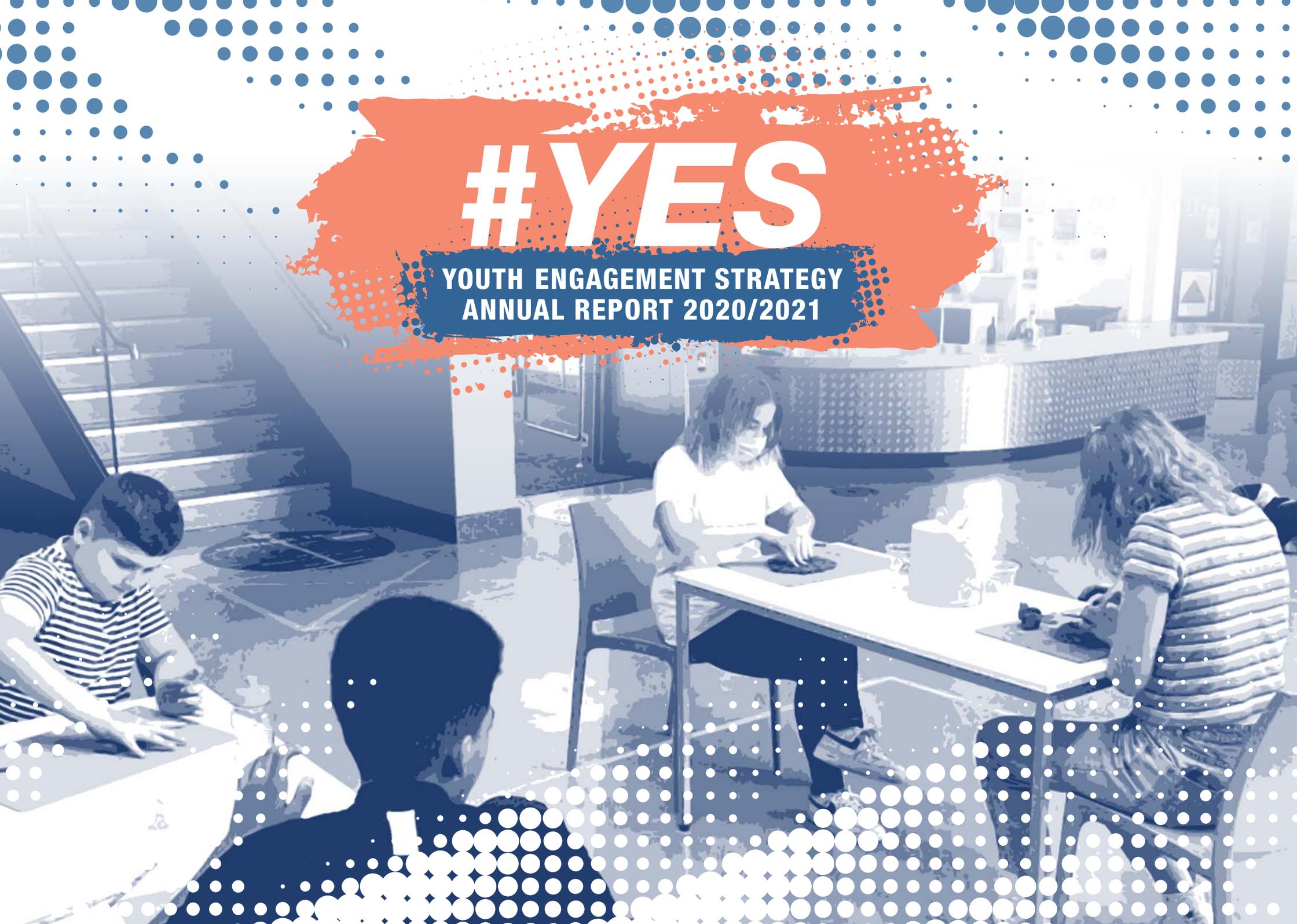


#YES

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY
ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021



This is the first annual report of #YES



This is the first annual report of the **Youth Engagement Strategy (#YES)**, which was launched in January 2020. An ambitious strategy that puts children and young people at its centre, it sets out our commitment to ensuring that children and young people in Wolverhampton live happy and healthy lives.

'The City of Wolverhampton wants to ensure that every child and young person has the self-esteem, resilience and social skills they need to succeed in life.'

#YES Focusses on 3 themes;



Success is where Children and young people

- have fun and enjoy leisure time
- are physically and mentally healthy
- are respected and their opinions valued
- learn and achieve
- live in safety and stability

#YES 12 months on 'What we Did'

Implementing a new strategy in the middle of a global pandemic has proved challenging. However, with the drive and passion of our young people, #YES has made significant progress.



New Coproduction and Engagement Team

To support young people and oversee the implementation of the strategy, a new Coproduction and Engagement Team was established. The team sits within Children's Services under Partnerships and Strategy. It consists of one manager and 4 officers who each have thematic leads.

