



Youth Voice & Creative Engagement Service – Quarter 3 Bulletin 20/21

Introduction

Welcome to the Quarter 3 bulletin of the Youth Voice and Creative Engagement Service. The report provides a summary of the many different aspects of participation work our service undertakes with North Yorkshire's children and young people. It is hoped our quarterly bulletins, which will in turn feed into an annual service report, will be informative for our leaders and staff; both within CYPS and more widely across the authority and our partners.

As restrictions on how we engage with our children and young people continue into the New Year, the Covid19 pandemic continues to present significant challenges to participation activities. Our virtual working offer continues to develop, however, and in Quarter 3 the NY Voice team ran more than 50 virtual meetings and workshops across our voice groups and other development projects. We also continue to expand our support to casework teams with their more 'challenging to engage' children and young people – through art and music based activity groups or 1-1 engagement sessions. The following pages are a short update of the work and achievements of our team, children, and young people, between October and December 2020.

Quarter 3 Service Headlines:

- ✓ Our Young Inspectors were recognised with an **Innovation Award** in the 'Inspiring Change Behind The Scenes' category!
- ✓ Our **NY Care Champions** Group helped create some fantastic [Art](#) as part of development work around how we treat 'Consent' across CYPS.
- ✓ Young people from our Flying High Voice Group have begun working to develop the new **SEND Strategy** together with our colleagues in Inclusion.
- ✓ CYPS Director Stuart Carlton was given a real grilling by young people from across North Yorkshire at our **Devolution** Forum Event 😊
- ✓ NY Voice Officer James Koppert had an article on his experience with **ADHD** published on The Independent's *Indy100* website, read it [here](#) .
- ✓ The UK Youth Parliament's annual **Make Your Mark Survey** was completed (virtually) by young people across North Yorkshire.
- ✓ Our team undertook service user reviews and completed some excellent feedback reports in relation to **Family Time** and the **Youth Justice Service**.
- ✓ Craven Youth Council held a socially distanced litter pick in Skipton, and group chair **Ruby Firth** wrote an article about it for the local newspaper.
- ✓ Our **Christmas Activity Party** was a huge success, held on MS Teams and attended by almost 50 children and young people.
- ✓ NY Voice Officer Chris Layfield worked with over 70 children creating '**Be Kind**' Banners, view a short video of this truly inspirational work [here](#).



Youth Voice & Creative Engagement Service – Quarter 3 Bulletin 20/21

Children & Families

We have continued to support our **Children & Families** partners this quarter, taking a key role in Family Time Development Work and leading on the communication strategy to engage our children, young people, and families with plans to improve practice. Working with a fantastic group of Children and Families Support Workers, we designed a survey which was completed by almost 50 respondents and informed a detailed report to support the next steps of the project. We have also undertaken further (virtual working) service user reviews in relation to LAC / CP Meetings and our Leaving Care service, as well as working with the Youth Justice Service on their review of the MAP Assessment; contacting families for their experiences and gaining some truly incredible feedback on how well our YJS support their young people and families.

Our **NY Care Champions** have now reverted to a single county-wide group for the remainder of the pandemic restrictions. The group met 8 times this quarter and are planning 3 creative peer mentoring workshops in 2021 to support looked after children on a range of subjects, including transitions to leaving care and dealing with prejudice in education. Care Champions have undertaken consultation work around LAC Health Assessments and Passports, and members of the group have also begun working with North Yorkshire Sport on a project to support younger looked after children with their health and wellbeing.

Inclusion

Towards the end of the quarter we began working on the engagement aspect of the new **SEND Strategy** currently being developed by our **Inclusion** partners. By involving children, young people, and families in creating the new strategy and area priorities, we can truly give those with lived experience a real voice in how we work with them in future. Our **Flying High** voice group are playing a key role here, with a young person from the group attending strategic planning meetings to help us reach a range of children and young people to contribute to the work.

Flying High remain very well engaged, meeting 10 times this quarter. In addition to the above, they have begun work with Inclusion leaders around improving promotion of the Local Offer, as well as supporting SENDIASS with reaching more children and young people directly. Young people with SEND have also provided their own perspective on *Consent* as part of the working group noted above, with the artwork created available to view [here](#). As part of Hate Crime Awareness Week in October, NYCC Community Cohesion Officer, Tony Quinn, attended a Flying High meeting and was very impressed with the group's ideas and positive attitude. As we move into the new quarter we look forward to engaging even more children and young people, as we support review work within Inclusion on a range of new delivery models, structures, and practices which have been implemented in recent times.

