

INTRODUCTION

Hello everyone and welcome to the first edition of Young Lives, the magazine that brings you all the latest news from voluntary and community children and youth organisations in the Wakefield District.

Like the eye on VYON, Young Lives is full of the latest news and issues affecting your group. We have updates from our partners, the latest funding available, up-coming meetings and events plus lots more!

Thanks to everyone that helped in putting together this first edition.



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

My name is Barrie Cash and I Chair Young Lives. For a day job I also run star Bereavement and Support Services for children and young people, providing a counselling and support service.

Young Lives the network has involved a lot of work from many people.

We are now in a position to shape the agenda of the decision makers by enabling the voices and

concerns of voluntary and community groups to be taken into account by those who have to take decisions.

Sometimes this can mean hard decisions because the amount of money available is limited. We aim to ensure that when the Local Authority, Primary Care Trust, School or College think about things and create policy that they have the views of those who are working everyday with children and young people themselves.

To do this we need as many people as possible to be involved and we have made money available to compensate groups for the time they spend representing the view of the groups.

We need your participation if all the voices are to be heard.

Barrie Cash

WHAT IS YOUNG LIVES?



Young Lives

www.ylc.org.uk

Young Lives is a body of organisations that works with and provides services to voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups working with children, young people and families across the Wakefield Metropolitan District. The main aim of Young Lives is to represent, support and strengthen these groups and assist them to develop services for children and young people.

Young Lives is not a new concept and there are similar networks all over the country.

Membership of Young Lives is open to all voluntary and community organisations that support children and young people. Meetings and events are held regularly.

If you are interesting in joining Young Lives or for further information contact Sheila Swainson.

Telephone: 01924 304345

or Email: sheila.swainson@barnardos.org.uk

If you would like to join us please fill out the application form in the centre of this booklet.

SPOTLIGHT - PRINCE'S TRUST

Youth charity The Prince's Trust helps change young lives. It gives practical and financial support, developing key workplace skills such as confidence and motivation.

It works with 14-30 year-olds who have struggled at school, have been in care, are long-term unemployed or have been in trouble with the law. In Yorkshire and Humber, there are more than 100,000 young people who need The Trust's help.

Our Team programme is just one way the Prince's Trust helps young people, with 70% of young people completing the course going into employment, education or training.

Laura Hill 17, from Castleford was one of these young people. Before she came to the Trust she found herself struggling at college, 'I dropped out and found myself unable to get a job, I was unsure about where my life was heading and what I was getting into,' explains Laura. 'I felt depressed and struggled to get out of bed in the morning.'

The 12-week course looked exciting and I hoped to pick up new skills. The Programme is fast paced and sees young people developing their practical skills, confidence and meet new friends.'

'I heard about the Prince's Trust's team programme through a friend and attended the taster day in Wakefield. getting involved in a community project and team challenge as well as going on a 5 day residential.



The residential was brilliant it challenged me to do things I had never done before and I even over came my fear of heights. I am more motivated since finishing the programme and up for trying new things. I plan to go back 'to college in September to do A-level graphics.'

'I wish I could do the programme again! I am more confident have loads of things to put on my CV and really want to get on in my life.'

'The biggest challenge was completing the 12 week programme, I wasn't normally a person who stuck at things but I believe team has changed my attitude. I feel really proud to have got my certificate and will continue to see things through to the end in the future.' 'Definitely get in touch with The Prince's Trust, you can meet new friends, have fun and learn new skills that will get you a job,' commented Laura.

More than three in four young people helped by The Trust last year moved into work, education or training. There are plenty of 'opportunities to get involved so for further information about The Prince's Trust call 0800 842 842 or visit www.princes-trust.org.uk

YOUNG LIVES NEWS

Young Lives is *your* network. Let us know what your priorities are and how we can support your group. So far funding and safeguarding children and young people are some of key priorities you have asked the network to focus on.

YOUNG LIVES FUNDING EVENT

Thanks to everyone that attended the Young Lives Funding Event in South Elmsall.

Support was on hand for groups to find out about funding for children's and youth groups. If you missed the event but want to find out about the funders please go to page 16, or visit the Young Lives website for funding information

Dosh Donners, Voluntary Action Wakefield District, Extended Schools, Coalfield Regeneration Trust, the Princes Trust and the My Life Team were all on hand to hear about your different ideas and to see if they could help.

'Meeting the funders made a real difference in understanding what they are offering'

Special thanks to all the funders, John Tollick from the Young People's Support Service and Marcia and Lynn at the library for hosting the event.

THANK YOU FUNDAMENTAL

For many years Dave Hirst, the Chief Executive of Fundamental, Michelle Minett and the Fundamental Team have played a key role in supporting Voluntary youth services locally, coordinating the Voluntary Youth Network. Their support has been crucial in the development of Young Lives.

