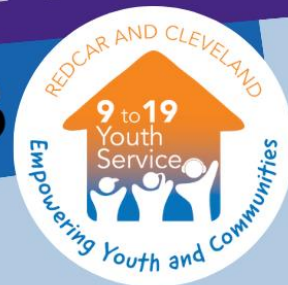


# Youth & Community Service Annual Report 2022-23



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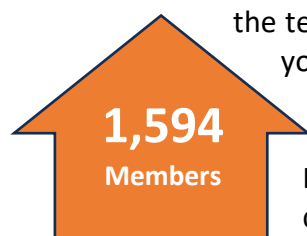
# 1 Introduction

## What is youth work?

Youth work primarily supports young people between the ages of 11 to 19 years (though this can be as young as 8 or up to 25 years). It is a distinct educational process adapted across a variety of settings to support a young person's personal, social, emotional, and educational development. It aims to explore their values, beliefs, ideas, and issues, enable them to develop their voice, influence, and place in society, acquire a set of practical or technical skills and competencies, to realise their full potential. Youth work is built on a foundation of anti-oppressive, anti-discriminatory practice. This means it should be inclusive, accessible, and engaging for all young people. Youth workers advocate for young people, and challenge where they see things that are unequal or inequitable. Great youth work supports and empowers young people to challenge these things for themselves and others and works to make society a fairer and better place for everyone.

The Youth and Community Service is a key part of the local authority's early help and prevention service and provides safe, stimulating, and diversionary activities for young people across the borough. Set against the context of a worrying rise in poor adolescent mental health and increasing anti-social behaviour, youth crime and violence; it is essential that universally accessible youth provision is maintained. The service identifies young people who are starting to cause concern and youth workers signpost to internal support services such as our Early Help Intervention Teams and specialist external agencies, as well as providing targeted support themselves or instigating safeguarding referrals where appropriate.

This report provides information about the delivery of the service and the achievements of the team from 1st April 2022 to end of March 2023, during which time, 1,594 young people became members across the whole Youth Service, with attendance of 15,845 across 1,675 sessions within all of its projects.



In addition to working with our registered members, the Streetz Project delivered 125 detached youth work sessions, reaching 6,309 young people out in the community. Furthermore, our Substance Misuse Roadshow project, delivered drug awareness sessions to 1,983 young people in years 6 – 11 within schools across the borough.

Due to our commitment and success in delivering high quality projects the Youth Service was granted continued funding from the Police & Crime Commissioners (PCC), Public Health, Holiday Activity with Food (HAF), Music Grants and internally commissioned to deliver Children with Disabilities (CWD) Services.

## 2 Youth & Community Service Principles

The Youth & Community Service delivery is based on six Youth Service Principles aligned with the National Youth Agency.

### 1 Youth-led

Young people's voices are central to the provision offered to them. They can choose to attend a variety of services on a voluntary basis, building a sense of autonomy and trust in practitioners that encourages engagement with further work where needed. Provision is structured around the needs of young people locally, offering both universal, open-access provision wherever possible, with targeted support for those considered more at-risk, disadvantaged or with higher levels of need.

### 2 Inclusivity, equality and diversity

Young people feel included in their local area and can access the support they need as they progress towards adulthood. No young person feels marginalised or isolated as a result of disability, sexuality, nationality, socio-economic status, special educational needs, mental health issues, religion, or any other characteristic.

The local youth offer helps to improve social mobility for young people from all backgrounds by offering support to develop the skills, knowledge, and networks they need to access and take advantage of opportunities.

### 3 Respect

Young people are a valued and respected part of the community whose needs and wishes are considered equally with those of other groups. They are actively encouraged to participate in their communities and to enjoy opportunities in their local area without fear of judgement or negative stereotyping.

### 4 Quality, safety and well-being

Good quality services are provided by staff with appropriate safeguarding training, linked to a wider network of support. Ideally this includes professionally qualified youth workers with the skills, expertise, and competencies to support safe, quality services with appropriate levels and types of intervention. The youth offer helps to keep young people safe and supports their mental, emotional, and physical health, improves their social and economic wellbeing, and makes sure they can access education, non-formal learning, and recreation.

# 5

## Empowerment

Services empower young people to progress and engage in employment, education, and training, and to take an active role in their local communities. Young people are listened to and can make positive demonstrable changes to their communities and understand how to engage with the democratic process.

# 6

## Positivity

Services are strengths-based and focus on developing the skills and attributes of young people, rather than attempting to 'fix a problem'.

The youth service understands the needs of young people can be complicated and sometimes hidden and that to connect with the most vulnerable it is best to engage with them in an arena in which they feel safe with their peers. Once the young person has built up relationships, they will start to open up and further support can be given. Youth workers have experience in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) awareness, to enable them to become a 'Trusted Adult'.

***“Negative impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences are significantly mitigated by having a trusted adult.”***

***70/30 Campaign: Empowering Communities to Protect our Children***

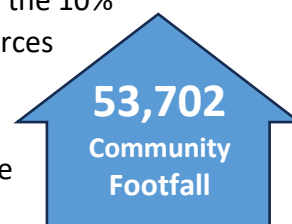


## 3 Youth & Community Service Context

### 3.1 Service Overview

The Youth & Community Team in Redcar & Cleveland comprises of Neighbourhood Youth Officers, Children with Disabilities (CWD) Project Leads, a Youth Work Plus Lead, a Music and Arts Lead, a team of Streetz detached outreach workers, Drugs and Substance Misuse Roadshow team and our amazing sessional youth workers.

