



Introduction

Welcome to the Quarter 2 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.

In common with many of our colleagues and partners, the Covid19 pandemic continues to have an acute impact on participation work due to the unprecedented restrictions it places on how we engage with our children and young people. Despite this, our team has been busier than ever this quarter, coming up with innovative and creative ways to capture the voices of young people, and ensure they have a real say in the issues that are important to them. The following pages are a short update of our work and achievements between July and September 2020.

Quarter 1 Service Headlines:

- ✓ Our **Young Inspectors** completed their inspection of our Young Carers Providers, producing four fantastic reports to help improve our services.
- ✓ Young people from across our voice groups got amazing feedback on their '30 minute takeover' of the **Safeguarding Children's Partnership Event**.
- ✓ Our team of Young Reporters covered the **Yorkshire Festival of Story**, writing some brilliant articles about the workshops and activities on offer.
- ✓ We ran a **Mental Health Survey**, completed by more than 300 young people, with a focus on the impact of Covid19 on emotional wellbeing.
- ✓ Review of virtual working practice continues, with more quality client feedback reports produced in relation to our **Leaving Care and IRO Teams**.
- ✓ Our youth groups supported Social Work **Practice Week** in July, inviting senior leaders to their meetings to see their voice work in action.
- ✓ Initial work is ongoing with CYPS leaders and staff to bring the exciting **Mind of My Own** young person's app to North Yorkshire.
- ✓ More than 30 young people have now accessed our **Hip Hop Therapy** workshops – listen to some of their lyrical creations [here](#).
- ✓ We teamed up with young people from the Youth Justice Service to create a unique new logo for the **Streets Ahead** youth work programme.
- ✓ Planning continues in the team to create and lead an ambitious new **SEND Voice Network** alongside key partners across North Yorkshire.



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Our **Children & Families** offer continues to develop, with our team engaging young people in Family Time Development Work, a task and finish group on 'Consent', and plans to improve LAC Health Assessment attendance. Our NY Care Champions held 14 virtual meetings during the quarter and continued making progress with their work on a new Welcome to Care Pack, Designated Teacher Training, and a Peer Mentoring Scheme for young people coming into Care. In July, we held our first virtual celebration day for care experienced children and young people across the county, the event was really well attended and included fun games, and competitions with prizes for the winners!

Following our Virtual Working review work in quarter 1, and the Locality Events held in June of this year, Chris Layfield created some artwork based on service user and staff feedback, in relation to social care support received during the Covid19 pandemic – the final piece is extremely impressive and can be viewed [here](#). Our ongoing review of virtual working practices continues, and in this quarter we have completed further feedback exercises, producing reports based on interviews with almost 100 young people, parents and carers involved with our Leaving Care Team, Buddy Scheme, LAC / CP Meeting Processes, and commissioned Young Carers Providers. This process will continue as we work with our CYPS colleagues and leaders to help improve the experiences of the people we support.

Our **SEND voice** group, Flying High, has met 12 times this quarter. Our young people continue to show extraordinary passion to make a difference, and resilience in the face of the Covid19 pandemic. The group has taken part in consultation work with North Yorkshire Sport and supported the initial stages of the Loneliness Campaign; they are also busy preparing to host a regional young person's SEND voice meeting in quarter 3. Further integration with our education providers unfortunately remains delayed due to current circumstances, although this remains high on our list of priorities and will recommence as soon as the situation allows.

Over the summer, the team worked with Inclusion colleagues and partners in the health sector to run a Covid19 Mental Health Survey. More than 300 young people completed the survey, and the final report is now being used to inform future decision making on mental health service delivery across North Yorkshire. Our new Mental Health voice platform went live in September, and the group are up and running with their first campaign. This will be a collaboration with North Yorkshire Sport on Body Confidence and Self Esteem, and feed into the SEMH Strategic Partnership Group. Planning has also now begun on the creation of a SEND Voice Network to be coordinated by NY Voice. This aims to bring together the vast range of SEND service providers, third sector partners and support groups into a single strategic voice network; allowing us to work together to maximise and amplify the voices of our SEND young people and their families.

