three Authoring Our Own Stories, and the peer research project.



Regional Youth Voice

We facilitate 10 Youth Voice Social Actions Groups which are overseen by our Youth Board. Through group membership and event activities accessed by approximately 450 young people from across the region.

Youth Board

The Youth Board has continued its pivotal role in guiding the youth voice social action work. Made up of representatives from the 15 local authority areas and regional voice social action groups, meeting both in person and online, the board planned and facilitated the regional residential in June, various regional activities, working with the national youth steering group representative for the Y&H region planned and facilitated the three UK Youth Parliament regional sittings. The Board also joined with others to undertake social media campaign training with IVE.

Authoring Our Own Stories (AOOS)

AOOS is a 5-year national project exploring young people's regional identities. It provides the opportunity for young people to take the lead in investigating the ways their peers define their identities. This year, the 3rd year, focused on young white males (11-25) who live in ex-mining or ex-industrial communities.

The year saw 5 young people, recruited from 2 local authority areas representing 4 different projects, completed young leader training, received mentoring and guidance from experienced young leaders, and worked with an artist and an academic.

They planned and facilitated sessions that were delivered to peers in locations including sports clubs as their place to find a trusted adult. They explored how their civic identity developed through clubs, and how their community influences their choices.

The year culminated in a unique event at the National Coal Mining Museum. Where graffiti art met storytelling, celebrating the power of self-expression through vibrant street art. Sharing their findings with project participants, their families, professionals and regional decision makers. They also attended a national dissemination event where they were presented their work and findings and asked for a call to action.

Watch Jack's sharing the AOOS story [here](#)

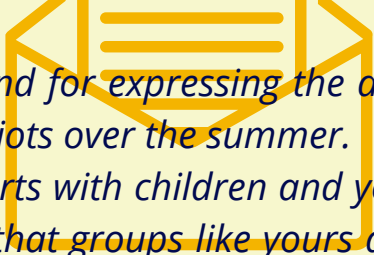


Regional Youth Voice

Regional Ethnic Majority Youth (REMY)

A previous young leader from Remy became the groups Youth Voice Worker. Following the terrible death of 3 young girls in Southport, August saw a wave of disturbances focused on migrant populations across the county including in parts of Yorkshire and the Humber. For group members, this was very personal, with some witnessing peers participating, and all feeling the effects of racist attitudes and behaviours on their sense of belonging and safety. The group wrote an open letter to MPs, Directors of Children's Services, Directors of Education, Head Teachers, Youth Services Leads, Police etc, sharing their concerns, asking what steps were being put in place to ensure their safety and to educate their peers and wider society. They also attended conferences to hear how others felt. The group decided to research further into the experiences of young people of colour in education and what is missing from the curriculum regarding educating around race, ethnicity, faith and nationality. In November, they worked with peers to understand how young people of colour access health services, creating a short report for the WY ICB which they presented at one of the Partnership C&YP and Families meetings for professionals.

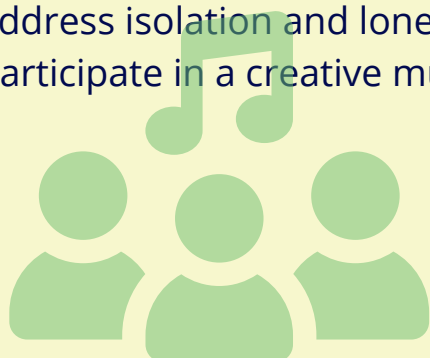
Local MP Sarah Champion responded to the open letter, here is an exert.



*'Dear Members of REMY,
Thank you for your letter and for expressing the discomfort, fear, and anxiety you have felt following the riots over the summer.
Positive change so often starts with children and young people, which is why it is very heartening to know that groups like yours are ensuring the youth voice is heard.'* Sarah Champion MP

Children In and Leaving Care Council (CILC)

With support from local CILC workers, care experienced young people were able to meet to share their interests, lived experience and identify issues they wanted to explore in more detail. Locally groups have been working on a range of issues using innovative methods to address issues including Hull's choir, who use music to address isolation and loneliness, who invited the region to visit them and participate in a creative music workshop.



Regional Youth Voice

Regional Youth Climate Assembly (RYCA)

RYCA has continued to be a focus point for youth climate action, working with partners to ensure young people are included in discussions and influencing climate policy.