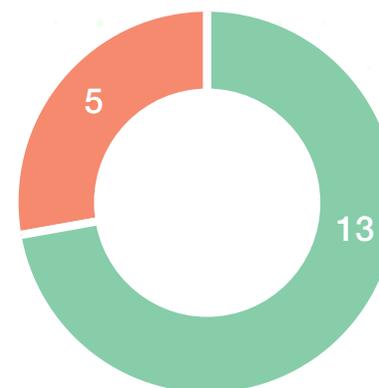
Youth Engagement Strategic Board

#YES is committed to ensuring young people drive the strategy ambitions and they have the infrastructure in place to influence. That they have the infrastructure in place to influence, design and implement plans. The Youth Strategic Board was set in Nov 2020. A recruitment drive took place over the summer, encouraging young people to become board members.

Youth Engagement Strategic Board consists of 18 members

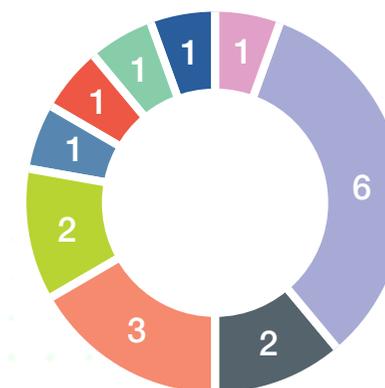
Gender

- Female
- Male



Ages

- 12 years
- 13 years
- 14 years
- 15 years
- 16 years
- 17 years
- 18 years
- 19 years
- 20 years



#YES has representation from

ACCI

B-Safe champions

Empire Kick Boxing

Gazebo

IASS Forum

Keem Youth Shout Out

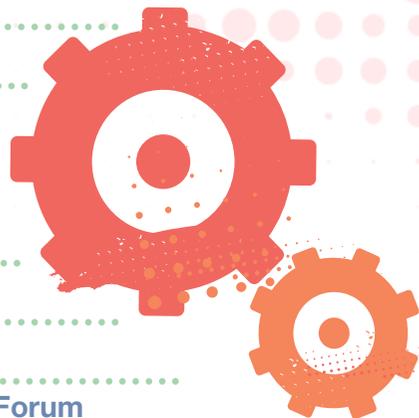
Next of Kin Dance Academy

West Midlands Transport Youth Forum

Wolverhampton Music School

Young Voice

YPCC



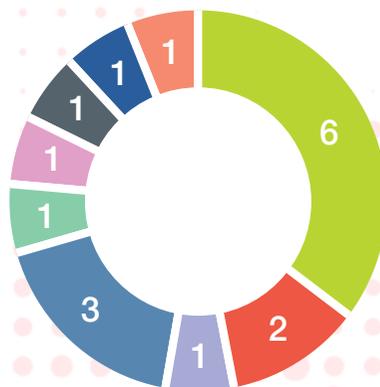
#YES Structure

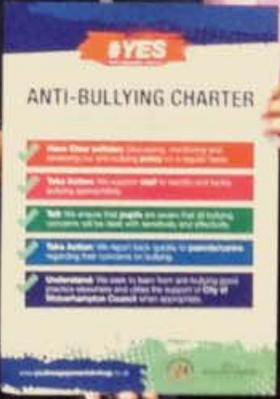
The following groups sit underneath the Youth Engagement Strategic Board:



Wards

- Bilston North
- Blakenhall
- Graiseley
- Oxley
- Park
- Spring vale
- St Peters
- Tettenhall Wightwick
- Wednesfield South





#YES 3 Themes, 12 months on

BEING HEALTHY

| <i>We said we would</i> | <i>We actually did</i> |
|---|---|
| <p>Promote positive stories about young people to help redress negativity sometimes shown towards them in the media.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #YES promoted National Teachers and gave thanks to teachers • Young people led a kindness conference during mental health awareness week • Lockdown Videos produced by Care leavers Forum and Children in Care Council • Videos of young people promoting positive messages • Videos about identity in response to BLM • Supported in delivering Covid-19 messages about being safe |
| <p>Work through the emotional wellbeing mental health Partnership to develop emotional wellbeing services for young people.</p> | <p>Young people were involved in retendering of emotional wellbeing services; putting together evaluation questions and assessing tenders.</p> |
| <p>Provide and promote more physical activity opportunities for young people.</p> | <p>#YES awarded grants as part of WV Holiday squad, encouraging physical activity. This included; boxing, archery, dancing, football and yoga. Over 3000 young people participated in activities.</p>  |

BEING HEALTHY

We said we would

Support schools citywide to provide a PSHE curriculum offer to address issues highlighted

We actually did

17 schools, 1390 pupils have received the toolkit wellbeing sessions.

BEING CONNECTED

We said we would

Build on the success of Summer Squad and pledge to provide activities during the school holidays. A platform will be created Wolves Holiday Squad where activities will be promoted.

