



November Newsletter

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Welcome to our November Newsletter



This month we have big changes here at Cumbria Youth Alliance and we have welcomed our new CEO Becky Wolstenholme (pictured) who joined us on the 2nd of November 2020.



Becky said,

“Working with and for Young people in Cumbria is my passion. I feel very privileged to be offered the position as CEO for Cumbria Youth Alliance. A huge thank you to all the staff at CYA and The Board of Trustees who have all been very helpful and supportive in the past few weeks of my very steep learning journey. Cath Clarke has been an exceptional servant to the organisation, it’s members and the young people of Cumbria. I am very excited and determined to continue to build upon the brilliant organisation Cath has established, work with all the important partners, forging new partnerships and working together in Cumbria to provide the very best services for all our young people.”

Cath Clarke stands down from her role as CEO after 18 years with the organisation but will remain with us in a part time capacity until Becky settles in, so Cath is not getting to escape to retirement just yet.

During Cath’s leadership we have grown into a well-respected and valued organisation with a team of 15 staff and a turnover of just over £800,000.

Cath said,

“It has been a real privilege to work with so many organisations all wanting to make a difference to the lives of children, young people and families here in Cumbria and now more than ever youth work needs a strong voice as it has a huge role to play in the lives of young people, especially now as we struggle to find our new norm. I am proud to have played a small part in the lives of so many young people and to now see some them in key roles across Cumbria means we have done a good job enabling young people to reach their full potential.”

Becky now represents the sector at the Childrens Trust Board and the Third Sector Executive and you should direct all questions and issues that you want raised directly to becky@cya.org.uk. In addition Becky will be co-chairing the Cumbria Children and Young Peoples Voluntary Sector Reference Group along with Noelle Kirk from Barnardos and you can contact them at any time with concerns or issues that you want raised at a strategic level.

Duke of Edinburgh Activity in Challenging Times

Here are just some of the photos of young people who took part in our Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme during October – so many others had to be cancelled but hopefully they will be re-arranged in the early spring.

Well done everybody!

It was just not the same experience as there was no overnight expeditions and the walks started and finished at local places, but it was still an enjoyable experience for all who took part.



St Benedict's School Bronze



St Benedict's School Silver Practice



Here are some from St Joseph's School in Workington

Youth Unemployment

The key issue facing organisations working with older teenagers has been the rise in youth unemployment and here at CYA we are seeing a huge rise in the number of young people who are either first time unemployed or have recently lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are seeing a 200% increase in the number of referrals and of course this is against a backdrop of fewer jobs and much greater competition for the few jobs that are out there.

We have been fortunate to secure a variety of small pots of funding to allow us to increase our workforce to enable us to provide the much needed support for the young people, many of whom have poor mental health and are very anxious about what the future might hold for them.

Despite this our team at Cumbria Youth Alliance are still managing to find employment for young people and here are just a few of our success stories from young people who have secured jobs.

Tristan started on the Choices programme, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and the European Social Fund in May 2020 during the Covid 19 lockdown.

Tristan was struggling with his mental health and was looking for some support to help him progress and achieve his goals. Tristan spoke regularly with his key worker and together created an action plan to help him move forward.

We worked remotely on Tristan's CV and cover letter, looked at building confidence and overcoming barriers and built an excellent working relationship.



Tristan has now successfully secured part time work and started a course with Lakes College in order to progress his goal of becoming a mental health worker with the NHS. He has also obtained his provisional licence and is learning to drive with his test booked for December. Well done and good luck Tristan!

Tristan said,

“Choices has helped me regain my self confidence to go back out into society and be ready to face whatever life throws at me.”