Another young leader and founding member stepped up to Youth Voice Worker. The groups' key activities included being the youth representative body on the Y&H Climate Commission which entailed attending meetings advising on Green Jobs and facilitating a workshop on participation and youth voice at the Y&H CC annual conference.

In January RYCA hosted a day for young people involved in climate action. Bringing together 30 young people from 5 different groups, they learnt about each other's work, explored how they could work together going forward and increase the reach and representation of RYCA, ensuring the Y&HCC hear from young people. Building on their original Ripple Effect Project, they launched the follow-up project asking young people to share how they were addressing climate change, creating both a map of activities and films. They also started exploring how they can get more young people participating in climate action.

Young LBGTQI+

A small group of representatives from local Youth LBGTQI+ groups met during the year to plan regional workshops and share updates.

Excitingly, Doncaster was chosen as the City to host the National Pride Event, and as part of the planning the local LGBT group secured dedicated youth spaces, which provided the opportunity for young people to celebrate their identity. The invitation to join them was extended across the region, with various groups coming along for the day. Drawing on conversations had when meeting in York regarding What is Pride? staying safe and having fun. Doncaster LGBT+ youth group created a Youth Guide to Pride, supporting all ages to learn and engage.

Supporting many of the region's pride events was a highlight of the year, as the presence of young people is celebrated, crucial when identity is under threat.



Regional Youth Voice

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) Youth Combined Assembly (YCA)

The YCA bring together youth voice representatives from across South Yorkshire. They support the work of SYMCA as well as influence decision making across the region. This year changes were afoot with elections and inclusion of the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner in the Mayor's portfolio.

During the year the YCA continued putting into action their 2023 priority to be more active and supportive of the mayor in achieving their ambitious agenda. The YCA widened their membership to 29, identified key areas of work, networking and partnering with other active groups.

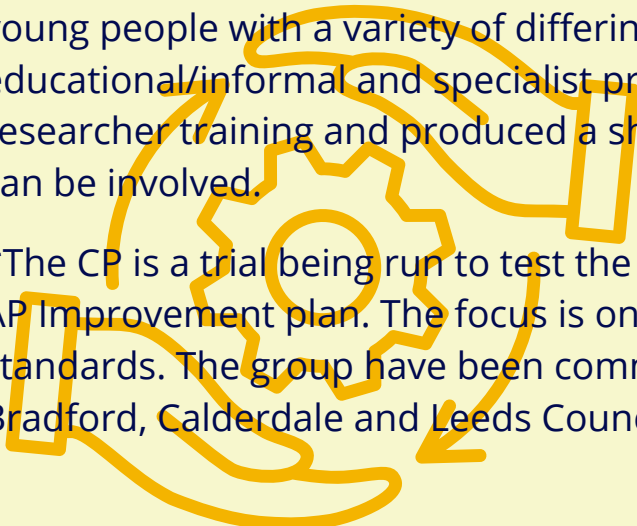
They planned and hosted the All-Things South Yorkshire Event to explore young people's priorities in relation to SYMCA policy areas. Focusing on various topics throughout the year including Nature Recovery, Housing and Homelessness hosting a workshop in Sheffield on the latter topic where over 30 young people met to explore the impact on young people. They also worked with the Yorkshire SEND Alliance who took the lead on work around access to employment and skills, and transport.

Yorkshire SEND Alliance (YSENDA)

The group remained busy maintaining their own [website](#), making films about EHC Plans Appeal Information for young people and their families, and creating a welcome pack for those who would like to find out more about or join the group. Towards the end of 2024 YSENDA voted on their priorities for 2025, Bullying and Discrimination, Education, and Health and Well-being.

In January 25 YSENDA started work on behalf of the Change Programme* (CP) by identifying established groups to actively recruit peer researchers from across the region; 6 peer researchers were recruited. The group have developed an engagement map with input from YSENDA, reached out to wider groups of SEND young people with a variety of differing needs across a diverse range of educational/informal and specialist providers. The group completed peer researcher training and produced a short film about what the CP is and how peers can be involved.

*The CP is a trial being run to test the new ideas under the governments SEND and AP Improvement plan. The focus is on early support, better planning, and setting of standards. The group have been commissioned to do this work alongside Wakefield, Bradford, Calderdale and Leeds Councils.



Regional Youth Voice

West Yorkshire Health Care Partnership Youth Collective (WYCA)

In 2024 the youth collective saw founding members move on and welcomed new members. Their focus was on young people's mental and emotional well-being and rather than look just at the provision of health services, the group explored the wider impacts and determinants that impact on young people's mental and emotional well-being.