We actually did

A platform has been created, called 'WV Holiday Squad'



In response to Covid-19, Easter Holiday squad was held virtually. Many providers adapted their services to enable them to be delivered virtually, and website went live on 2 April 2020.

There were on average 93 activities ranging from art and crafts (most popular), learning, cooking entertainment, sport, music, wellbeing and SEND specific.

BEING CONNECTED

We said we would

Build on the success of Summer Squad and pledge to provide activities during the school holidays. A platform will be created Wolves Holiday Squad where activities will be promoted.

We actually did

There was also a section for parents. The site has had 23,135 unique visitors.

Over the summer, with the easing of lockdown, we quickly developed face to face activities ensuring Covid compliance.

- Social distancing meant that no more than 15 young people could participate in the group activities.
- Majority of activities took place outdoors, utilising our local parks
- Activities ranged from art, crafts, football, archery, cookery, summer camp and mother and baby groups.
- Targeted work in Whitmore Reans, Heath Town, Bilston, Low Hill, Eastfield.
- Food parcels and activity pack delivered to some of the vulnerable families.
- Detached team was commissioned to work in hotspot areas identified by WMP.
- 952 young people from BAME background accessed Holiday Squad Young people enjoyed the activities with many citing an improvement in mental wellbeing.
- There was appreciation that activities were local and free.
- Young people said they missed being active and enjoyed being out.
- More individual support was able to be provided which has been essential. At the beginning of the activities young people were very nervous about attending, needed support engaging with others and not just having conversations with staff as well as having that chance to undertake fun activities with their peers.
- Parents have told us that their children have improved their art skills and that projects have offered some structure during the pandemic.
- Communities said it brought local people together.
- Children, parents and community members said it created new friendships.

BEING CONNECTED

| <i>We said we would</i> | <i>We actually did</i> |
|--|--|
| <p>Create a map detailing the activities available throughout the year.</p> | <p>Covid-19 resulted in our offer being virtual so a map was not needed. A map will be created for our face to face engagement.</p> |
| <p>Invest in the local community under the banner of 'wolverhampton for everyone' to encourage local ownership, identifying funding opportunities and working together on local solutions.</p> | <p>WV Holiday squad supported over 16 local organisations resulting in an investment of over £120k</p> <p>As part of HeadStart, the community offer continues to be delivered. In September, the National Community Lottery Fund announced a continuation of the HeadStart programme. This is resulted in community providers contracts being extended.</p> <p>Our locality youth ambassadors are working with the local community on issues and solutions. Whitmore Reans youth ambassadors worked with Gatis St in securing ward funding.</p> |
| <p>Undertake a needs analysis thereby putting the city in a stronger position to access alternative funding opportunities that often require a quick turn around on bids</p> | <p>Focus has been on emotional wellbeing during Covid-19. Between 30 April 2020 and 29 May 2020, we ran two Wolverhampton Wellbeing' surveys; one aimed at children and young people and the other aimed at parents and carers. This was as a result of the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic resulting in a change in schooling and working practices for many. 332 people responded to the Children and Young People survey. 697 people responded to the Parents / Carers survey.</p> <p>The survey findings helped informed the Youth Engagement Strategic Board in identifying commissioning intentions.</p> |



BEING YOU

| <i>We said we would</i> | <i>We actually did</i> |
|---|--|
| Establish a Youth Partnership Board to oversee implementation of the strategy | The board was established in November 2020 with 18 members representing various local youth groups and forums |
| Establish a participation hub designed and implemented by young people. | The hub is up and ready to be used. The building has a Click Share TV, music and voice over equipment and Apple Macs to design content. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we have had to delay the opening on the facility |
| Young people who want to be involved in coproduction will be given the opportunity to have their voices heard and valued. | <p>A number of groups have been set up under the banner of #YES - culture and diversity, SEND and locality groups.</p> <p>Promotion of the groups has continued throughout the year, utilising social media and the voluntary sector.</p> <p>Training and support is provided by the coproduction team</p> |
| We will thrive to make the City of Wolverhampton a youthful, child friendly city. | <p>All the Youth forums have been taking part in the Actors of Urban Change programme, in Partnership with University of Wolverhampton and Creative Black Country.</p> <p>This partnership is called Wolverhampton Youth Lab – this group has consulted widely with other young people across the city and design artwork to represent the views of young people about the city centre.</p> <p>This work has been submitted as part of the council’s application to the New Towns Deal Fund.</p> |



What next? #YES Part 2



The priorities for the next 12 months include

- 1. Continue the progress on the actions already mentioned.**
- 2. Youth Engagement Strategic Board Commissioning youth provision based on the three themes**
- 3. Youth representation on locality forums such as PACT meeting, HeadStart Consortiums and place-based groups.**
- 4. Delivering training on coproduction to key stakeholders**
- 5. Establishing a young people's communication group to oversee campaign work.**



You can get this information in large print, braille,
audio or in another language by calling 01902 551155

wolverhampton.gov.uk 01902 551155

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