



# NY Voice (Youth Voice & Creative Engagement) – Quarter 2 Bulletin 21/22

## Introduction

Welcome to the Quarter 2 bulletin of NY Voice, North Yorkshire County Council's Youth Voice and Creative Engagement Service. The report provides a summary of the many different aspects of voice and participation work our service undertakes with North Yorkshire's children, young people, and families. It is hoped our quarterly bulletins, which feed into our annual service report, will be informative for our leaders and staff; both within CYPS and more widely across the authority and our partners.

Pandemic related restrictions on participation work have very slowly begun to lift during this second quarter of the year, and some of our young people have begun attending some face-to-face meetings with limited numbers in attendance. Otherwise online and virtual engagement has continued, although this is becoming ever more challenging as we contend with a lack of enthusiasm from children and young people in virtual approaches, alongside ongoing concern from some of our young people over in-person engagement. It is clear the journey back to 'normal' will not be straightforward when it comes to participation work, but we are very excited to have taken the first steps on that journey in this quarter. As ever, it has been a very busy period at NY Voice, and we have some really exciting news and updates to share on the following pages.

## Quarter 2 Service Headlines:

- ✓ We began holding some small **face-to-face** meetings with our voice groups, our first since the onset of the pandemic last year!
- ✓ Our **Young Inspectors** completed their inspection of North Yorkshire's Library Services.
- ✓ We began building links with the **Army Welfare Service** to help us reach more children from our armed forces families.
- ✓ **Craven Youth Council** held a public barbeque to help launch a new community building space, *The Place*, in Settle.
- ✓ We completed outreach work in Scarborough to find out what young people wanted from North Yorkshire's new **Drug and Alcohol Service**.
- ✓ An exciting new plan was agreed in relation to a range of **SEND Voice** Development Activity over the coming year.
- ✓ The team completed a service-user feedback review and report in relation to the assessment and support provided by our **Youth Justice Service**.
- ✓ Our new **web pages** went online, using words and images created by our children, young people, and staff.
- ✓ A new **Harrogate** Youth Council group met for the very first time and began discussing their priorities for the area.
- ✓ We began work on an ambitious research project, led by the **Rees Centre** at Oxford University, to improve the lives of our children and families.



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| Children & Families | <p>This quarter the team have completed a further service user review of the MAP Assessment used by our Youth Justice Service. Contacting families by telephone, we spoke to them about their experience of the assessment and working with us in general. We are delighted to report that the feedback was extremely good, and demonstrates how well our YJS staff build relationships with their children and families. Also this quarter, we interviewed almost 20 former foster carers to discuss their experiences and reasons for leaving the fostering service – the report for this piece of work is due imminently and will seek to support our retention of carers within the authority. In August, we re-commenced family feedback calls in relation to Child Protection and Looked After Child meetings, supporting our teams as they re-introduce face-to-face working with families in the wake of the pandemic.</p> <p>Our attention has now turned to the recruitment of a new secondary age Children in Care Council group, as we transition the ownership of our current group of older young people to our Leaving Care Team. Unfortunately, our summer recruitment events, which had generated huge interest amongst younger care-experienced children, had to be cancelled due to pandemic concerns. This remains a primary focus for us moving forward, and small group Halloween themed events are now planned for the upcoming half term break: here we will continue efforts to attract new young people, and breathe new life into our young person led / group work following this unprecedented period of adversity.</p> |
| Inclusion           | <p>We have had an extremely exciting and fast moving quarter supporting our colleagues in Inclusion with the creation of a new SEND Voice Development Plan for the coming year. Working together with parent / carer groups and other partners, our team will coordinate an exciting annual calendar of SEND voice engagement activities. Work currently underway includes phase 2 of SEND Strategy engagement, review of our Local Offer website where we will make some information videos with our young people, and lived experience work around transitions and preparing for adulthood – all of which will be updated in the next quarter. In July we submitted a comprehensive report on the focus groups we ran with young people during stage 1 of the local area SEND Strategy engagement, this was well received and was used to directly inform the draft priorities included in the initial version of the strategy text.</p> <p>The team have presented at both our Special School and PRS Head Teachers meetings this quarter, offering support and promoting our upcoming activities, in which our schools will be key partners. Our Flying High Voice group continue to meet virtually on a weekly basis, and look forward to meeting in person - which may be possible over the Christmas period if conditions allow. They are also keen to continue playing an important part in the range of SEND voice engagement activity taking place in the coming year.</p>   |
| Young Inspectors    | <p>Our Young Inspectors team completed their inspection into North Yorkshire's libraries this quarter. The report has been prepared, and the young people are due to present their findings and recommendations to our leadership team, alongside libraries managers, in November. As part of this inspection, the team visited libraries in person to inspect physical spaces, observed virtual activities, interviewed staff, and reviewed websites &amp; social media pages. This varied approach provided the young people with a range of information upon which to base their final judgements.</p> <p>In the second half of the quarter, we began the preparation work for the inspection of our No Wrong Door hubs, with an introductory craft session at the Stepney Road setting to introduce the children there to our team and our work, prior to the Young Inspectors commencing their work towards the end of the year. Under the guidance of new NY Voice team lead Chloe Thwaites, we are delighted to have recruited 2 new, care-experienced young people to the Young Inspectors group for this piece of work, who will no doubt add their own, fresh perspective to the work of the team.</p>   |