As well as managing all the diverse youth projects, the Neighbourhood Youth Officers manage 9 Youth & Community Centres based across the borough, with 6 of them in the 10% most deprived areas. Our Youth & Community Centres are fantastic resources accessed by their local communities, young people, partners, the voluntary sector, health, council staff, training providers and small businesses. During 2022 -2023 an amazing 53,702 community attendance was recorded from our 9 youth centres averaging 13,000 a quarter.



Our Youth Services provide preventative activities delivered through informal, fun, and interactive educational projects that young people can access voluntarily and most importantly have the opportunity to engage with their local communities. In addition, we deliver several targeted projects.

#### **Redcar & Cleveland's Early Help Youth Service Projects:**

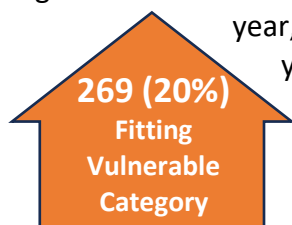
- Open Youth Sessions (based in youth centres)
- Youth Work Plus for young people referred to VEMT, involved in ASB and crime
- Join Us—Disability Youth Projects
- Disability short breaks service (after school and holidays)
- Streetz & Detached Youth Work
- Music, Media, and Arts Projects
- Member of Youth Parliament
- LGBTQ+ Skittles Youth Group
- Substance Misuse Roadshows

#### **Activities delivered within the projects include:**

- Fun activities in safe environments
- Events & Trips
- Arts, Culture and Sports
- Project/Issue Based Work
- One to One & Group Work
- Peer Mentoring
- Opportunities for Young People to be involved in decision making
- Opportunities for Volunteering
- Informal Education and Accredited Awards
- Holiday Programmes including Holiday Activities Fund (HAF)
- Partnership Working

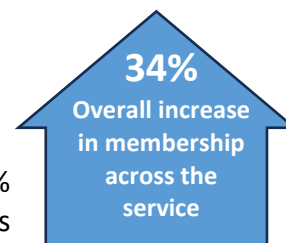
## 4 Youth Service Data

The youth service runs term time, open access youth clubs across the borough out of the nine youth and community centres. During 2022-23, 1,368 young people became members and regular attendees of our open access youth sessions which is a 34% increase on the previous year, with a total of 12,684 attendances to our open youth clubs across 743 youth sessions. The data shows that across the borough, 269 members (20%) who voluntarily attended our open access youth sessions fall into the vulnerability categories of being subject to a Child in Need plan (CIN), Child Protection plan (CP), were Children in our Care (CIOC), or have had an Early Help intervention from the Intervention Team during the same 12-month period. In the Greater Eston area which includes South Bank and Grangetown wards, this increases to 48% of our members being particularly vulnerable. The data also shows that during 2022-23 we saw a 22% increase of young people fitting the vulnerable category joining our open access sessions, compared to the previous year.



### 4.1 Youth Club Provision April 2022 – March 2023

The following tables and chart, show the number of young people registered as members at each centre in the last year and the percentage of those who are classed as vulnerable young people who were accessing our evening youth club sessions. It also highlights a 34% overall increase in members across all centres compared to the previous year.



Greater Eston continues to have lower memberships than the other areas, but with membership still increasing by 45% compared to the previous year. Greater Eston also has the highest percentage of its members classed as vulnerable (48%).

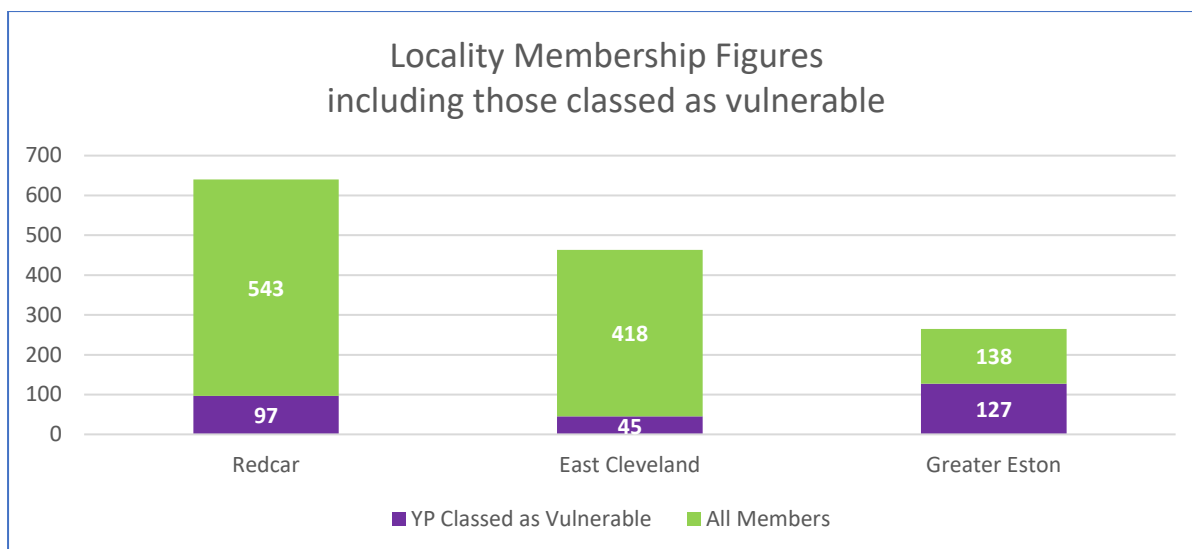
East Cleveland membership figures still demonstrate that demand for youth provision in East Cleveland is high, particularly at Skelton with a 37% increase in membership when compared to the previous year, possibly due to lack of other provision available to young people who can feel isolated due to its rural context and transport issues.