Our **Young Inspectors**, in the face of the most challenging circumstances and disruption to their original plans, completed their inspection of our Young Carers providers this quarter. Our amazing team of young people interviewed young carers and provider staff, reviewed websites, and even designed a survey for parents and carers. Following the inspection sessions, work began on preparing a report for each provider, covering strengths, areas for improvement, and a list of inspectors' recommendations. The reports were presented to our CYPS Leadership Team by a leading young inspector, and have since been forwarded to our service providers who will report in to the inspection team next year on the improvements they have made following the exercise. Feedback on the completed work has been excellent and we are extremely proud of the young people who took part.

The group have now almost completed their second piece of work, teaming up our Care Champions and focusing on how well we capture the voice of the child across our social care teams. Almost 20 staff are being interviewed on how they ensure young people have their voices heard when it comes to case assessment / planning and decision making, with a report due in the coming weeks. In future, our Young Inspectors are keen to be involved in proposed inspections of our new SEND Locality Hubs, as well as work reviewing our Child Protection processes.



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The **Youth Cabinet** continued its transformation this quarter, and in the summer we said goodbye to several young people who were leaving to go to university this year, including our Chair Aimee Walker, and lead member Dylan Kennedy, who have both set an extraordinary example of what young people can achieve with passion and hard work. As we move into quarter 3, the new Youth Cabinet are due to meet immediately, with representatives of our local youth councils and other voice groups coming together to form a true North Yorkshire wide young person's body, we are very excited to see what this group achieves in the future.

The group have supported work on a new Culture Strategy for North Yorkshire, and in July, were joined by Safeguarding Unit Manager, Heather Pearson, as part of Social Work Practice Week. Heather was keen to hear about what was going on around the county, and was impressed by the group's plans to hold a Youth Awards Ceremony late next year; which will recognise young people who have made an outstanding contribution in the field of participation.

Our new **Youth Councils** continued to meet over the summer period, with 20 young people meeting 12 times across the quarter to discuss issues affecting their local communities. Current work includes an exciting 'Edible Villages' project our central group is working on with Romanby Parish Council – a neighbourhood project which involves planting fresh fruit and vegetables on public land for the enjoyment of the whole community. There is also an environmental campaign led by our Craven Youth Council which includes a socially distanced litter pick scheduled for October.

Councillor Annabel Wilkinson (Young People's Champion), has also attended and met with some of our youth councils this quarter, giving them some valuable advice on how to work with local government to get things done. This is a great first step in integrating our new groups into local democratic and decision-making processes.

NY Voice is leading the way in bringing the award winning Mind of My Own (**MOMO**) application to North Yorkshire. This represents an exciting new way of communicating with the young people we work with across our CYPS teams; helping us to support them in new and more effective ways while giving them more opportunities to have their voice heard on the services they receive. Find out more about MOMO [here](#). Our Social Media presence also continues to grow this quarter, with 180 fun, supportive, and informative posts to our 370 followers across our three platforms. For all things youth voice, find us online:

Instagram @nyccyouthvoice

Facebook @northyorkshireyouthvoice

Twitter @YouthYorkshire

The 'Last Box' is our place to mention any other news, achievements, or plans our team and young people have been busy with . . .

- *One of our young people, Tiegan Boyens, received a thank you letter and gift voucher from CYPS leaders for her outstanding commitment to youth voice.*
 - *NY Voice Officer James Koppert gave a moving and inspirational input on his life and music at a Children and Families County Event.*
 - *Our new website and intranet pages are completed and awaiting their 'go-live' dates online.*
 - *We supported the Surfing Wellbeing Programme for children and young people with Autism and additional needs.*
 - *Work began involving young people in the current North Yorkshire Devolution plans – more to come on this next time!*

If you know any young people that may want to be involved with any of our groups or other work, contact nyvoice@northyorks.gov.uk