



North Yorkshire Youth Executive – County Wide Meeting

16th February 2018.

In February young people aged 11 – 25 years old, who represented a number of groups across North Yorkshire were invited to an event at Carlton Lodge, Thirsk hosted by the Voice, Influence and Participation team. The purpose of the day was to give young people the opportunity to meet with others from across North Yorkshire to share some of the challenges they faced in their everyday lives.

The day consisted of a number of engagement and sharing activities. One of the key activities on the day was an opportunity for each of the four distinct groups of young people represented, to meet and discuss issues they face as a young person living in North Yorkshire.

At the end of the activity the groups were asked to share their thoughts with the whole group, the following is a summary of the discussions undertaken by each of the groups represented:

The Flying High group identified the following issues:

1. To raise awareness of problems faced by people with learning difficulties and disabilities when using public transport.
2. To campaign on the issue of how difficult it is for young people with SEND to get paid work and the support they need to help achieve this. Work required with employers so they can see the opportunities for employing people with disabilities.
3. Continue with the mental health issue, particularly around ensuring services and information is suitable for young people with SEND

The Young People's Council (YPC) group identified the following issues:

1. Homeless – referencing their campaign that they would like to run this year to raise awareness of care leavers who become homeless.
2. Discrimination – preventing discrimination of young people.
3. Mental Health awareness – raising awareness of mental health for children in care, YPC want to help give voice to young people in cares views on advocacy, raise awareness of NYAS and help young people find support available for mental health.
4. Equality- was also mentioned as important.

The LGBT group identified the following issues:

1. Raising awareness of LGBT young people, including raising awareness of the LGBT groups that other LGBT young people could get involved with and support available to them.
2. Training for schools -In particular staff, so they are better prepared to deal with young LGBT people and the approach is more consistent. Facilities such as toilets were mentioned as a problem as these are usually gender specific and some young people were being asked to use toilets that reflected their biological gender rather than their gender identity. It is also a problem for non-binary young people.

3. Questions were raised about whether or not schools were aware of best practice and the law relating to these issues. some young people are already doing work in schools to raise awareness so sharing this and learning from each other
4. Reducing stigma - This came from the Members of the British Youth Parliament (MYPs) who felt the general public still had a negative perception of young people and they wanted to do something to challenge that perception
5. Housing - One member of the group has had a very negative experience of accessing housing and is keen to prevent this happening to anyone else

The Young Carers group identified the following issues:

1. Lack of awareness from teachers. They wanted them to take into account that they had other things going on and sometimes they need support e.g. being able to access their phone or flexible homework deadlines.
2. Mental Health- stress and anxiety from caring for someone they live with.
3. Bullying: Feeling of being different and felt no one understood.
4. Additional needs in young carers. Some young carers at the day had autism themselves. They found this an extra challenge to their caring role.

Next steps

The North Yorkshire Youth Executive has put forward a draft proposal* to use this information to undertake the following:

1. Use the information to put together a list of priorities for young people in North Yorkshire.
2. Using the list they would then like to undertake a ballot with as many young people as possible in North Yorkshire to allow them to decide what the North Yorkshire Youth Executive should work on from September 2018 to July 2019. *(Voting will take place September 2018). Any outstanding work from the previous year will continue if necessary, for example the Caring Culture Award, work will continue on this in the following year.*
3. Results announced July 2018.
4. The same process would then be repeated in the following year.



*A decision on this proposal will be made at the next meeting of the North Yorkshire Youth Executive on the 4th April 2018.

Carlton Lodge Feb 2018

For more information e mail:

- VIP@northyorks.gov.uk
- nyyouthexecutive@gmail.com

Youth Voice Executive – Meeting Report

March 2017

1. Background

In 2016, the Children's Trust Board recognised the need for the creation of a North Yorkshire Voice Executive, to enable young people representatives from each of specialist groups to come together, have a voice and to work with each other and key decision makers, to make a positive difference to their lives and those of their peers. Guide to the Executive **Appendix 1**.

