

Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Young People's Services (YPS)

Young People's Services was established on 1st April 2008 through the merger of the Youth Service and Connexions to create a new integrated youth support service for young people aged 13-19 years. A significant number of young adults up to the age of 25 also receive specialist support. A strong partnership culture exists with other agencies and services, and local communities are also indirect partners.

There are 4 main strands to YPS:

- Universal Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG), including a statutory duty to provide careers advice to schools, access to counselling and intensive support for those who require specialist intervention.
- Access to a wide range of positive activities, including an appropriate offer of "places to go and things to do" that reflects the Government's ambition for youth opportunities.
- Empowering young people to influence services and facilities that are available to them and facilitating opportunities to volunteer and contribute to their local community.
- Targeted support for vulnerable young people experiencing difficulties in their education, health, behaviour, or relationships, with specialist services for disabled young people or those from different ethnic backgrounds.

YPS provides opportunities, help, support and advice for young people aged 11 to 25 through:

- youth centres and outreach sessions providing a wide range of sport, arts, personal development and health activities
- access to careers information, advice and guidance through Connexions service
- a confidential information, support and counselling service for young people 16-25 at Castlegate
- the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, offers 14-25 year olds the chance to learn new skills, help others and experience adventure, administered by YPS and delivered through 20 groups in the city
- the Zoo – one of the best skate parks in the region
- the Basement Multi-Media Project in partnership with the City Screen Cinema
- activities and clubs specially arranged for young people with disabilities or other special needs
- volunteering activities in city-wide communities and involvement in local democracy through the Youth Council and other 'voice and influence' activities
- mobile information and activities through the URBIE minibuses
- excellent mentoring and alternative learning programmes for young people who need additional help, delivered through Network 2 and specialist support staff
- the deployment of specific funds by young people through the YorkKash fund

- providing support and initiatives to reduce the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)

YPS is guided by the principles of Every Child Matters including the provision, together with a range of statutory and voluntary sector partners, of an entitlement for young people described as the Youth Offer. This includes:

- access to two hours per week of sporting activity;
- access to two hours per week of other constructive activities in clubs, youth groups and classes;
- opportunities to make a positive contribution to their community through volunteering;
- a wide range of other recreational, cultural, sporting and enriching experiences;
- a range of safe and enjoyable places in which to spend time;
- access to information, advice and guidance including careers education and guidance for young people age 13-19 , counselling and support .(up to 25 for disabled young people)
- intensive and targeted support for vulnerable young people

Operationally YPS is managed through 3 localities, each one a geographical third of the City comprising specific wards and neighbourhoods. Work is delivered from a main Hub Centre in each locality, which is also the base for the locality staff teams comprising youth workers, careers advisers, connexions advisers, and other specialist staff.

The teams work in schools, satellite buildings and through outreach initiatives, including street work.

The 3 localities are complemented by city wide provision including the Castlegate Centre for young people and Heworth Lighthouse both of which provide much of the targeted and intensive work, including alternative learning programmes and counselling.

Youth Clubs

It will be apparent that the provision of opportunities for young people through YPS is far wider than access to youth clubs in a traditional sense. Throughout the last decade youth club buildings have reduced, principally due to the lack of attendance by young people, budget reductions, changes in the priorities of delivery methods and agenda, and the need by young people for more sophisticated entertainment and pastimes. The latter is well provided for in York by the commercial sector and home entertainment.

However, YPS has maintained the provision of youth clubs in each of the hubs, supplemented by activities in satellite bases or through voluntary clubs.

The table below gives an overview of locality arrangements and the distribution of youth clubs.

Locality	East	North	West
Hub	Fulford	Kingswater	Moor Lane
Satellite Base	68 Centre	New Earswick Skate Park Basement	Chapelfields
Other CYC provision	Tang Hall Dunnington Acaster Malbis URBIE	Huntington Strensall Skelton URBIE	Southlands Acomb outreach URBIE
Vol sector youth clubs	85 Club Wheldrake Bishopthorpe	Haxby	Poppleton Copmonthorpe
Wards	Derwent Fishergate Fulford Guildhall Heslington Heworth Heworth W/out Hull Road Osbalwick Wheldrake	Clifton Huntington and New Earswick Skelton, Rawcliffe, and Clifton Without Haxby & Wigginton Strensall	Acomb Bishopthorpe Dringhouses and Woodthorpe Holgate Micklegate Rural West Westfield

Financial Contributions

YPS has successfully gained external funding for a range of supplementary and enhanced activities and the delivery of pilot development activities. This includes the LAA delivery fund, DCSF, Safer York Partnership and the PCT.

Contributions from ward committees has also been substantial and over a sustained period of years supporting additional staff hours, URBIE, specific youth club activities, detached work, junior clubs, equipment and resources. The grants from ward committees have ranged between a few hundred pounds to £20k, with the average around £4k.

Over the past 3 years only 2 ward committees have not contributed to the service.

Some parish councils have also asked for specific responses to perceived needs in their area and have agreed to pay for the work as YPS does have a limited budget.

It is worthy of note that responses to the needs of young people can not just be the responsibility of council services and the whole community has a part to play. This can be evidenced by local people volunteering, voting for local resources to be utilised for young people's activities or simply encouraging young people to get involved and do positive things with their lives.