Central Redcar, 25K Youth & Community Centre and Tuned In! continue to have the highest numbers and there was a 40% increase in membership in comparison with the previous year. 25K YCC is very well attended with 27% of their members fitting the vulnerable category and the majority living on nearby estates. Tuned In! on Majuba road attracts groups of quieter young people from across the borough who are interested in the arts such as music and crafts. Unlike other centres, members of Tuned In! do not seem to have any territorial claims to the centre, as there are no housing estates nearby. This does not appear to happen as often in our other centres, that draw young people to them from their surrounding communities.

## Open Access Youth Membership Data per locality

Centre/Projects	Open Access Membership 2022-23	Membership 2021-22	Membership % Increase	Members open to: Early Help CIN/CP/CIOC 2022-23
<b>Central</b>				
Tuned In	441	341	↑ 29%	43 (10%)
25K	199	116	↑ 71%	54 (27%)
<b>Central Total</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>↑ 40%</b>	<b>97 (15%)</b>
<b>East Cleveland</b>				
Loftus YCC (centre closed for long periods due to building work on the whole site)	51	68	↓ 25%	4 (8%)
Lingdale YCC	60	58	↑ 3%	6 (10%)
Skelton YCC	352	257	↑ 36%	35 (10%)
<b>East Cleveland Total</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>↑ 21%</b>	<b>45 (10%)</b>
<b>Greater Eston</b>				
Grangetown YCC	162	90	↑ 80%	94 (58%)
Golden Boy Green	70	56	↑ 25%	23 (33%)
California YCC (centre closed for periods due to staffing issues)	33	37	↓ 10%	10 (30%)
<b>Greater Eston Total</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>↑ 45%</b>	<b>127 (48%)</b>
<b>Total Universal/Open</b>	<b>1368</b>	<b>1023</b>	<b>↑ 34%</b>	<b>269 (20%)</b>
<b>Total number of attendances</b>	<b>12,684</b>			





## 4.2 Targeted Projects Delivered April 2022 – March 2023

More detailed data from the targeted projects is also shown in this table.

Projects	Members	Footfall/Contact	
<b>Youth Work Plus (Targeted Project)</b>	<b>36</b> (referred) <b>39</b> (targeted Project within youth centre)	<b>375</b> contacts made through group or individual working. <b>681</b> footfall	
<b>Children with Disabilities (CWD)</b> Join Us & Join Us Plus Join Us 1:1 Join Us Playschemes	<b>104</b>	<b>2,052</b> footfall <b>288</b> Sessions delivered	
<b>Duke of Edinburgh</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>428</b> footfall	
<b>Streetz Detached Outreach Reach</b>	Central <b>815</b> (35 sessions)	East <b>162</b> (34 sessions)	Greater Eston <b>964</b> (31 sessions)
<b>Streetz Plus Detached Project Reach</b>	<b>4368</b>		
<b>Streetz Total</b>	<b>6,309</b> young people engaged across 100 Outreach Sessions		
<b>Substance Misuse Roadshow Reach</b>	<b>1983</b> young people engaged across 76 Sessions		

**Youth Work Plus** – delivered early interventions for young people becoming involved in Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) in collaboration with the **Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing,**

**Trafficked** (VEMT) partners. The service targets young people aged between 10 to 16 years, working with individuals and groups of young people in schools and informal settings such as a youth club or on the streets to develop meaningful relationships. This small

36  
Targeted  
Young People

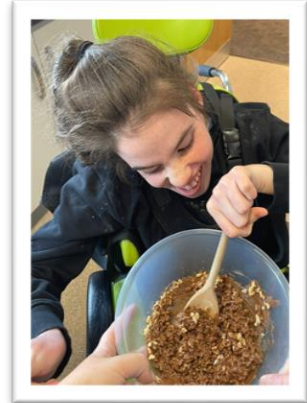
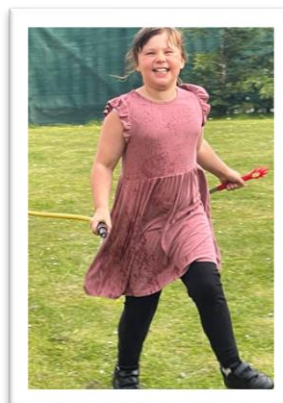
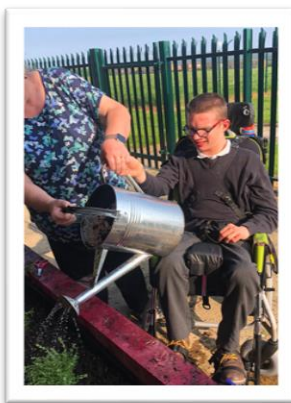
team of youth workers work in partnership with the young people to form action plans to address their negative risk-taking behaviours that links to possible Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).

Last year, Youth Work Plus engaged with 36 of the most vulnerable young people, offering intensive support which included leading two whole family cases, completing an early help assessment and plan for young people with their parents. The team also delivered small, targeted projects within centres, with a further 37 young people identified by youth workers as requiring extra support.

**Children with Disabilities youth clubs** - The Join-Us and Join-Us+ Youth Groups provide youth group sessions for children and young people with disabilities from across the Redcar & Cleveland area. Join-Us Short Breaks provides one to one after school activity sessions for children and young people with disabilities and one to one support needs.