Prior to the first Youth Voice Executive, all youth voice groups were asked to consider six overall topic areas young people in North Yorkshire had previously identified (though taking part in the 'Growing up in North Yorkshire' survey and the British Youth Council 'Make your Mark' consultation).

The 6 topics were;

- **A Curriculum to prepare us for life.** - Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education (PSHCE) to include; Sex and relationships, Crime, Finance, Home life, Housing and Politics modules.
- **Transport.**
- **Careers Guidance and Post-16 Transition**
- **Risky Behaviours** including those related to use of modern technologies.
- **Developing Resilience and Emotional Wellbeing.** To include, improving the knowledge and attitudes surrounding Mental Health issues.
- **Pupil Voice influencing decisions**

2. Youth Voice Executive Meeting

The first Youth Voice Executive meeting was held on the 22nd February 2017, County Hall, Northallerton. See **Appendix 2** for the list of organisations and youth groups represented at the meeting.

The young people participating in the meeting were asked to discuss the 6 topics and through a series of shared discussions with the senior decision makers in attendance they identified the three topics that would shape the work of the Executive going forward.

The three topics are:

- A. Developing Resilience and Emotional Wellbeing, looking into the following issues:
- Help at specifically stressful times, i.e. exams
 - More accessible information/help.
 - Improved Attitudes – Educate adults and Young People

B. Transport, looking into the following issues:

- Cost
- Accessibility
- Staff training/disability awareness

C. Curriculum for Life, looking into the following issues:

- Compulsory Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) lessons with specialists.
- Finance
- Practical Skills

3. Youth Parliament Elections

To ensure the voice of young people is heard nationally as well as locally, young people were invited to apply to represent North Yorkshire in the British Youth Parliament, applicants to these posts had been shortlisted and invited to present their manifesto at the meeting, Members of the Youth Parliament (MYPs) and Deputies were being elected for the following areas within North Yorkshire:

- Central - Northallerton, Richmond and Selby
- East - Malton and Scarborough
- West - Harrogate and Skipton

The following MYPs and Deputies were confirmed after counting of the votes took place:

- **MYP Central** - Evie M. Stevenson
Deputy MYP Central - Shannagh Strudwick
- **MYP East** - Kitty Jackson
Deputy MYP East – Alexander Wright and Dylan Kennedy
- **MYP West** - Eden Maia Shackleton
Deputy MYP West Harrogate - Ella Bridgett-Tomkinson

4. Next Steps

- i. Creation of a task and finish group to develop an action plan based on the feedback.
- ii. Agree a date for the next meeting.
- iii. Elect a chair and vice chair.
- iv. Invite other organisations to be represented.
- v. Develop an effective communication structure across the county.

For further information on the North Yorkshire Voice Executive contact a member of the Voice, Influence and Participation team by e mailing VIP@northyorks.gov.uk or by calling 01609 532170.

Appendix 1

- **Background:**

The Children's Trust Board recognised the need for the creation of a North Yorkshire Youth Council Executive, with representatives coming from each of the each of the specialist groups and also the youth councils within North Yorkshire.

- **What will the Executive do and what will it be responsible for?**

The North Yorkshire Youth Council Executive will meet with the Executive Members and the Corporate Director for Children and Young People Services as well as Leaders from district councils, the police, health and local companies.

- **It will be responsible for:**

- Commissioning and Producing a Young and Yorkshire action plan.
- Overseeing and supporting the work of the various groups represented.
- Providing guidance to and engaging in consultation with Executive Members, the Corporate Director for Children and Young People Services, leaders from district councils, the police, health and local companies.
- The nomination of 3 members and deputies to the UK Youth Parliament.

- **How often will the Executive meet?**

The Executive will meet three times in a year; you will be expected to attend all of the meetings and if needed support will be provided with transport to and from the venue.

- **How can I get involved?**

Each of the county wide youth voice groups will be asked to choose two people from their group to represent them at the Executive.

- **What else will I need to do as a member of the Executive?**

Well as already mentioned you will need to ensure that you speak to your local groups about what is being discussed and planned at the Executive but more importantly ensuring the views and thoughts of those you represent are shared with the Executive Members and the Corporate Director for Children and Young People Services as well as Leaders from district councils, the police, health and local companies.

