



## Youth & Community Service

# ANNUAL REPORT

Transforming the lives of young people in Redcar & Cleveland 'through the power of youth work'

# 2023-24



[www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/youth-services](http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/youth-services)



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# 1 Introduction

## What is youth work?

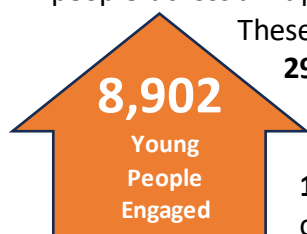
'Youth' is the adolescent developmental phase between childhood and adulthood that brings significant physical and emotional changes. The brain undergoes huge physical changes during adolescence that impact on behaviour, self-image, social interactions, and decision making. It is also an important time for making significant life choices and decisions, experiencing increasingly complex social interactions, and dealing with a digitised world. It requires particular skills to support young people at this important time to allow them to safely explore risky impulses, form new relationships and take on new challenges. As such, youth work engages with young people as individuals with strengths, assets, potential and lived experiences.

Predominantly working with children and young people between 11 and 19 years of age, youth work supports young people through adolescence, ranging from 8 to 25 years of age dependent on context and need. It differs from other services in that it is voluntary for young people to engage with youth work, and the process starts from where young people are at, their interests, goals, and experiences, focusing on personal and social development through a strengths-based (asset) approach. Youth work is a form of education pedagogy; it provides non-formal education and offers informal learning opportunities.

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.

## 2 Data Summary

This report provides information about the delivery of the service and the achievements of the team from 1st April 2023 to end of March 2024, during which time the youth service engaged **8,902** young people across all its projects. With attendance of **15,942** across **1,822** sessions within all of its projects.



These included **1,128** young people becoming members of our open access sessions with **294** (25%) of these members being from vulnerability categories. **189** young people in our targeted youth projects Youth Work Plus and Join Us Disability. In addition to working with our registered members, the Streetz Detached Project delivered **116** detached youth work sessions, reaching **4,814** young people out in the community and our Substance Misuse Roadshow project delivered drug awareness sessions to **2,808** young people in years 6 – 11 within schools across the borough.

As part of the Holiday Activity with Food (HAF) the youth service offered **860** free places across the borough for young people on free school meals to attend our holiday programmes.

Due to our commitment and success in delivering high quality youth 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.

### 3 Values and principles of youth work

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

1

#### Participation and active involvement:

Young people can choose to be involved, to relax, to meet friends, to form new relationships, to have fun and to find support. Youth work should be informed by the lived experience of each young person, starting from where young people are in relation to their own feelings, values, views, and principles. It recognises that young people have strengths and abilities and goes beyond the point where young people start, encouraging them to be critical and creative in their responses to their experiences and the world around them.

2

#### Equality, diversity, and inclusion:

Youth work treats young people with respect, valuing differences and promoting the acceptance and understanding of others. It is underpinned by the principles of social justice, equality and rights and embraces and celebrates diversity and interdependence. It recognises the value of collective identities and inclusivity, fostering positive collective action, a sense of belonging and a sense of community by challenging oppressive behaviours and ideas.

3

#### Personal, social and political development:

Good youth work recognises that young people need the opportunity to grow and take positive risks, learning from these individually and collectively. It creates the space and opportunities for young people to develop a broad set of social skills and encourages young people's autonomous agency and political voice, recognising young people as decision makers and leaders.

4

#### Partnership with young people and others:

Youth work recognises each young person as a partner in their learning process, which enables them to fulfil their potential. Youth work understands the networks and relationships between groups of young people and between them and their communities, families, and cultures. It actively responds to these networks, helping young people to form stronger relationships and collective identities.

## Cornerstones of youth work

The broad aims of youth work:

### **Education**

Youth work offers informal learning opportunities that can complement formal learning in schools and colleges. It gives young people the opportunity to learn – about themselves, about others, about issues they care about or that concern them and about society and how to engage in their communities.

### **Empowerment**

Youth work helps young people to develop the skills and confidence to make decisions and act on issues that affect their own lives, the lives of others, their communities and society. This enables young people to take control, have a voice and get involved as advocates.

### **Equality**

Youth work is for all young people. It respects differences and builds connections between different groups and individuals. It recognises and promotes human rights, social justice, and anti-oppressive practices, supporting and challenging young people to reflect on their understanding of themselves and their behaviour towards others.