104  
Members

The service also provides a range of multi-activity play sessions during school holidays for children and young people with disabilities with and without one-to-one support needs, that are aged between 5-10 and 11-17 years of age. The teams supported 104 individual children and young people from April 2022 to March 2023. This highlights that families and young people valued the support these services provide to some of our most vulnerable children, who attended 2052 times across 288 sessions.



### **Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE)**

Guisborough Youth Centre has a long history of delivering the DofE awards to targeted groups of young people, as well as supporting those that attend local schools and colleges within the Borough. During this final year of the LA Youth Service directly providing the awards, the DofE team supported 47 students in total, including 30 Gold Award students who completed them by the summer of 2023 and 4 young people with disabilities who also achieved their Gold and who went on to attend Buckingham Palace to pick up their certificates.

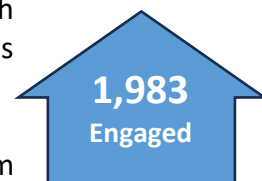
**Streetz Plus Detached Youth Work Team** - The Police & Crime Commissioner funds the Streetz Detached Project and they changed their criteria for 2022-23 to focus on specific identified areas for a 6-month period. The new Streetz Plus project provides detached youth work in these areas twice a week on an evening, to allow for more in-depth engagement.

The Streetz Detached project engaged 6,309 young people out on the streets between April 2022 - March 2023. They delivered 125 detached youth sessions, meeting with groups of young people out in communities to encourage them to stay safe, educate them on ASB and fire setting. The teams also targeted known areas that were highlighted as areas of concern for young people through the VEMT meetings, for example takeaways or local parks. The team engaged with large groups of young people to ensure they were not making themselves vulnerable and the team emphasizes the dangers of alcohol and drugs. Staff also talked to young people about the perception the public may have when they see large groups hanging around shops, parks, and streets with a majority of young people engaged being very receptive to this approach and happy to listen.



**Substance Misuse Roadshows** – In 2022 we were commissioned by public health to deliver educational sessions around substance misuse to young people in schools and youth centres. The Youth Service designed fun and interactive roadshows called ‘This is Your Night’, to encourage young people to think about the risks associated with drug and alcohol misuse. The youth workers used information gathered about drug and alcohol use in Redcar & Cleveland and surrounding areas from services such as ‘We Are With You’ and other local knowledge gathered from youth workers and police to inform the content of the workshops.

Past experience through youth work has shown us that even armed with knowledge, young people will still take risks due to them being curious and are easily peer-pressured into situations. Therefore, our youth workers wanted to design a new approach. The aim of our roadshow was for young people to explore realistic scenarios that can support them to make informed choices around drugs and alcohol use, that highlight the dangers that come with it. The focus was on empowering the young person to ‘play safe’ and to consider how other influences such as mood and setting can impact on their experiences and that ‘their choices’ can have both positive and negative long- and short-term consequences. The workshop was entirely young person led, exploring what they already know, what they are involved in and building knowledge scenarios in their heads of what could happen, in a bid to hopefully prevent or at least make them question their choices when they are in risk taking situations. 1,983 young people took part in our school roadshows between April 2022 and March 23.



***“The students were fully engaged. The scenario tasks/the build-up of stories was exciting but also really useful and felt very ‘real life’ rather than theoretical. Presenters worked hard to engage.”***  
**Nunthorpe Academy (Yr8 & 10)**



Spin the wheel, one of the interactive resources!

***“This lesson was one of the most amazing and informative lessons I have ever had!”***  
**Pupil Feedback**

### Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)

Henry Wain from Laurence Jackson School was duly elected as the Member of Youth Parliament for Redcar & Cleveland and Joseph Burt from Sacred Heart as the Deputy Member of Youth Parliament on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 for a period of two years. Henry visited the House of Commons for their annual conference, engaging in a series of activities and debates to tackle the current issues affecting young people across the UK. The event hosted five debate topics chosen by 11 to 18-year-olds across the country who voted in the annual Make Your Mark ballot including the impact on discrimination health, Environment & health, Education & health, Cost of Living & health, and Mental health services.

The event was chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon Lindsay Hoyle MP with Ministers and Shadow Ministers provided statements during the event.

**Henry - *"I think that the opportunity to represent the Young People of Redcar & Cleveland is a truly great honour, and I am truly motivated to continue providing the very best for our young people."***

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 40 young people from Hartlepool, Stockton, Sunderland, Redcar and Cleveland, Middlesbrough, North Tyneside, and Gateshead attended a Youth Con Event hosted at Tuned In! to discuss and debate on the current cost of living crisis. They explored each other's thoughts and ideas on the relevant themes and subjects.

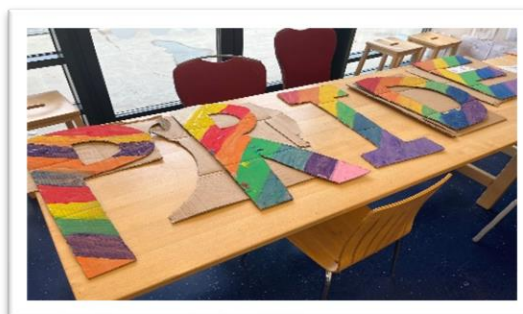
### Member of Youth Parliament Henry Wain at MYP Youth Con Events



**LGBTQ+ I am Me! (Skittles) Project** - Tuned In! LGBTQ+ youth project is for young people aged 12 – 18 who identify as LGBT or questioning their sexuality. We currently have 67 members where young people can access the group themselves, through friends as well as being referred from agencies. We have had referrals from schools, colleges, youth workers, Early Help Intervention teams and school nursing staff. We provide a safe environment where young people can meet with their peers and make new friends. The group is held every Wednesday evening 5pm-7pm at Tuned In! The group gives young people access to a range of activities such as workshops (sexual health, mental health, well-being, etc.), technology, arts and crafts, games, discussions, information sessions such as reporting hate crime, LGBTQ+ support groups, self-esteem/self-confidence activities, educational visits, trips, and films. This year our group have been involved in LGBT History Month, trip's, Substance Misuse Roadshow, group activities, games, music sessions, arts and crafts including making a Pride Flag.