The executive will be supported by North Yorkshire County Council's Voice, Influence and Participation team. For further information contact Kathy Peacock - Participation Manager for Selby, Ryedale and Scarborough: 01609 532107 or Kevin Jeffrey - Participation Manager for Harrogate, Craven, Hambleton and Richmond: 01609 535931

Appendix 2

Organisations Represented

- Foundation Housing
- Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
- North Yorkshire County Council
- North Yorkshire Police
- North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board

Youth Voice Groups Represented

- Flying High
- Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust - Young Peoples Panel
- Harrogate Youth Council
- LGBT
- Military Kids Club
- Police and Crime Commissioner - Young Peoples Panel
- Scarborough Youth Council
- Young Advisors
- Young Carers
- Young Peoples Council

North Yorkshire Youth Voice Executive - 27th October 2017 – Autumn Meeting

Chair - Emily Capstick

Vice Chair - Finn McFadden

Background

The North Yorkshire Youth Voice Executive first came together in February 2017, linking up young people from across North Yorkshire with senior managers and decision makers to give them a forum whereby they could share their views on issues affecting them in their daily lives.

Since then members of the Youth Voice Executive have met as a task group to identify their priorities which they as a group then made into a three pronged campaign to work on over the next two years. This meeting sought to update senior managers and decision makers on their work to date, while building relationships to help boost progress in the coming months.

Progress

At the meeting in February it was agreed that work needed to be undertaken around the following three issues:

- Curriculum for Life
- Developing Resilience
- Transport

The group soon identified similarities in actions around Curriculum for Life and Developing Resilience and as a result of this agreed to work together on these under the heading “**Unlocking Understanding**”, under this heading the group have prioritised three work strands:



1. The creation of a poster to be used in schools and settings where young people meet to promote the revised Social and Mental Health Implementation Plan for North Yorkshire.
2. Develop a flow chart to provide quick, readily available and effective mental health advice for young people across North Yorkshire. The flowchart will be colourful, clear and easy to understand, and will be available in braille and large text for those with visual impairments or those who struggle with large quantities of information.
3. The creation of the “**Caring Cultures Award**” to recognise those schools that deliver good PHSCE to their pupils, to do this schools will need to show that they deliver and offer support in three areas, Life Skills, Mental Health and Environment.

Transport

For transport, members of the Flying High group had identified issues whereby young people with learning difficulties and disabilities that are not obvious, had expressed concerns that bus companies and their drivers were not always aware of these hidden disabilities that many bus users faced. This led to these people facing problems when getting on and off buses, such as impatience about showing bus passes, finding their money or the bus moving off before people were able to sit in their seat safely.

To raise awareness of this Flying High have decided they wish to record a video which will be distributed to local transport providers to help raise awareness of the problem.

Group Image

The Executive has also developed and created a logo which will be used in any work they undertake:



To help raise awareness of the group in North Yorkshire a Facebook page, North Yorkshire Youth Voice Executive, has been set up to share updates and aid communication. The page is open to the public and can be viewed by anyone who has a Facebook account.

Involving Senior Managers, Decision Makers and Young People



At the meeting round table discussions took place to consider the following:

- *How can we ensure senior managers and decision makers in North Yorkshire actively involve young people?*

Responses and suggestions:

- Allow them to work with the safeguarding board
- Young people able to lead questioning
- Interview panels for senior posts to include at least 1 young person in the process
- PEPs have to show a young person's view
- Pledge developed to make managers hold to promises
- Create opportunities to allow young people to speak to senior managers in schools, councils, head teachers
- Annual reports have to show how young people are engaged in decision making etc.
- Include services not directly involved with children and young people in the processes

- Greater engagement with services outside of the council services e.g. Police, health care, transport services
 - Find out what issues young people are concerned about in North Yorkshire.
 - Reporting to the Youth Executive by senior manager and decision makers to say what has been accomplished
 - The creation of Young Inspectors
- *How do we ensure senior managers / leaders provide feedback on actions they have undertaken and that we monitor progress?*