GOOD NEWS STORY

ANGELA - CUMBRIA YOUTH ALLIANCE



Great to volunteer
in a setting like
West House



Angela started on the Choices Programme, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and the European Social Fund, hosted by Groundwork NE & Cumbria in October 2019. She was attending some of the CYA Emotional Resilience sessions and gained her First Aid in work Certificate. Unfortunately COVID 19s UK lockdown was affecting Angela and she was stuck at home and slowly missing the engagement time with CYA. Key Worker on the Choices programme then set Angela up with their Embrace online learning and she has completed 4 modules with certification. After COVID 19 restrictions easing Angela has been referred to West House for specialist help through Kenny and Scott, they have been supporting and working with her resulting in a volunteering place with West House itself. Well done. She is very much enjoying her time with West House and has completed an application form for one of the Apprenticeship Programmes going forward.

Angela stated “I missed coming to CYA through lockdown and this has been great to volunteer in an setting like West House”.

Kenny from West House commented “With Angela being here its brought a new feel good factor and positive energy around the place. Angela has a good strong work ethic and settling in well”.



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@ChoicesInCumbria





GOOD NEWS STORY

JONATHAN - CUMBRIA YOUTH ALLIANCE

“ Something I'm really interested in ”

Jonathan started on the Choices Programme, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and the European Social Fund, hosted by Groundwork NE & Cumbria in July 2020. Key Worker was unable to sign Jonathan onto the programme earlier due to the COVID 19 restrictions but once the restrictions eased he engaged with CYA. He refused to go back to College and could not see a way forward. After lengthy discussions Jonathan has a new CV up and running, a personal statement and listening to Key Worker on how to get work based skills. Jonathan had signed up to do our CYA Embrace Learning modules around Health & Safety and Manual Handling & Lifting. In the back ground his Key Worker John, has been doing a lot of employer engagement and found a small Whitehaven business – West Lakes Sheds. After discussion with the owner Rowan, he offered to read Jonathans CV and personal statement and asked to meet him. From this Rowan offered Jonathan some work experience as his business was only starting to recover from the COVID 19 lockdown. This has now developed into a work trail and Rowan is looking into employing Jonathan Part Time with the support of the Copleand Work & Skills Partnership.

Jonathan is over the moon with this, saying “Wow, this is great, something I really want to do and interested in it”.

Rowan of West Lakes Sheds stated "Cumbria Youth Alliance's contribution to the recruitment process is absolutely invaluable to a small business like mine. Finding the right person for a roll is very time consuming, time that is far too costly when you're already in need of extra staff. The experience of CYA in recruitment and their already established involvement with potential employees, means they can easily link employers up with the right employee. This is essential to help small businesses grow."



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News from the Resolution Foundation

In its new report [Jobs, Jobs, Jobs](#), the Foundation finds that around one-in-five young people, aged 18 to 24, who were furloughed during lockdown have since lost their jobs and just one-in-three young people who have lost their jobs have been able to find new work.

[Kickstart jobs scheme: What has the Chancellor promised for young people?](#)

- [Related news: Prince Charles - 'Up to one million young people need urgent help'](#)

The report, supported by the Health Foundation, includes a detailed online YouGov survey of 6,061 adults across the UK and analyses how the UK labour market has changed during the first eight months of the [Covid-19 crisis](#), and the outlook for jobs over the coming months.

The report notes that while widespread furloughing has curbed the rise in unemployment in the early phase of the pandemic, the winding down of the Job Retention Scheme (JRS) is revealing the true nature of Britain's jobs crisis.

So-far, the post-furloughing fall into unemployment has been most common among 18-24-year olds (19 per cent), black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) workers (22 per cent) and those previously working on insecure contracts (22 per cent), according to the report.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak began winding down the scheme from September and it will be replaced with the less generous Job Support Scheme next month.

In July, he also announced the £2bn [Kickstart jobs scheme](#) to boost employment for 16- to 24-year-olds following the Covid-19 crisis.

Kathleen Henehan, senior research and policy analyst at the Resolution Foundation, said,

“The first eight months of the Covid crisis have been marked by an almighty economic shock and unprecedented support that has cushioned the impact in terms of people’s livelihoods.

“But the true nature of Britain’s jobs crisis is starting to reveal itself. Around one-in-five young people, and over one-in-five BAME workers, have fallen straight from furloughing into unemployment.