## Skittles Group Artwork for Pride Week



Quotes from young people about why they enjoy the 'I am Me' Skittles Project

- *'It's a fun place filled with cool people where you get to be yourself and be as weird and creative as you want.'*
- *'It is a very safe place where you can hang out and play, friendly environment to have fun.'*
- *'Be yourself, don't let anyone tell you what to act like.'*
- *'A place where you can do fun activities.'*
- *'I would recommend it because it is a good way to make friends with people who like similar things.'*
- *'Supportive and a friendly environment to be in.'*

The key purpose of LGBT groups is to ***'Enable young people to develop holistically, working with them to facilitate their personal, social and educational development, to enable them to develop their voice, influence and place in society and to reach their full potential.'***

(National Occupational Standards for Youth Work 2008)

### **Holiday Activity with Food (HAF) Programme**

The Early Help Youth & Community Service was successful in securing funding to deliver Holiday Activity with Food (HAF) for the easter and summer holidays in 2023.

The Youth Service's HAF programme funded by the Department for Education (DfE) was designed to give opportunities for free holiday provision, including a nutritious meal being made available to children and young people who are eligible for benefits related to free school meals. The youth service delivered their holiday youth sessions over the Easter Holidays; this was well attended with 135



**135**  
Places Taken

places taken up by children and young people aged 9 - 16yrs fitting the free school meal criteria. A wide range of exciting activities were on offer including sports, trips, team games, arts and crafts, music workshops, beach walks, gardening, pantomime visits including going backstage and some members met some amazing birds from the 'Bird of Prey Bus'.

Young people's experiences:

***"My experience has been spectacular! and I have thoroughly enjoyed the trips and the days in the youth club over the half term".***

***"Amazing time to spend with friends, lots of fun."***

***"I didn't know anyone, but I made new friends and want to join the youth club."***

Staff experiences:

***"It was so great to see all the young people joining in the activities, seeing them make new friends was great, trying new things and all of us including staff really had good fun and now have new members wanting to join our youth sessions!"***

### **HAF Holiday Activity Fun**

**Healthy Eating, Games, Environment Projects, Meeting Birds of Prey, Sports, Dance, Arts & Crafts, Pantomime and Trips**



## 5 Youth Service Delivery

### Youth Service Curriculum

An essential skill of our Youth Workers is to engage with young people, often including those who struggle with more formal or traditional learning environments. Participation of young people runs throughout all our youth work activity and there are several developmental steps required to achieve this engagement in line with the National Occupational Standards for Youth Work. The curriculum is intended to be used by the Youth Service to inform their youth work practice and to help us meet our aims and ambitions for the young people living in Redcar and Cleveland. Our youth workers complete session forms to highlight the curriculum areas covered during each youth session.

Our youth sessions are very focused following curriculums, each youth session involves youth workers planning activities and interventions involving young people and relating to the curriculum based on young people's needs, youth trends and locality needs. The centres deliver workshops such as drug and alcohol awareness, benefits of healthy eating and fitness, environment projects and themed projects for example as we go into dark nights of autumn activities will be around how to stay safe on the dark streets, staying with friends etc. and all these interventions are delivered in an informal and interactive way so young people are learning important messages.

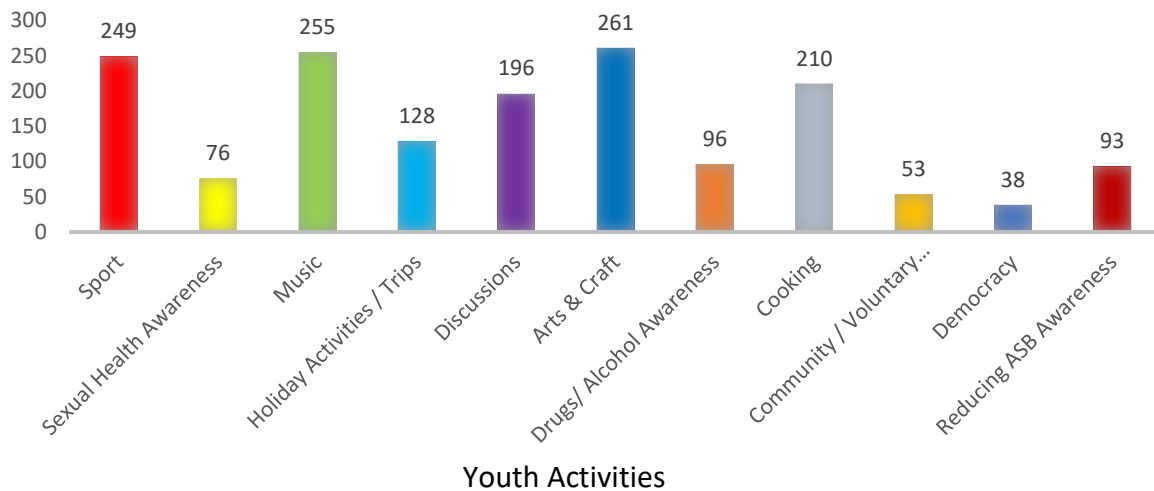
### Curriculum Headings

- **CREATIVE, EXPRESSIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS**
- **CITIZENSHIP**
- **CULTURE & DIVERSITY**
- **INFORMATION & GUIDANCE**
- **KEEPING SAFE**
- **SPORTS, ADVENTURE & EVENTS**
- **EMOTIONAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH & WELLBEING**



Chart below is taken from the Youth Service Satisfaction Survey showing what activities young people identified as being involved in, over a six-month period:

## WHICH ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN



### Recorded Outcomes

The youth service supported its members to achieve 1,799 recorded outcomes across the year.