### **Participation**

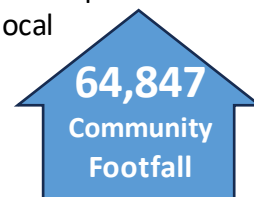
Youth work supports young people and works with them to become partners and leaders in their own learning, to help them gain influence over issues they are concerned about and to engage them with democratic processes.

## 4 Youth & Community Service Context

### 4.1 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, volunteers and support staff.

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 2023 -2024 an amazing **64,847** community attendance was recorded from our 9 youth centres averaging over 16,000 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

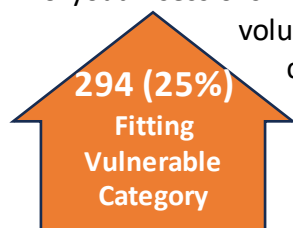
#### Activities delivered within the projects include:

- ❖ 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



## 5 Youth Open Access Sessions Data

The youth service runs term time, open access youth clubs across the borough from our nine youth and community centres. During 2023-24, **1,128** young people became members and regular attendees of our open access youth sessions with a total of **13,125** attendances to our open youth clubs across **746** youth sessions. The data shows that across the borough, **294** members equating to 25% who

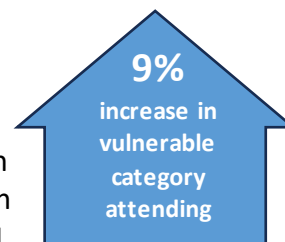


voluntarily attended our open access youth sessions, fall into the vulnerability categories of being subject to a Child in Need plan (CIN), Child Protection plan (CP), were Children in our Care (CIOC), Police, ASB orders or have had an Early Help intervention from the Intervention Team during the same 12-month period. This is a **9%** increase of young people fitting the vulnerable category joining our open access sessions, compared to the previous year. In the Greater

Eston area which includes South Bank and Grangetown, **65%** of their members being particularly vulnerable.

### 5.1 Youth Club Provision April 2023 – March 2024

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 has saw a 9% increase. The data shows a 17% decrease in memberships than the previous year, with the highest decrease in central.



There could be a various reasons for this, 2022-23 was the year after covid with sessions returning to normal and young people craving peer interaction after lock downs. East Cleveland saw a small decrease of 9% in memberships, Loftus Youth & Community Centre site was closed for long periods due to a huge building development programme across the whole site. Year groups of young people tend to move on when they get to last year of secondary school. The youth service has been going through reviews over the last three years which included job freezes. When youth workers left, and we were unable to recruit we had to reduce or close sessions, as well as monitoring memberships in centres to align with staffing numbers. We also need to give a huge thanks and credit to our youth workers as many have been covering and going above and beyond to allow sessions to continue, due to this, though there was a decrease in memberships we saw overall attendance (footfall) of the young people to sessions increase 3% than the previous year.

Greater Eston continues to have lower memberships than the other areas, but also has the highest percentage of its members classed as vulnerable (**65%**) with Grangetown Youth & Community Centre having **73%** of its members classed as vulnerable.

East Cleveland membership figures still demonstrate that demand for youth provision in East Cleveland is high. The trend also continues to show they have the lowest rate of young people classed in vulnerable category compared to other localities, but it has its own vulnerabilities possibly because of the lack of other provisions available to young people who may feel isolated due to its rural context and transport issues.

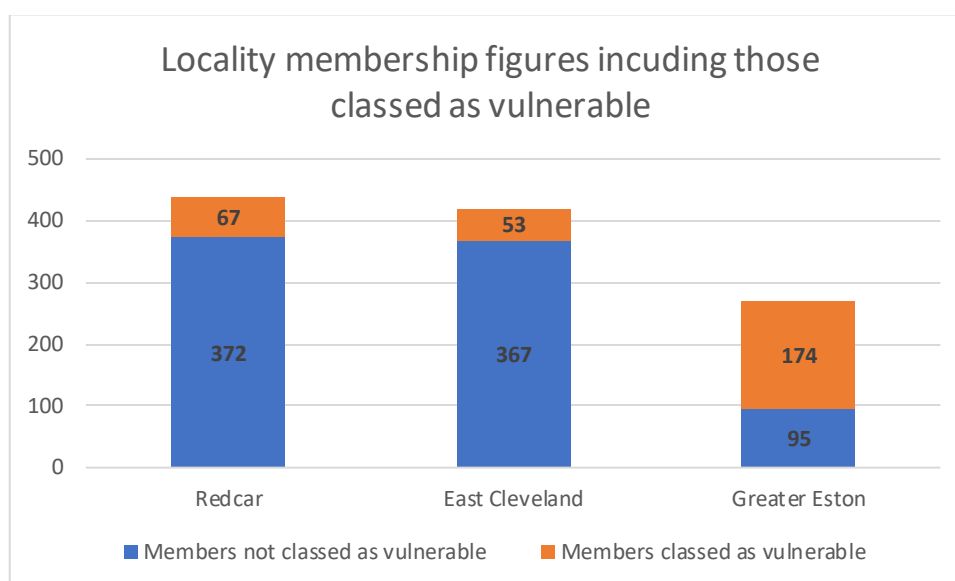
Central Redcar, 25K Youth & Community Centre and Tuned In! normally have the highest numbers though this year it was similar to East Cleveland. 15% of their members fitting the vulnerable category and the majority living on nearby estates. Tuned In! on Majuba road attracts groups of quieter young