“Worryingly, fewer than half of those who have lost their jobs during the pandemic have been able to find work since. This suggests that even if the public health crisis recedes in a few months’ time, Britain’s jobs crisis will be with us for far longer.”

NYA Publishes New Youth Work Guidance

The National Youth Agency (NYA) has published new guidance to support local authorities to secure and deliver youth work services.

The [Guidance for Local Authorities on Youth Work Services](#) aims to provide councils with the tools to ensure young people have “access to quality youth services at a neighbourhood level, whether they are directly delivered, commissioned by or run independently from the local authority”.

- [NYA guidance offers blueprint to revitalise youth work services](#)
- [Analysis: Youth workers ‘magic touch’ can help transition back to school](#)

The guide sets out a range of recommendations for the delivery of good services and advocates an “access for all” approach aimed at ensuring 80 per cent of all young people are in contact with youth services, 35 per cent on a regular basis, while 10 per cent are supported by targeted, specialist provision.

It also recommends revising the traditional 13- to 19-year-old age remit of [youth services](#), suggesting it may be beneficial to deliver services to children as young as eight and young adults up to the age of 24.

“Youth services must include the active involvement of young people in decision-making,” it adds.

The guidance also recommends that each youth service has at least two full-time professionals located in a secondary school catchment area, along with a team of at least four youth support workers and trained volunteers.

It goes on to highlight different factors in funding and securing youth services for local authorities, calling for ring-fenced government funding to support youth work services.

“A priority for all local authorities should be to strengthen and maintain the quality of youth services to support young people’s wellbeing,” the guidance states, suggesting that more youth services should be based on the high street, while digital platforms could help services reach more young people at a universal level.

The guide comes after [latest research from the YMCA](#) showed a 70 per cent drop for local authority youth services since 2010.

However, Leigh Middleton, NYA chief executive, adds that the [Covid-19 pandemic](#) has “brought additional strains to local services and finances. “Covid-19 has also amplified the needs of young people and where youth work is recognised as an essential service. Therefore, NYA is supporting local authorities in a call for increased government funding, ring-fenced at a local level to secure and sustain youth services.

“It is clear that, after year-on-year cuts to youth services the focus now must be on the level and quality of services, in line with NYA guidance, not whether a youth service is delivered. We must be ambitious for youth work. This requires a clear plan for and provision of at least two full-time equivalent, qualified youth workers and team within each secondary school catchment area, whether directly delivered by or independent of the local authority. Local authorities hold the duty and need to ensure planning is not undertaken in isolation of other authorities, agencies and services in their area, bringing together the public, private, voluntary and community sector. NYA guidance sets out the practical and reasonable steps a local authority should take.”

Vacancies at CYA

We currently have vacancies for a Youth Key Worker and Project Youth Worker. See details below and please share. Closing date for applications for both roles is **15th November 2020**

Youth Key Worker



JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Youth Key Worker (<u>Part-time</u> , 22.5 hours per week)
REPORTS TO:	Partnership Led by Groundwork/ Youth Manager Cumbria Youth Alliance
LOCATION:	Allerdale and Copeland
CONTRACT:	1 year fixed term until December 2021
HOURS:	22.5 hours per week
Salary allowance	£20,000 to £22,500 pro rata with stakeholder pension + mileage

This new role has been created to meet the increasing demand for specialist support for young people. Choices is an exciting employment programme with a tailored approach to support, available in Allerdale & Copeland and funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and the European Social Fund.

Working in partnership with a variety of voluntary and community sector delivery partners who are specialists in employment, financial and digital inclusion and volunteering, the Choices programme will support young people who are facing multiple, complex barriers, helping them progress into or towards employment, education, training or active job searching.