A recorded outcome (RO) is the result of identifiable progress that has been made within a programme of youth work. Youth work often takes place with young people in groups, and it is within the group that meaningful individual progress takes place.



RO's identify the achievement/learning gains for individual members and describe any particular roles undertaken by a young person. This may include, for example, a local certificate for involvement in a particular event, reaching a personal goal or target. The learning gain may be a change in behaviour or attitude, an increase in knowledge or the acquisition of a new skill.



Loftus Girls Group  
fun activities and taking part in the exploitation awareness projects



## 6 Young People's Voices and Choices 2022-23

### 6.1 Young Inspectors, Recruitment, Voting, Survey's, and Consultations

Gaining the voice of the child is a main priority for our youth service and we actively encourage young people to help shape and plan sessions. Youth workers involve young people in the planning of youth club content, supporting them with ideas and identifying new trends and issues. This can be regional issues, environmental or can even come from themes from an episode of a TV soap that young people have related to and seek advice about.

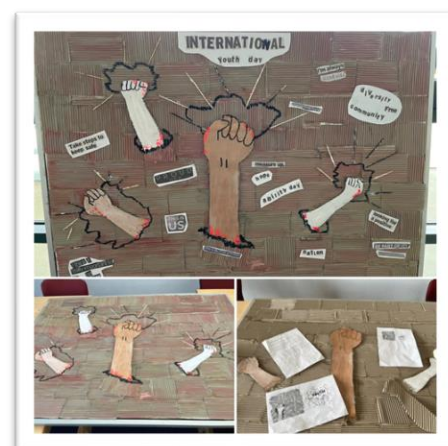
The youth service continually develops ways to ensure we gather young people's views through surveys and consultations, as well as managing the Member of Youth Parliament (MYP), and the SEND Young Inspectors Project. Young people were a vital source on giving their views in the interviewing of the new Children with Disabilities Youth Leader and other Youth Service roles by getting to ask questions and to see how the applicants interact with young people in sessions with their feedback supporting the outcome.



**A member of the Join Us Disability Project on the interview panel**



**MYP in the Houses of Parliament**



**International Youth Day**



**International Woman's Day**



**Member of Youth Parliament – Youth Convention held at Tuned In!**

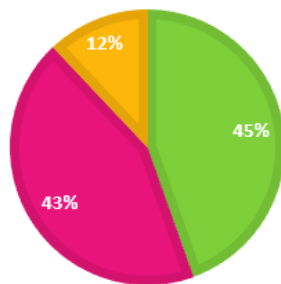
## Youth Service Satisfaction Survey

The youth service completes an annual satisfaction survey. This year 626 members took part over a six-month period, equating to 60% of those attending at that time. The survey is broken into three areas, about the members themselves, the youth centre, and the youth workers. Our Neighbourhood Youth Officers and team leads use the information gathered from the survey, to work with the youth work teams to inform future service development and practice. The findings are also fed-back to young people with extra discussions on improvement or expanding current areas they are happy with.

Below is some of the feedback from the survey questions:

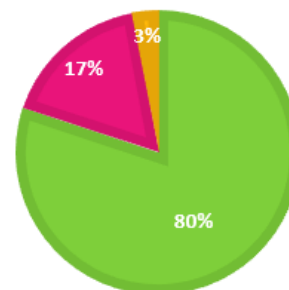
**Is coming to YC an important part of your life?**

Very Important    Important    Not Very Important



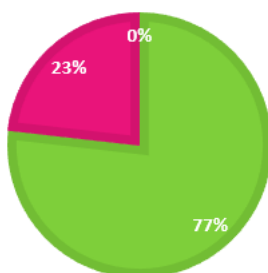
**Do you feel safe in the youth club?**

Always    Most of the Time    Some of the Time



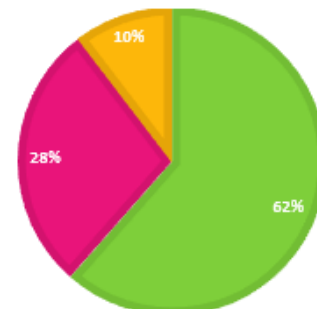
**We try to make the centre/project friendly and welcoming, have we achieved this?**

Always    Most Of the time    Some of the time



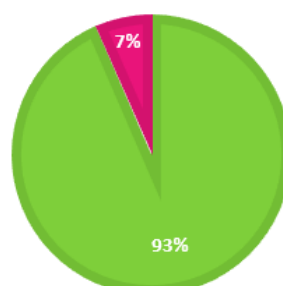
**Has taking part in activities at your YC had a positive effect on you?**

Definitely    A Little    Hasn't Changed Me



**Would you like your YC to be open during the school Holidays**

Yes    No





## The Youth Offer Consortium

As part of ensuring a Youth Offer across Redcar and Cleveland, the Youth Service established the Youth Offer Consortium in April 2021 with partner agencies who deliver youth provision across the borough. The aim of the partnership is to work together at both a strategic and operational level to deliver the Youth Offer for children and young people in the borough. This includes joint delivery of activities, collaborative funding bids, workforce development or quality assurance schemes.