Due to commitments within Fundamental they have had to withdraw from their role in supporting the coordination of Young Lives. So we would like to say a huge thank you to Dave and the team for their consistent support.

To find out more about fundamental, contact them at:

(t) 01977 614300

(e) info@fundamental.org

(w) www.fundamentalcharity.co.uk

Fundamental
Priory Business Park
The Hub
Fitzwilliam, Pontefract
West Yorkshire
WF9 5BZ

YOUNG LIVES NEWS

SERIOUS CASE REVIEWS BRIEFING

If a child under 18 dies or is seriously injured a serious case review is held. If your service provided a service to the child, your group will be involved in the review.

The Young Lives Safeguarding Board Representative Janice Hawkes held a briefing on the serious case reviews and for a copy of the briefing please contact Young Lives or go to the website below. Janice represents the voluntary and community groups on the Wakefield Safeguarding Children Board.

www.ylc.org.uk/safeguarding/

YOUNG LIVES - GET INVOLVED

Want to be a part of Young Lives?

Represent the views and issues of Young Lives in your organisation.

We are looking for people from groups and individuals to become Young Lives representatives. To find out more read pages 9-12.

Do you want to improve play facilities for children and young people in South Elmsall?

VOX members have identified this as an issue if your group can help please get in touch.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN EVENT - CASTLEFORD

Groups had the opportunity to meet with Richard Fawcett the Safeguarding Manager, Jane McGill the Safeguarding Children Board trainer, Gill Newy the Child Well Being Coordinator and Janice Hawkes the Safeguarding Children Board Rep to find out more about the role of the Safeguarding Children Board and how they can access free multi agency training and e-learning.

Your views from the event will help Young Lives, the Safeguarding Children Board and VAWD develop a training course for trustees and managers For more information please go to the Safeguarding Information Pages 13-14 or visit the website:

www.ylc.org.uk/safeguarding

YOUNG LIVES NEWS

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH COMMISSIONING

The way groups can access funding is changing and many services are being 'commissioned' by the local authority where previously funding might have been provided by Lottery Grants, Children's Fund and Connexions.

Young Lives held a forum meeting on the 15th December where those attending had the chance to put their questions about commissioning to Cheryl Hobson the Assistant Director for Family Services.

Young Lives is also developing a toolkit and support to assist groups explore whether commissioning is right for them. There will be training and mentoring and support for groups.

JUST DO IT!

Just do it! is a new project that will run until March 09 for Children and Young People's Voluntary Groups in the district that work with children aged primarily 5-13. It will provide the opportunity for groups to take part in workshops and share their expertise in how they tackle issues important to them as individuals and as a group, it will also share information about services and how the services aim to make a difference to children and young people.

Would your group want to get involved?

If so please contact The My Life Team:

Telephone: 01977 722020

YOUNG LIVES WEBSITE LAUNCHED - WWW.YLC.ORG.UK

The Young Lives Website was launched this month. The website provides you with loads of useful information. You can share your news and views, find out about events, funding and support for your group.

We will be working alongside VAWD, Fit for Funding and VOX to ensure the portal and Young Lives maximize sharing of information and support.

Visit us on: www.ylc.org.uk

THE SINGLE PORTAL

Organisations in Wakefield District are working together to develop a web portal to support Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations in the Wakefield District and improve how all the sectors work together.

VCS organisations are being invited to complete a single portal registration form to ensure they are present on this website when it launches in 2009.

Key features of the single portal for and about Wakefield District's VCS will include:

- Searchable directory of VCS organisations and monitoring data.
- Facilities to enable VCS organisations to be able to communicate with each other more easily, publicise their achievements (examples include blogs and discussion forums) and share resources.
- Training directory and calendar designed to help build capacity of the VCS
- Toolkits and other capacity building tools, policy documents, funding Opportunities and consultations for VCS organisations.

VCS organisations can also download a copy of this form to print out and complete at the www.vawd.org.uk website. If you would prefer to receive a printed copy of this form by post or are interested in supporting the development of this website (e.g. testing how it works) please contact VAWD:

Email: maria.langham@vawd.org.uk

Telephone: **01924 367 418**

or write to:

Maria Langham, Single Portal Manager,
Voluntary Action Wakefield District,
11 Upper York Street,
Wakefield, WF1 3QL

NEWS FROM THE MACHINE

WAKEFIELD DISTRICT CHILDREN'S TRUST AND CHILDREN'S PLAN

Many of you will be familiar with the Lord Laming Enquiry that took place into the death of Victoria Climbié. Lord Laming was asked to conduct an enquiry and made recommendations to improve services for children.