people from across the borough who are interested in the arts such as music and crafts and also hosts our LGBTQ+ youth group. 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.

Centre/Projects	Open Access Memberships to sessions 2023-24	Open Access Membership to sessions 2022-23	Membership % increase decrease	Members open to: Early Help CIN/CP/CIOC 2023-24
<b>Central</b>				
Tuned In	306	441	↓30%	20 (7%)
25K	133	199	↓33%	47 (35%)
<b>Central Total</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>↓31%</b>	<b>67 (15%)</b>
<b>East Cleveland</b>				
Loftus YCC (centre closed for long periods due to building work on the whole site)	46	51	↓9%	7 (8%)
Lingdale YCC	51	60	↓9%	9 (10%)
Skelton YCC	323	352	↓8%	37 (10%)
<b>East Cleveland Total</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>↓9%</b>	<b>53 (12%)</b>
<b>Greater Eston</b>				
Grangetown YCC	172	162	↑6%	125 (73%)
Golden Boy Green	61	70	↓12%	38 (20%)
California YCC (centre closed for periods due to staffing issues)	36	33	↑9%	11 (17%)
<b>Greater Eston Total</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>↑1%</b>	<b>174 (65%)</b>
<b>Total Universal/Open</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>1,368</b>	<b>↓17%</b>	<b>294 (25%)</b> <b>9% increase from 2022-23</b>
<b>Total number of attendances</b>	<b>13,125</b>	<b>12,684</b>	<b>↑3%</b>	



## Open Access Youth Membership Data per locality



## 5.2 Targeted Projects Data

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>33</b> (referred)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>613</b> contacts made through group and individual working.</li> <li><b>501</b> sessions delivered.</li> </ul>
<b>Children with Disabilities (CWD)</b> <b>Join Us &amp; Join Us Plus</b> <b>Join Us 1:1</b> <b>Join Us Playschemes</b>	<b>119</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>2,204</b> footfall</li> <li><b>293</b> Sessions delivered</li> </ul>
<b>Streetz Plus Detached Project Reach</b>	<b>4814</b> young people engaged <b>116</b> Sessions delivered	
<b>Substance Misuse Roadshow Reach</b>	<b>2808</b> young people engaged <b>166</b> Sessions delivered	

**Youth Work Plus (YWP)** – delivers 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. YWP skill is their ability to develop

meaningful trusted relationships with the young people and engage them positive activities that young people like to do, as well as introducing them to new ideas and friendship groups. This small team of dedicated youth workers work in partnership with the young people to form action plans to address negative risk-taking behaviours that links to possible Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and engage the young person for as long as they require the support.



Last year, Youth Work Plus engaged with 33 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.

**Children with Disabilities youth clubs** – Our amazing youth provision Join-Us and Join-Us+ delivers interactive and fun youth group sessions for children and young people with disabilities aged 8-25 from across the Redcar & Cleveland area. Following the Youth Service Curriculum, our experienced youth work team ensure young people have the opportunities to be part of the informal learning, covering a wide variety of topics from baking, gardening, trips, shopping, and budgeting to visits to agencies and community activities.



Join-Us Short Breaks service provides after school sessions for children and young people with disabilities who require one to one support. The service also offers a range of fun multi-activity play holiday sessions for children and young people with disabilities with or without one to one support aged between 5-10 and 11-17 years of age.

The teams supported 119 individual children and young people to be part of a group to build new friendships and learning new skills. The high numbers highlight that families and young people valued the support these services provide to some of our most vulnerable children, who attended 2204 times across 293 sessions.