Regular meetings have been held with the VCS youth groups and the map of existing youth club provision has been updated, so we can understand the gaps in provision across the borough.

Youth Offer Consortium Members are made up from services delivering open youth provisions (non-uniform, none profit services) who support Redcar & Cleveland's young people.

Working together the partners now promote their youth provisions through the council Youth Service website so families and young people can look at one site to find [Youth Services Outside the Council](#) (click on for the web link)



## Appendix 1 - Case Study: Youth Work Plus (YWP)

YWP received a referral for Z through the multi-agency Early Help Huddle, as they were deemed vulnerable with the possibility for exploitation. Concerns were around Z's family member being involved in criminal activity, potentially leaving Z vulnerable to not only becoming involved in criminal activities themselves but their home had been raided several times by the police. During one-to-one sessions as YWP started to build a trusted relationship, Z informed the YWP worker that there were issues in the family home which left Z feeling very uncomfortable and at times unsafe; Z also struggled to attend school leaving them vulnerable and without peer support networks.

Working with Z to agree a plan of intervention, Z identified that building a positive network of friends was one of their main areas of need. YWP created a targeted group for Z and other young people to go to and bring their worries and concerns, or an escape from homelife to a fun and safe environment. The group was very successful, and the sessions involved them engaging in cooking, hygiene in the kitchen, music, arts, physical activity, and issue-based discussions. The young people, including Z, were involved in various workshops highlighting vulnerability to exploitation. YWP used resources such as the Virtual Headsets where they held sessions around sexual exploitation, cuckooing, trap houses and criminal exploitation. This showed the young people what the indicators are and what to do about it, especially around talking to someone about concerns and building trusted adults and friends.

It was a way of keeping Z safe, and Z was happy to open up, allowing them to develop a support network that was not solely reliant on YWP. All the group received an ASDAN Award and Recorded Outcomes for these sessions.

Alongside the intervention, YWP also worked with Z's family and other services throughout, and Z's self-confidence improved and they are now more settled at home and school, with no further reports of issues around ASB or drug use. Z is now hanging around with positive peers, and attends our mainstream youth club, where they are able to access continued support from the youth workers.

## Appendix 2 - Case Study: Engagement and Personal Progression

X has been accessing our disability youth groups for 4 years since they were 14 years old. X is adopted, has a learning disability, and attends one of the area's specialist schools.

When X originally began attending sessions, there were many times that the behaviours they displayed were challenging. Staff regularly called home to inform parents that there had been a fight or argument between X and other young people in the centre. They were verbally abusive to other group members and staff, and X had to be excluded for short periods of time due to this behaviour, but the team never gave up.

The team looked at the activities X enjoyed which was mainly sport, and tried to form programmes around this. However, due to the issues X was having, this caused arguments and fights with other young people. Staff had to spend a lot of time talking through things with X and in time they started to identify with X that they had trouble managing their emotions and X agreed they could get frustrated easily.

Work was completed with X around emotions and identifying the signs that they were beginning to get frustrated or angry (looking at physical signs they could recognise within themselves) and a strategy was designed with them so that if they felt themselves become frustrated or angry, they could speak to their chosen member of staff, take time out from the session and have space to regulate themselves. X learned that the emotions they were managing were not wrong or invalid, but that the actions they were taking when experiencing strong emotions could impact on them and others negatively (friendship breakdowns, physical fights, swearing and damaging property).

Through this more targeted approach, staff started to build a trusting and positive relationship identifying that when away from their regular peer group, X was more mature, friendly, responsible, and more engaging with staff. X was also much more positive about themselves and their life.

The team programme was to involve X in supporting staff with activities, spending time with a different peer group and encouraging them to see the positives of helping others, distracting X from the group they had previously been involved in and helping them build a more positive peer group around them.

This, combined with a lot of praise and recognition for more positive behaviours, resulted in a huge change in X. X is now one of the most pro-active members of the youth group and they have received an ASDAN Award for their work in group sessions. They are trained as a CWD Young Inspector and Young Interviewer and have completed interviews for a number of staff. X has recently begun to attend the Junior Youth Group sessions and act as a buddy to younger members. X attended RCBC Youth Worker Training around Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma Informed Practice and has most recently applied for a Youth Work Paid Youth Work Experience post within RCBC and was successful, beginning employment in September 2023.

X has a lot to give to the world, a kind and considerate young person who wants to make a difference to others and just needed someone to see that potential, believe in them and help them navigate their transition into adulthood.

When asked why they wanted to apply for the paid Youth Work Experience programme with RCBC X replied, ***"It's because I was given a chance and I want to help others have that chance."***

## Appendix 3 - Case Study: Trusted Adults

D has been accessing our Join Us disability youth group for around 5 years and has, over the last 12 months, gradually been transitioning into adult services. They have always been an enthusiastic member of youth group, joining in with a wide variety of activities and engaging with all young people and staff members.

When D came into a session one evening, they became very agitated and unlike their normal positive self, staff recognised something was wrong and took D to a side to talk where D opened up and told staff that he had been threatened with being stabbed by someone online. D also had a photograph that had been sent to them of a machete and of the conversation that had happened between them and the aggressor. Staff reassured D and talked through what had happened, D asked staff to support them in telling their parents and wanted to report the incident to the police. Youth workers contacted parents, explained what D had disclosed and about involving the police and that D would like some additional support.