Victoria was known to professionals, and many members of the community had raised concerns. Among Lord Laming's findings and recommendations was the need for services to be integrated and to ensure services focus on the child / young person to improve their safety. This report gave real impetus to the Children Act 2004. As a result of this, every local authority must have a Children's Trust and an independent Safeguarding Children's Board.



Victoria's mother sharing her concerns that lessons still had not been learnt



Victoria Climbié (above)

However Lord Laming and Victoria's mother spoke over the summer of their fears that lessons had not been learnt.

More recently with the tragic death of the baby know as Baby P, Ed Balls has announced that Ofsted will conduct a review of all Children's Trusts.

In the Wakefield District the Children's Action Plan is currently out for consultation.

The Trust has taken on board Lord Laming's recommendations and has joined service together. This has seen big changes in how services are organized, for example bringing together the Youth Offending Team and the Young People's Service.

NEWS FROM THE MACHINE

The Children's Trust is also now accountable for lots of funding that previously supported children and young people's services located in the voluntary and community sector.

It is important that good practice of voluntary and community groups' participation in decision making through, for example, Connexions and the Children's Fund continues and develops.

Young Lives has a key role in supporting groups to have a voice in the development of Wakefield District's Children's Trust.

The Children and Young People's Plan is underpinned by Wakefield District's vision for children and young people of 'Safe, Supported and Fulfilled'.

Therefore there is a place on many of the groups and boards for VCS representatives to ensure all the different services plan, develop and evaluate together.

Each group has a specific remit, but the focus must remain to ensure the child or young person is at the centre of decisions. The focus of all activity is to make positive differences for children and young people across the district.

Become a representative on one of the Children's Trust Groups

Young Lives have developed:

A set of protocols to assist VCS representatives in their role which will be provided.

Systems for feeding back to groups through the newsletter and the website.

Will provide training or peer support for representatives if requested.

All representatives will be compensated for their time and expenses

HOW YOUR SERVICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

To have your say in the Children's Plan go to: **www.ylc.org.uk**

Or contact Young Lives and we will send you a printed copy.

Take part in our quarterly focus groups have a chance to have your say on:

- What the needs are for children and young people
- Whether the action is making positive differences for the children and young people you support
- The progress of the Children's Trust

Please see the next few pages for representative vacancies.

REPRESENTATIVE VACANCIES

Places available for the VCS Representatives on Wakefield District's Children's Trust

Your role will be to represent the children and young people's voluntary and community sector within Wakefield District's Children's Trust

- Share the views of the sector at the meetings
- Consult with other children and young people's VCS groups

What Young Lives offers in return?

- We will reimburse your organisation for your time and costs
 - Peer support from your VCS colleagues

For details on how to apply contact Young Lives on 01924 304345 or email sheila.swainson@barnardos.org.uk or visit the website Young Lives needs your applications for the **1st February 2009**.

Supported Agenda

We need representatives to speak for the VCS groups and the needs of children and young people they work alongside on

- Disabled Children/Special Educational Needs Programme Board
- Early Childhood & Extended Services Programme Board
- Attendance Partnership
- Play Partnership
- Parenting Strategy Group
- Traveller's Support Group
- Involving Young People inter-agency group
- South Asian Community Forum

REPRESENTATIVE VACANCIES

Young Lives has places available for voluntary and community representatives on

The Safe and Healthy Sub Group

This group oversees the development of services that assist children to be safe and healthy. We also need representatives to sit on the groups that report to the Safe and Healthy subgroup. They include:

- CAMHS Strategy Group
- Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Management Board
- Looked After Children Strategic Group
- Domestic Abuse Strategy Implementation Group
- Anti- Social Behaviour Steering Group
- Pontefract and Wakefield Child Accident Prevention Group
- Childhood Obesity Strategy Group
- Healthy Schools Strategic Partnership
- Maternity Services Liaison Committee
- Children's Network Group
- Anti-bullying Strategy Group

To find out more contact Young Lives on **01924 304345**
or email sheila.swainson@barnardos.org.uk

Fulfilled Agenda

We need representatives to speak for the VCS groups and the needs of children and young people they work alongside on

- Young People's Strategic Partnership
- Targeted Youth Support Steering Group
- Central Learning Community Forum
- North East Learning Community Forum
- South East Learning Community Forum

SAFEGUARDING

Please find the latest news from the Wakefield District Safeguarding Children Board and projects related to safeguarding.

Improving Children and Young People's Well Being

Do you run regular activities and services in your community for children, young people or families?