**Streetz Plus Detached Youth Work Team** - The Police & Crime Commissioner funds the Streetz Detached Project to focus on specific identified areas for a 6-month period which is discussed and decided in conjunction with neighbourhood policing teams. 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 original Streetz team is a council run service which compliments and joins on with the Streetz+. The area which this team operates in is decided at CSG (Community Safety Group) monthly meeting. The area is determined by what is happening in a specific area for example high Anti-Social Behaviour or an event which needs extra support. The team can operate in any part of the borough and is moved around as required.



**Streetz Youth Van**

The Streetz Detached project engaged 4814 young people out on the streets between April 2023 - March 2024. They delivered 116 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.

Streetz + team have employed a youth work plus worker who will be working 1-1 with young people that are causing issues within the area where the team are operating. The young people can be referred by the

team or local neighbourhood police team. Since employment begun in February the new worker has worked directly with a group of four young people who were part of a larger group causing ASB within the West Dyke ward this work is continuing and he has made some impact with diverting these young people in more positive activities and making better choices when out with their friends.

**Substance Misuse Roadshows** –Commissioned, and funded by public health, to address the growing concern of substance misuse among young people. This initiative took the form of educational sessions delivered in schools and youth centres, with the aim of raising awareness and understanding of the risks associated with drug and alcohol misuse.

The Youth Service, tasked with this important mission, designed an engaging and interactive program known as 'This is Your Night'. The program was designed to not only educate but also to stimulate thoughtful conversation among young people about the potential dangers of substance misuse.

In 2023, due to the success and impact of the program, the funding was extended. With this extension, 'This is Your Night' evolved into 'RISK' - Risk Information + Substance Knowledge. Despite the name

change, the core concept remained the same. The content of the workshops was informed by real-world data on drug and alcohol use in Redcar & Cleveland and surrounding areas. This data was gathered from various services, including 'With You', and supplemented with local knowledge from youth workers and police.

As the project grew, the team expanded the scope of information provided to include not just drug and alcohol misuse, but also the potential dangers of vaping, a trend that has seen a significant rise among young people.

The team recognised from past experience that knowledge alone may not deter young people from taking risks, due to curiosity and peer pressure. Therefore, they designed a new approach. The aim was to allow young people to explore realistic scenarios that could help them make informed choices around substance use, highlighting the potential dangers.

The focus was on empowering young people to 'play safe' and to consider how other factors such as mood and setting can impact their experiences. The program emphasized that their choices could have both positive and negative consequences, both in the short and long term.

The workshops were entirely led by the young people themselves, exploring what they already knew, what they were involved in, and building knowledge scenarios in their heads of what could happen. The goal was to hopefully prevent, or at least make them question their choices when they found themselves in risk-taking situations.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, an impressive total of 2808 young people participated in our school roadshows, demonstrating the reach and impact of this vital initiative.

**2,808**  
Engaged

"Informative but not formal, right level for children. Well engaged. 10/10"  
(Teacher feedback Teesville Y6)

"The session was extremely well picked for the age group. It was realistic, and clearly made students think and reflect. It was informative as students expressed surprise at some of the facts shared."  
(LJS Y10)



"Students answers were valued and respected. Both ladies gave the children highly specific information but broken down so they could understand the dangers of drugs. Children were engaged and felt confident to ask questions" (Outwood Normanby Y9)

***Teacher Feedback***



**Breakthrough Music Project** – ‘Breakthrough Music’ & ‘Tuned In! 2 Music’ provides young people from Redcar & Cleveland with high quality, creative and enriching music activities and workshops.

This project collaborates with community musicians, music leaders and youth workers to deliver a youth led music activities program and also provides performance opportunities at local community events.

From June 2023 Tuned In! have delivered a wide range of music-making activities including DJ workshops, instrument tuition, songwriting and performance opportunities at local events including the Christmas Light Switch On, Kirkleatham Christmas Markets and our bi-weekly open mic showcase events at Tuned In!

Tuned In! acts as the main central music hub with the majority of sessions delivered reflecting this. With a total of 36 sessions being delivered at Tuned In! 6 sessions delivered at Skelton Youth & Community Centre, 7 sessions have been delivered at 25k Youth & Community Centre and 3 sessions have been delivered at Grangetown Youth & Community Centre. Over 130 young people have participated in some element of the project so far.

As part of the project, young people have the opportunity to work towards a Rock School Grade (RSL) in their chosen instrument. In May, one of our members Caleb successfully passed his Debut Grade exam, allowing him to be placed at a higher grade level for his RSL Guitar Grade.