Responses and suggestions:

- Evaluation – monitor progress
- Adults to do presentations as well as young people at meetings
- Record actions – record aspects
- Annual reports to be shared and include details of how they have worked with young people
- Answerable to the director of children's services
- Senior managers and or decision makers to report direct to the Youth Executive at least once a year in person
- Email/media
- Participation and attendance at meetings
- Website
- Clearly stated & easily available information for young people
- Mutual respect/honesty
- Tracked progress, develop systems to show this
- Newsletter (email?) – review every month (and challenge – speed progress)
- Representatives for young people (verbal feedback)

Next steps

The Youth Executive will continue to meet and represent young people by listening to their views as they work on the three prongs of the 'Unlocking Understanding' campaign. Moreover, the group will actively seek out organisations and senior managers that they wish to engage with and seek advice from. All of this will be summarised in a further update on progress which will take place early in 2018.

Organisations Represented

- Alice Manton - Compass Buzz
- Andy Collinson - North Yorkshire Police
- Cllr. Janet Sanderson - County Councillor
- Cllr.Keane.Duncan - County Councillor
- Elaine Wyllie - Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children
- Emma Lonsdale - Commissioning Manager Health, Strategy and Commissioning
- Ian Yapp - Headteacher - Riverside School
- Lesley Zimmerman - Lead Learning Adviser
- Neil Northend - North Yorkshire Police
- Polly Etheridge – Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire
- Stuart Carlton - North Yorkshire County Council

Youth Voice Groups Represented

- Flying High
- Harrogate Youth Council
- LGBT
- Members of the British Youth Parliament
- Military Kids Club
- School Councils
- Selby Youth Council
- Young Advisors
- Young Carers
- Young Peoples Council

Contact Details:

- nyyouthexecutive@gmail.com

Or alternatively the Voice, Influence and Participation Team

- VIP@northyorks.gov.uk

*Are you a young person aged 11 - 18 who
needs some help with your mental health?*

Do you need some more information?

Talk to family,
friends or an adult
you trust.

Young Minds:
www.youngminds.org.uk

Teen Mental Health:
teenmentalhealth.org

**NHS Mental Health
Support Hub:** [www.nhs.
uk/Livewell/youth-mental-
health/Pages/Youth-
mental-health-help.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/youth-mental-health/Pages/Youth-mental-health-help.aspx)

Rethink Mental Health:
[www.rethink.org/
diagnosis-treatment](http://www.rethink.org/diagnosis-treatment)

NHS Mood Self-Assessment Quiz:
[www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-
depression/mood-self-assessment](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mood-self-assessment)

Would you like to talk to someone?

Compass BUZZ US:
text 07520 631168

Text message support is
available 9am–5pm Mon –
Thurs, 9am–4.30pm Fridays

**Book an appointment
with your local GP**

Childline: Call 0800 1111 to talk to anyone at any time for free
<https://childline.org.uk/get-support/1-2-1-counsellor-chat/>
for confidential counselling
<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/message-boards/>
talk to young people who may be feeling the same as you

5-19 Healthy Child Service – call
01609 780780 Press 2 and ask to
speak to a Healthy Child Nurse

Mind Discussion Group:
www.mind.org.uk

The Mix: Call 0808 808
4994 for advice and support
between 11am and 11pm

Do you need urgent support or help?

If there is immediate
danger of serious harm
or risk to life call 999

If you need someone to
talk to and the problem
isn't immediately life
threatening call 111

HopeLine UK:
0800 068 41 41

Childline:
0808 808 4994

**If you're over 18
you can call the
Samaritans:**
116 123

**CAMHS Crisis Number
(Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services):**

Hambleton and
Richmondshire 0300
0132000 (Option 6), 7 days
a week, 24 hours.

**Whitby and Scarborough &
Ryedale 01723 346502,**
7 days a week, 10am–10pm.
**Harrogate and Ripon 01423
544335,** 7 days a week,
10am–10pm.

Craven 01274 221181,
7 days a week, 24 hours.

Selby 01904 615348,
7 days a week, 10am–10pm