The use of the youth centre was also offered as a place to meet with police so that the young person did not have to have strangers in the family home. Within the session, youth workers continued to support D and delivered a group project around knife crime, how to stay safe and what to do. All the young people were involved and designed an information notice board that was displayed in the centre to help other young people.

## Appendix 4 - Case Study: Employment Opportunities

AA and her parents left Syria to seek asylum in the UK. On arriving in the UK, the family were moved to Redcar and to help support themselves within the community, AA registered on an English language course, enabling her to have more opportunities for employment. AA was successful in gaining a placement with Redcar & Cleveland's Kick Start Programme in 2022. Her main role whilst on the Kick Start placement was to support the Awards & Activities Co-ordinator within the Youth & Community Service. During this period, AA was actively involved in delivering ASDAN Awards to key stage 4 students within Guisborough Youth Centre. As a Syrian refugee she discussed her life in Syria, her culture and the students really responded well to that. AA taught the group Syrian words and also cooked traditional Syrian food for them to try. For the Awards ceremony with the school students, AA parents were invited to see their daughter's achievements, her mum had cooked and brought in Syrian food and though they couldn't speak English the students welcomed them in Syrian saying 'Hello', 'how are you' and 'thank you'.

AA also supported the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme, supporting 3 levels of the award and due to this involvement, it led her to do the award herself and she has completed her Silver Award and now working towards her Gold Award. AA was an amazing asset in supporting groups including sleeping over night with SEND groups taken part in the Award.

AA expressed a passion to support other asylum seekers and applied for interpreter training and was supported with a government funding grant to learn to drive. In the short year we have had AA, she has shown commitment and pride with every opportunity given to her. As the Kick Start programme was coming to an end, the team supported AA with applying for a teaching assistant post at a local special needs school and we are proud to say she was successful and has now moved on to a new chapter in her life.

**AA with Elaine on a DofE expedition and with the Mayor at the Awards Evening**



AA about her time with the Youth & Community Service.

***“I would like to say thanks to everyone who has been helping me and especially lots of love and thanks to you Elaine. It was the best year of my life working in this job with Elaine and her team. I learned a lot from her, the language, the laws, and life here. Elaine helped me with many things, she was always the first to help me, words of thanks will never be enough!”***

## Appendix 5 – Case Study: Fund Raising Group

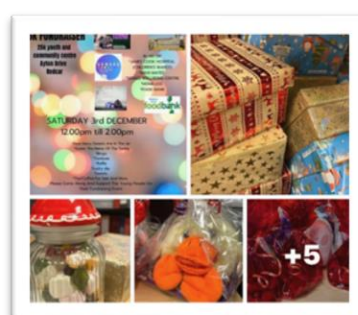
Supported by dedicated youth work staff, an amazing group of young people from 25K Youth & Community Centre volunteered their time to fund raise for local causes that are close to their hearts. The youth work staff also volunteered their time, during holidays, on evenings and weekends to ensure the young people could deliver their programmes.

The young people spent time planning, organising, and running a series of fundraisers and community events with their first Family Fun Day in April 2022. This was followed by various local coffee mornings and afternoons which included cakes, scones, bingo and tombolas. In August they held a carnival themed fun day and in December, a Christmas fundraiser, with the group running stalls and fun games for local families.



In total, the inspirational youth led project successfully raised £3,004.57 and shared this between Senses Wellbeing Centre CIC, James Cook NHS Hospital Children’s ward, Homeless Cafe, Redcar Area Food Bank, Max Mates and SARA Animal Rescue centres.

### 25K YCC Fundraising Events





# Youth & Community Staff Structure



**Aggie Keightley-Smith**  
Early Help Youth and Community Service Manager



**Hellen Higgs**  
Neighbourhood  
Youth Officer  
(Central Locality)



**Lee Waters**  
Neighbourhood  
Youth Officer  
(Greater Eston)



**Peter Carter**  
Neighbourhood  
Youth Officer  
(East Cleveland)



**Terry Colley**  
Neighbourhood  
Youth Officer  
(Children with Disabilities)



**Suzanne Graham**  
Business Support  
Team Leader



**Donna Leighton**  
Youth Work Plus  
Co-ordinator



**James Lilly**  
Youth Activities  
Music & Arts  
Co-ordinator



**Emily Ahern**  
Children with  
Disabilities  
Youth Leader



**Lisa Stockell**  
Children with  
Disabilities  
Youth Leader



**Stacy Wilcockson**  
Substance Misuse  
Prevention  
Co-ordinator

**Wendy Smith**  
Business Support Officer

**Christine Blake**  
**Matthew Robinson**  
**Shirley Harker**  
Business Support Assistants  
**Debbie Catchpole**  
**Clare Smitheringale**  
Receptionists

**60 Youth Support Workers**  
sessional and substantial hour for:  
Open Youth Sessions  
Youth Work Plus  
Children with Disabilities Projects  
Streetz Plus Detached Outreach  
Substance Misuse Roadshows

**3 Kick Start into  
Employment  
Workers**

**3 Work Experience  
Young People**

# Youth and Community Centres

(click on heading for web link)



Grangetown Youth & Community Centre



California Youth & Community Centre, Eston



Golden Boy Green Youth & Community Centre,  
South Bank



Guisborough Youth Centre



Lingdale Youth & Community Centre



Skelton Youth & Community Centre



Loftus Youth & Community Centre



25K Youth & Community Centre



Tuned In! Youth Centre, Redcar