The project continues to deliver a series of taster sessions in East Cleveland and Greater Eston Localities along with the ‘Tuned In! 2 Music’ weekly sessions in Redcar.



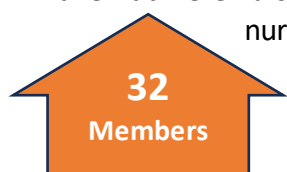
**Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)** - The new elections took place at Tuned In, 15th February 24, with congratulations to Sophie Bloomfield, from Laurence Jackson School for being elected as the new Member of Youth Parliament for Redcar and Cleveland and Simron Dhillon, from Normanby Outwood School being elected as Deputy Member of Youth Parliament.

Sophie said: ***"I'm so grateful to being given this position and opportunity and I'm really looking forward to working with Simran to see what great ideas we can come up with put into action in the near future."***

Sophie and Dhillon are working closely together, one of their passions is to get as many young people as possible to learn British Sign Language. They are both currently working on collating a piece of work to be delivered across Youth Centres and schools across RCBC.



**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 32 new 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 at Tuned In! and 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. Morrisons donated a sweet hamper to the group to celebrate Pride month. This year our group have been involved in trip's including going to Sunny Con at Newcastle St James Park with other groups from Tuned In. Sewing has been a big thing for the group activities, games, music sessions, arts and crafts.



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.'***



## 25K Youth & Community Fundraising Group

A group of young people from Redcar and Cleveland, supported by youth work staff from the 25K Youth and Community Centre, showed how strong their Christmas Spirit 2023 by making donations to various charities and causes within their local communities.

They are called the 25K Fundraisers and every year, starting all the way from January, they start doing activities and organising fundraising events so that they can make donations at Christmas time to people and causes in need.

By Christmas 2023, they managed to raise over £3,000 which was no easy task. To raise this sum, the young people, aged between 8 and 13 years, organised coffee mornings, Easter and Christmas fundraisers, Halloween parties both for babies and older children, car washing and bag packing.

The money went towards the Redcar Food Bank in the form of food donations and a cheque, The Senses Wellbeing Centre, The S.A.R.A Animal Rescue charity both as a cheque and food for the animals. The young people also used part of the money to put together hampers for the local care homes and families who attend the youth centre, as well as offering biscuit hampers to the residents living near the centre.

Ethan aged 13, has joined the group back in 2020, he said: "I initially joined the group because it seemed like a lot of fun, but being able to help some of the people living here makes me really happy." Evangeline aged 11, joined the group 3 years ago, and she fully enjoys what they are doing: "I liked doing all these activities to fundraise the money, especially the Halloween and Christmas parties and I'm happy the money is going to good causes."



**Fund Raising Group**

## Holiday Activity with Food (HAF) Programme

The Youth & Community Service was successful in securing funding to deliver Holiday Activity with Food (HAF) during the easter and summer holidays 2023 - 24.

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 programmes offering an amazing **520** places for the summer and **340** places for the Easter periods.



The programme included a wide range of exciting activities with those on offer including sports, trips, team games, arts and crafts, music workshops, beach walks, gardening, and some members met some amazing birds from the 'Bird of Prey Bus'.



### HAF Holiday Activity Fun

Healthy Eating, Games, Environment  
Projects, Music, Meeting Creatures,  
Sports, Dance, Arts & Crafts, Pantomime  
& Fun Trips with Friends



## 6 Youth Service Delivery

### Youth Service Curriculum

Following the curriculum that aligns with the National Youth Agency curriculum not only helps youth workers to devise a wide and varied range of activities and non-formal learning opportunities for young people, but it also helps young people to recognise the areas in which they are developing skills, knowledge and confidence as they make their journey through adolescence.

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 themes of youth work

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



Learning life skills –  
how to budget and shop



Skills in Planning Trips - young people planned a visit  
to the local scary Scream Factory



Music & film making skills



Halloween Party  
Fun



## Youth Activities

### Recorded Outcomes

The youth service supported its members to achieve 2168 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.