If so you need to find out more about the Child Well Being Project. The project can support and train your workers / volunteers to:

- Recognise and respond to key signs of need
- Know about the Common Assessment Basics
- Know how to have a Common Assessment completed or how to complete one

Contact: Gill Newey

Tel: 01924 307423

or email gnewey@wakefield.gov.uk

For information just Google:
'Wakefield Child Well Being Model'
to access the website.

Do you work with Young People that are sexually exploited or at risk of sexual exploitation?

Fiona Broadfoot is conducting a mapping exercise to find out more contact Fiona on 01924 211117

SAFEGUARDING

What to do if you are worried a child is being abused...

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child, you should discuss these concerns with the designated person in your agency. If you do not have a designated person, you should ring Social Care Direct on 0845 8503503. You will be able to speak to a social care professional, who will be able to listen to your concerns and make arrangements for any action to be taken as necessary. A professional who makes a referral to Social Care Direct cannot remain anonymous, and must follow up their telephone referral in writing. Social Care Direct will provide feedback to the referrer.

The DCSF guidance "What to do if you're worried a child is being abused" provides further details, and can be found at www.everychildmatters.gov.uk. Copies can be ordered free of charge by organisations, alternatively contact WDSCB.

WDSCB Multi-Agency Training

Multi Agency courses are available free of charge to anyone who works with children in the Wakefield district, regardless of their setting or organisation.

The new training brochure will be available in early 2009. For further information, including how to apply, go to www.wakefield.gov.uk/lscb

Or contact Jane McGill (Training Officer)
or Liz Rimmington (Training Support Officer).

lrimmington@wakefield.gov.uk , jmcgill@wakefield.gov.uk
Telephone: 01924 304147

West Yorkshire Inter-Agency Safeguarding Children Procedures - Updates

Wakefield has joined with Kirklees, Calderdale and Leeds to develop joint procedures for safeguarding children. This means that professionals in different agencies across these four Local Safeguarding Children Boards all now work to the same set of agreed procedures. These procedures are published electronically, and can be found on the Wakefield and District Safeguarding Children Board web-page www.wakefield.gov.uk/lscb

FUNDING

Study Support

We have asked Judy Morrissey to tell us about Study Support Small Grants.

What is the purpose of Study Support?

Its purpose is to improve young people's motivation, build their self-esteem and help them to become more effective learners.

What is study support?

Study support is a learning activity outside normal lessons and involves activities which children and young people take part in voluntarily. Some examples of what study support includes; homework and study clubs help with key skills, sports, games, and adventurous outdoor activities, creative ventures, residential events – study weeks or weekends, opportunities for volunteering activities in the school or community, mentoring and community services.

When can study support take place?

Study support can take place during the school day (not during formal lessons), evenings, weekends or holidays.

What can your group apply for?

Groups can access up to £1000 funding to deliver study support sessions or formalising study support activities you already offer.

You can apply for equipment, training, delivery of activities, rent etc

You must be able to evidence how you will ensure the activities are sustainable and will continue after the funding has been utilised.

For further information or an application form and guidance please contact Judith Morrissey on **01924 302274** or email **jmorrissey@wakefield.gov.uk**

It's your Community

Awards of up to £1,000 are available to local groups and individuals for anything that can be shown to benefit your community. The awards are independently judged and administered by The Conservation Foundation on behalf of O2.

They support projects that bring people together and benefit your community.

Full details are on the website: www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk

FUNDING



For further information:
Call free on **0800 842 842**
www.princes-trust.org.uk

Purpose?

To help young people set up a project that will benefit their community.

Who can apply?

Projects must:

- be run and managed by people between 14 and 25
- clearly benefit the local community
- benefit the people running the project; and
- be a new or developing project.

What can groups apply for?

- Funding up to **£1,000** for **14-16** year olds
- Funding up to **£5,000** for those aged **16-25**



www.coalfields-regen.org.uk
Tel. 01709 760 272

Purpose?

Developing ideas and projects that address key issues such as worklessness, isolation, skills, sector development and sustainability. The Trust is always interested in working with partners to deliver projects and programmes that will contribute to the regeneration of coalfields communities.

Who can apply?

Most voluntary and community organisations and groups working to regenerate coalfield communities are eligible to apply to us for funding this includes statutory bodies such as local authorities

What can groups apply for?

grants from our 'community chest' to small organisations to help them develop, and at the other end we give large grants of up to £300,000 to bigger voluntary, community and statutory organisations.



Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Funded by the Office of the Third Sector

01924 789 166

Purpose?

To improve the quality of life of local people in the City of Wakefield Metropolitan District. To support community groups grow and develop.

Who can apply?

Projects that are run by local people, for local people in the Wakefield District and support disadvantaged communities and help people in greatest need.

What can groups apply for?

Community Groups can apply for up to £5,000 to develop and grow.