In April the group picked up on the results of Make your Mark planned hustings for the WY Metro Mayoral candidates, enabling young people to meet potential candidates over three separate sessions posing questions such as 'how will you make public transport safer for young people?' They attended the regional YVSA induction day to develop skills and knowledge in system change and to build links with other groups. Promoting ways to reduce exam stress and how to access support during May and June.

They co-created, planned, facilitated, and shared several events including the Young People's Regional Health and Wellbeing Event. With the purpose of exploring young people's understanding of the term 'health and wellbeing', what contributes positively and negatively, and who is doing what. Groups shared their work enabling areas to map projects and identify gaps and opportunities for joint working. They invited REMY to share how they felt and what they wanted to do as a positive response following the riots in August. In November they planned a joint event with other youth collectives / boards where they explored what positive health means to young and explored what is important to young people living in West Yorkshire.

'I realise just how much is at stake and how important it is to be proactive and ensure our voices heard.' Youth Collective member

Members of UK Youth Parliament

The YWU Y&H has continued to support the UK Youth Parliament across the region, with 23 MYPs starting their 2-year term in April 2024.

In partnership with local youth voice workers the MYPs, members of local youth councils / cabinets / parliaments and the Youth Board, the YWU hosted 4 regional events, providing the opportunity to share local work and develop understanding of issues identified as a priority by their peers via Make your Mark. Over the year the young people participated in skill building focusing on having difficult conversations, making positive change and media, to support them in responding to Votes@16, Period Dignity, Employment and Careers and Leisure Activities.

Regional Youth Voice

120 young people participated directly in youth voice groups, with ..

'My time on the board has been exciting and full of learning. I've gained new skills, built confidence in speaking up for young people, and connected.' Temilade

All of the YVSA groups are keen to hear what participants have to say about and after activities they have facilitated here is some of the feedback

'I felt comfortable and understood, like I belong.'

'It felt nice to hear discussions that affect me and to know there's groups in my area that in campaigning for problems I relate to.'

'Made close links with surrounding councils.'

'Youth board are the best people ever.'

One of the feedback areas is

As a result of today's event, I am going to.....

'Introduce new campaigns work into my school and area'

'Collaborate on future campaigns'

'Collaborate more with groups'

'Look into careers within this sector'

'Contribute to choose youth work'

'Support others'

'Take a stand for something when needed'

'Attempt to make further connections within my community'

'Continue going to events to help make a difference/ change'

'Work more closely to combat inequalities'

'Socialise more and contribute better'

'Link in more with what other areas are doing'

'Work on presentation skills'

'Research and join REMY'



Income and Expenditure

Youth Work Unit - (Yorkshire and the Humber) CIO

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Income and endowments from:					
Grants and donations	2	42	118,425	118,467	140,953
Investment income	3	3,642	-	3,642	3,702
Charitable activities	4	98,128	1,536	99,664	83,464
Total		<u>101,812</u>	<u>119,961</u>	<u>221,773</u>	<u>228,119</u>
Expenditure on:					
Staff costs	5	45,884	52,091	97,975	98,230
Travel and subsistence		3,381	5,368	8,749	10,020
Rent		5,542	2,989	8,531	7,218
Printing postage and stationery		932	668	1,600	779
Accountancy		6,471	620	7,091	6,808
Subscriptions		50	2,036	2,086	2,566
Insurance		668	160	828	726
Telephone		102	-	102	338
Training and conferences		10,412	55,230	65,642	10,374
Professional fees		6,822	295	7,117	3,362
Regional development payments		-	-	-	62,176
Miscellaneous expenses		384	2,576	2,960	1,258
Other interest paid		4	-	4	-
Bad debts		-	-	-	6,600
Relocation expenses		-	-	-	2,226
Total		<u>80,652</u>	<u>122,033</u>	<u>202,685</u>	<u>212,681</u>
Net income/expenditure		21,160	(2,072)	19,088	15,438
Total funds brought forward		<u>191,135</u>	<u>1,801</u>	<u>192,936</u>	<u>177,498</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>212,295</u>	<u>(271)</u>	<u>212,024</u>	<u>192,936</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

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



YMCA
GEORGE WILLIAMS
COLLEGE

Contact us



Members of the YWU Y&H CIO Board : 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

Report for the year ending March 2025

Charity no. 1096951



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