**Cooking skills and designing bikes for the Yorkshire Cycle race**

## 7 Young People's Voices and Choices 2023-24

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

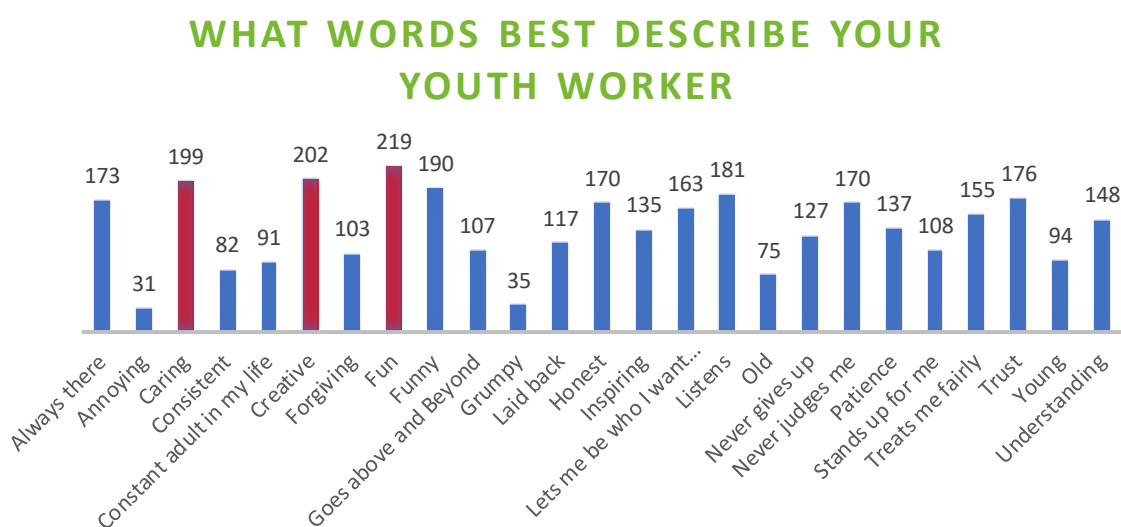
Gaining the voice of the child is a main priority for our youth service and we actively encourage young people to help shape and plan sessions. Youth workers involve young people in the planning of youth club content, supporting them with ideas and identifying new trends and issues. This can be regional 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 have been vital in being involved in recruitment of various youth staff.

#### Youth Service Satisfaction Survey

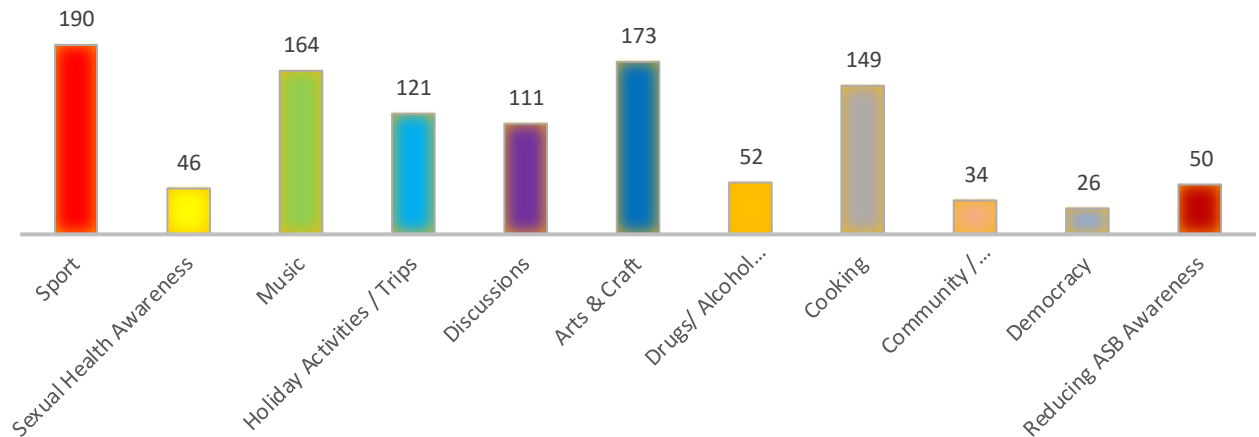
The youth service completes an annual satisfaction survey. This year **311** members took part over a 2-month period, equating to 50% of those attending at that time. The survey is broken into three areas, about the members themselves, the youth centre, and the youth workers. Our Neighbourhood Youth 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.

**On the survey young people were asked what words best describe their Youth Worker** Fun, Creative and Caring being the top three answers, indicates young people attend youth clubs voluntarily because the youth workers engage them in a fun way, as well as caring for them as individuals which allows them to gain informal learning through creative youth work.