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| Youth Cabinet      | <p>Our Youth Cabinet are another group into which we are trying to inject some new impetus and energy following the challenges of the pandemic. With several young people moving on to the next stages of their lives at university or into the world of work, attention has turned to the election of 3 new Members of Youth Parliament to commence their roles in March 2022. Our Youth Cabinet are working on an improved, more inclusive and transparent elections process, as well as increased support framework for successful candidates. Unfortunately, a planned launch event in September had to be cancelled due to pandemic related concerns, although an alternative virtual event was attended by numerous young people, who were given the opportunity to speak to local MP Kevin Hollinrake who was kind enough to give up his time to attend.</p> <p>The Cabinet are also once again making plans to host the (much delayed!) inaugural Youth Voice Awards ceremony next year, which they anticipate will be an annual <i>by young people, for young people</i> event, celebrating the best youth voice and participation work across North Yorkshire.</p>   |
| Youth Councils     | <p>A new Harrogate Youth Council group met for the first time this quarter, with 7 young people coming together at Harrogate's Chocolate Factory to begin making decisions on how they want their group to run and what local issues they want to focus on. Plans are also underway for a new youth council in Catterick, with an initial launch event planned in October in partnership with the local Army Welfare Service. Craven Youth Council continue to work hard on the issues important to young people in their area. In this quarter they have recruited 2 new members, and have supported the opening of a new community building in Settle, where they ran a barbeque to raise awareness of mental health. At present, they are working hard making a video around Climate Change as part of the British Youth Council's COP 26 Events – taking place across Autumn / Winter 2021.</p>  |
| Latest News        | <p>Charlie Land left the NY Voice team at the beginning of this quarter, and we said goodbye to Jamie Lynas who held a role as a worker in the team since our new service launched in 2019. We also welcomed a new graduate, Georgia Watkinson, to our wider Effective Practice and QA Team, and we very much look forward to working with her in the coming years.</p> <p>We are extremely excited about our role in a research project which has launched this autumn, with partners from the Rees Centre at the University of Oxford, and other sites across the UK. The Nuffield Foundation has awarded £2.8 million in funding for this ambitious programme, which seeks to collaborate with children, young people, parents, carers, professionals and policymakers to understand and shape how families' information can be used ethically and effectively to improve the lives of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in society. More information to come on this next time!</p>  |
| The Last Box . . . | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <i>We coordinated and supported a young person's interview panel as part of recruitment for a new Disabled Children's Service Manager.</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <i>The team supported work to refresh the Looked After Child Strategy, as well as contributing to the National Care Review.</i></li></ul></li><li>➤ <i>Alongside key partners, we contributed to the design of a new Children &amp; Young People's Mental Health Strategy for North Yorkshire.</i></li><li>➤ <i>We supported young people's engagement and consultation on the development of a new cultural strategy for Scarborough.</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <i>Our Social Media accounts continue to develop, now with more than 1000 followers across our 3 platforms.</i></li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>To find out more about our work, please visit <a href="https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/ny-voice-be-change">https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/ny-voice-be-change</a>, contact <a href="mailto:nyvoice@northyorks.gov.uk">nyvoice@northyorks.gov.uk</a>, or find us at:</i></p> <p><i>Instagram @nyccyouthvoice                      Facebook @northyorkshireyouthvoice                      Twitter @YouthYorkshire</i></p> |