Young Inspectors

Our **Young Inspectors** were honoured to receive an Innovation Award in December in the face of some very stiff competition, in the 'Inspiring Change Behind The Scenes' category. Our young people were over the moon to have won the award, which was a fantastic way to recognise their commitment to help us improve services over such a difficult period. The group completed their second report this quarter, looking at into how well we gather the voice of the child within CYPS. The completed report, based on the young people's interviews with CYPS staff, highlights some wonderful and creative practice within our social care and early help teams – as well as making some useful suggestions on how things could be improved even more.

During Quarter 3 we have recruited a brand new crop of young people to the group, who have now completed their training and are busy planning their next inspection. This piece of work, which the young people came up with themselves, will look at how well North Yorkshire's libraries cater for children and young people, and we are currently working together with our libraries leaders to develop the inspection plan. Planning is also underway on an inspection of our No Wrong Door Hubs, an exciting piece of work which we aim to begin as soon as pandemic restrictions are relaxed to allow in-person site visits and face to face working to re-commence.



Youth Voice & Creative Engagement Service – Quarter 3 Bulletin 20/21

Youth Cabinet

The newly formed **Youth Cabinet** have elected Rebecca Morgan to act as their very first Group Chair, supported by Tiegan Boyens in the role of Vice Chair. Both of these fantastic young people have a wealth of experience and we know they will do an amazing job of steering the group through the early stages of development. In October, members of the cabinet attended our Devolution Voice Forum, where Stuart Carlton (Director CYPS) and Barry Khan (Asst. Chief Executive) answered a range of questions on what re-organisation of local government could mean for children and young people. Our young people were well informed, passionate, and persistent, demonstrating how valuable they will be to the devolution process moving forward. Read the Devolution Voice Forum update [here](#).

The Make Your Mark Survey was run virtually for the first time at the end of last year, with almost 1000 young people from North Yorkshire voting on the issues most important to them. Once the results are returned, the Youth Cabinet will begin to plan their response to the priorities identified by their peers across the county.

Youth Councils

Our **Youth Councils** continue to meet, with 19 virtual meetings taking place this quarter across the five area groups. Recruitment to these newer groups remains a challenge in these times, but this hasn't stopped our existing members from moving their plans forward. Craven Youth Council undertook a socially distanced litter pick in October, and group chair Ruby Firth wrote a superb article about their environmental campaign, published in [The Craven Herald](#). Harrogate Youth Council are planning a schools survey related to their transport project, while our Scarborough group are planning to hold a public 'Beach Clean' event in the spring.

We have recently begun discussions with our key elected members and colleagues in Democratic Services, to explore linking our youth councils with their local elected Area Constituency Committees – more to come on this next time!

New!

We are almost there in bringing the award winning **Mind of My Own** applications to North Yorkshire, with the product 'roll out' and training to CYPS staff expected to be scheduled in early 2021. Mind of My Own Apps are an exciting new way for our young people to communicate with us, helping us to gather the voice of the child more consistently and effectively. Find out more [here](#) – and stand by for further information arriving in your inbox and team meetings soon.

The Last Box . . .

- *NY Voice supported Social Work Practice Week in November, welcoming senior leaders to our groups to meet our young people and see how we work.*
 - *We are leading on regional plans to develop a Yorkshire & Humber voice group for children & young people with SEND.*
 - *Almost 50 young people joined us to play games, get creative, and win prizes at our young person led Christmas Party in December.*
 - *We supported consultation work with children and young people on the new Healthy Child Programme Service Model.*
- *Partnership work has begun with the North York Moors National Park to develop youth voice and influence around our amazing countryside.*

If you have any questions, want us to come along and introduce our wide range of activities or voice groups to your team, or know any children or young people that may want to be involved, please contact nyvoice@northyorks.gov.uk, or find us at:

Instagram @nyccyouthvoice

Facebook @northyorkshireyouthvoice

Twitter @YouthYorkshire