The 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:

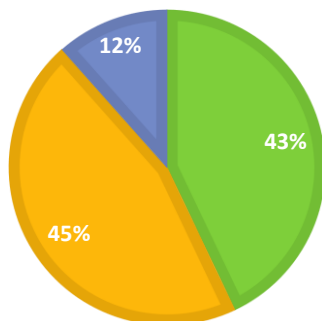
## WHICH ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN YOUR YOUTH CLUB



Below is some of the feedback from the survey questions:

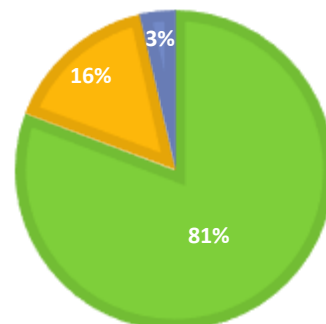
**Is coming to youth club an important part of your life?**

Very Important      Important      Not Very Important



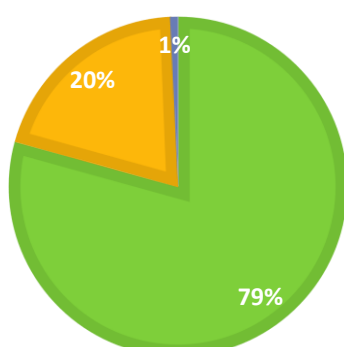
**Do you feel safe in the youth club?**

Always      Most of the time      Some of the time



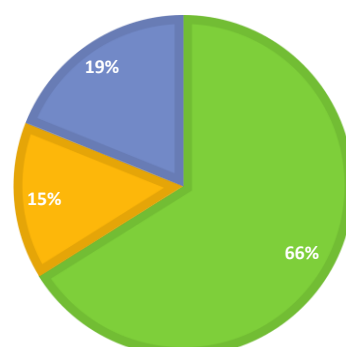
**We try to make the centre/project friendly and welcoming, have we achieved this?**

Always      Most of the time      Some of the time



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

Definitely      A little      Hasn't changed me





## 7.2 Employment and Volunteering Opportunities

### **Opportunities**

During 2023 -24 within the youth service, **3** young people with a long-term paid work experience placement, **9** volunteers and several peer mentors.

### **Work Experience**

3 amazing young people were appointed to become paid youth workers for 7.5 hours per week each over a six-month period. Working across East Cleveland and Central youth centres they included a wonderful young man with special learning needs supporting the junior youth group at 25K Youth & Community Centre.

### **Volunteering**

Youth sessions are mainly delivered for 2.5hrs on weekday evenings, and therefore provide a great opportunity for local residents, family members and young adults to become volunteers, which can support them with their first steps into or back into employment. Over the years we have had many examples of volunteers becoming paid youth workers.

### **Peer Mentoring**

Within the youth sessions and projects, young people have an opportunity to become Peer Mentors taking on responsibilities working alongside the youth workers. There are many examples of young people starting as members, becoming peer mentors, and then moving on to become volunteers and eventually paid youth workers.

## 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)



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

Z attended Grangetown Youth & Community centre and youth workers were concerned about Z negative behaviours and referred to YWP, where they started to meet Z at the centre on an evening to build up a relationship. The Police had also put a referral through Huddle for Z, as YWP were already working with him they continued to deliver the targeted intervention work.

Mum was reaching out for help as she felt things were at crisis point with Z. She had to stop working because of it and her partner moved out as they couldn't cope with Z behaviour, she described it as being a prisoner in her own home. Z was breaking out of the home in the night, going out with a big gang of young people wearing balaclavas and riding quad bikes, weapons were found in the house belonging to Z friends and the group were getting in trouble with the Police for anti-social and criminal behaviours. YWP worked swiftly investing time in Z including being persistent in his communication and again, listened to Z likes, worries and wishes. Z is now contacting the YWP lead to meet up which shows he is happy and welcoming of the support. Mum has reported that since the YWP interventions Z has had a huge change in behaviour and there are no longer worries about him going missing or who he is hanging around with in the community.

YWP strength in this case has been building a relationship very informally with Z during youth club and spending time each week to check in with him and get to know him, this allowed Z time to realise YWP were there for him and could be relied on.

## Case Study 2: Join Us - Engagement and Personal Progression

J began attending one to one sessions at the Join Us Disability Group in May 2023.

He initially attended the one-to-one group due to his higher level of emotional and behavioural support needs. He was known to be a flight risk; he could become verbally challenging towards others and was even involved in vandalising the youth centre at one point.