You will have significant experience of working with young people, young adults and employers in a similar job. You will have least two years experience of working with young people in multi-agency settings and have a proven track record in achieving positive outcomes for the young people. The post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Visit our website for more information: www.cya.org.uk/job-opportunities

Project Youth Worker

- Full time Project Worker Pre-Employment Project West Cumbria
- Salary of £19500 -£22500 depending upon experience and qualifications
- Generous travel and pension contributions
- Short term up to and including the 31st March 2021

Thanks to funding from Cumbria Community Foundation and Coalfields Regeneration Trust we are seeking a full -time project officer on a fixed term post until 31st March 2021. This may be extended if additional funding can be secured.

The key role is to support 20 young people 16- 24 who are some distance from the labour market and provide them with a holistic support package which will allow them to be job ready and able to compete in the local jobs market. This will include assessing need and developing a suitable training and development package for each young person, so they progress toward employment. Many of the young people will have additional support needs such as poor emotional resilience or basic skills needs and a holistic asset-based approach will be required to enable them to overcome barriers to entering the labour market.

Visit our website for more information: www.cya.org.uk/job-opportunities

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Other News From Cumbria and Beyond

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria - Annual Review 2019/2020

Please visit our website to view this year's Annual Review, please feel free to share the link with your colleagues and contacts. View the Annual Review here - <https://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/resources/annual-reviews>

Walney Community Trust

A huge thank you is in order to Walney Community Trust who have, despite lockdown, done their very best to address the needs of vulnerable young people during these uncertain times. They have spent a lot of time tailoring making the sessions, be these 1:1 or groups, around struggles they currently face.

These include, isolation, mental health difficulties, CSE and also practical issues supporting home/school work and seeing the rise in food poverty the group have been able to link with families and schools particularly over the summer holidays to provide food parcels and also packed lunches for vulnerable children and young people. Each young person has been given well-being packs, age and gender appropriate things included, along with shampoo, shower gel, soap, body scrub, toothbrush, toothpaste and treats, hot chocolate, marshmallows, sweets, pens and activities. Working with schools to identify those in need.

“We have seen a big difference throughout this lockdown part of the project and it has been the lifeline many young people have needed to be provided with a little bit of normal when their whole world has been tipped upside down.

“Many young people have struggled to come to terms with leaving school without having exams, prom, missing seeing friends and family. Our workers have done an amazing job keeping young people engaged and supported but also taking on the support on many other young people and us being able to access practical support for them”.

The amazing work this group are doing still continues despite the changes and it is making a big difference to the lives of the young people and their families.

The work we have done has and still continues to make a big difference in the lives of the young people and also their families.

“We have seen an increase in self-confidence, young people’s mental health become more stable and anxiety levels reduced. We have seen the difference just sitting and talking with a young person does and being available for extended hours now some work is accessed online. We have seen young people grow in confidence and face some very difficult situations. Positive all round”.

'What Remains'

'What Remains' is an original film and workshop-based project that brings people together affected by suicide loss and bereavement to talk, to share, and to try and break down some of the stigma and barriers to understanding. It is a film and peer support project that raises the questions of why it's so hard to talk about suicide and what can be done to support the people most affected by its legacy.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-remains-a-film-about-suicide-bereavement-gillian-brooks-live-q-a-tickets-122546757651>

Unity Job Vacancy (Maternity Cover)

2 x Recovery Co-ordinator posts (12 months fixed term maternity cover) Would consider secondment opportunity.

Please follow link below, or get in touch for more information.

<https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916246262>

We're Recruiting! Cumbria Project Worker posts

Brathay Trust are looking for 4 Project Workers to join our Children and Young People Community Team in Cumbria. Please see our website for more information, and please do share with your networks.

<https://www.brathay.org.uk/join-our-team>

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Come And Explore Kooth With Us

The following introductory session will provide you will a brief overview of Kooth, explaining the **new activities** within our self help resources, as well as a **live demonstration** of the service, to see what a young person experiences when they access Kooth.

To attend, please register on the following links.

Monday 30th November at 2.30—3.30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/127863353733>

Wednesday 2nd December at 10.00 - 11.00am

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/127985850123>

This event is available to all professionals across Cumbria.





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