Through spending an intense period of time building a positive relationship with J, consulting with parents and engaging him in activities that with support he chose and planned, the staff team have gradually built a very strong relationship with him.

He is now one of the most engaging members of the one-to-one sessions, he is able to speak to staff and tell them what he wants, what he wishes to do and also what he does and doesn't like.

He has even began practicing some independence skills such as shopping with support, basic cash handling and some basic cooking/snack making.

The relationship building has been paramount to developing his positive communication with adults and peers and although this has taken time it has been an investment in this young person's life and helped him develop life skills that he can transfer to other environments.

His increase in confidence, the ability to communicate his wants and needs and his willingness to communicate have led to a decrease in his feelings of frustration and the emotional and behavioural incidents that were seen on a weekly basis when he first began attending sessions.

J is now, after a year within the one-to-one service, looking to progress into the non-complex youth group sessions where he will be able to interact with more peers, engage with a different staff team and continue his social and emotional growth and development.

## Case Study 3: Streetz Detached Front Line Working

Whilst the Streetz team were out delivering detached youth work they were made aware by young people about an under 18's disco being held that evening at a local establishment, the night before Christmas eve. Using this knowledge the Streetz team decided to travel to the venue to offer any support to young people if required. When they arrived, there was dozens of young people out on the high street in various vulnerable and worrying states. The police had also been called, and to support the situation the Streetz team jumped into action after spotting several incidents, including an unconscious 15-year-old female outside a local pub where Streetz youth workers administered first aid until paramedics arrived. Another example was a young female very vulnerable staggering around the High Street under the influence of alcohol and vomiting, the Streetz Team immediately went to her support, bringing her to the safety of the Streetz Youth Van and contacting her mum to update her on the situation. The mum was very distraught on hearing about her daughter but so grateful to the Streetz team for helping and ensuring she was safe and on collection of her daughter couldn't thank the team enough.

A young boy (11) from Eston area was identified through local police and ASB teams to be engaging in anti-social behaviour, lighting fires in and around the Whale Hill area. The Streetz team built up a relationship with him whilst delivering their detached outreach youth work, they engaged him in activities on the youth van and then were able to start offering him support. Due to the positive relationship and respect built he agreed to attend Grangetown Youth & Community Centre for 1:1 support and this encouraged him to home in on positive activities he enjoyed. The Streetz Team helped him to join a local boxing club and become a member of GYCC youth club, he is now a regular attendee at both and is doing very well.

## Case Study 4: Non-complex CWD

### **The importance of relationship building and informal support systems.**

Z has disabilities that include learning disability and autism and have needed support throughout their life from therapeutic services which have included CAMHS and post adoption support.

Z has been known to CWD Youth Services since they were 12 years of age. They were initially supported on an outreach basis after a referral for support from their social worker.

After accessing outreach support Z began to regularly attend youth groups and during their time with the service they have made good friendship groups, joined in many projects that included things like mental health awareness, sexual health & relationships, internet safety, anti-bullying, drugs & alcohol awareness, and they also participated in consultation groups and staff interviews.

As Z progressed from secondary school and into college they began to make new friends, they settled well in college but would still access youth groups regularly.

Their attendance became less frequent at sessions as they made their transition into adulthood and had commitments such as a college placement and voluntary work. They had also found themselves a long-term boyfriend too. They were doing more activities independently, but they would still touch base with staff at youth group on occasions.

After a few months non-attendance Z's parent got in touch and asked if it was possible for them to come back to the service and for them both to meet up with staff and talk through some issues they had experienced while away from RCBC Youth Services. Parent explained that during their time away from the service Z had been victim of a sexual assault which had been reported to police. Z was very

anxious about the police interviews and the investigation process, did not feel safe outside of the family home and had asked parent if a staff member from youth group could help them.

It was agreed that Z could be supported, and throughout the investigation process the staff member supported Z and their parent, attended police interviews with them, liaised with specialist police officers, supported Z in making their video statement and during meetings to prepare them to attend court. The support involved being present for Z and their parent, listening to their worries and concerns and helping them access safe spaces for interviews and discussions with other professionals.

Because Z was classified as a vulnerable witness and there were assessments around their cognitive ability and communication skills, they were also supported to access the SARC.

Support included attending Crown Court with Z and their parents where Z gave evidence at via video link. Z is still accessing support from the youth service when they need it.

## 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**

Business Support Assistants

**Debbie Catchpole**

**Clare Smitheringale**

Receptionists

**40 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 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**