

Big Local Gateshead

Teams Youth Network

Tuesday 13th of April 2021 4pm, Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83156187068>

1. Welcome and introductions

Present: Chris Folwell (BLG), Brenda Clelland (local councillor), Caroline (NE Youth), Sharon MacInnes (BLG), Louise Laws (NE Youth), Lynne, Joshua Gibson (Northumbria police), Danielle Kock (DoE volunteer), Mikaela Crocker (DoE volunteer), Rachel Anderson (DoE volunteer), and Christine Frazer (NHS)

Apologies: Stuart Angus (Side by Side Arts), Sophie Hall (New Writing North), Jon Niblo (NE Youth), Jen Reay (local councillor), and Melanie Dunn (Changing Lives).

a. Group offer – Louise Laws / NE Youth Membership

Louise walked the group through the membership offer from NE Youth to support youth work in the area, there is a paid for service (£50 a year) or free service with some restrictions. This membership can be used for information & advice, networking, free training (approx. 3 a month), workshops, opportunities for young people, events & awards, and grants (for both young people and member organisations). More information will be sent out to the group.

2. Member updates and opportunities

- a. **Sharon MacInnes** – Parent and toddler group funding bid through this group was successful and volunteers are making purchasing in preparation to start their first session in the next few weeks.
- b. **Brenda Clelland** – New youth provision funding from crime commissioner has now been secured and will be transferred to NE Youth asap.
Brenda has had a response another grant application for £8,000 to expand on the youthwork roll. Fingers crossed this is good news!
A young lady called Alicia (police cadet) is interested in joining this group and volunteering in the area.
- c. **Caroline** – 2 youth workers have been assigned from NE Youth to start soon, BLG and Brenda will meet with those workers next week. Those new youth workers have already started reconnaissance in the area meeting young people. The work will focus on those at risk of anti-social behaviour but will not exclude anyone who is interested. A top up of funds will be needed to support project costs but workers have experience securing this.
NE Youth have some wellbeing bags with a range of goodies for young people that can be provided to members. Items selected and bags made up by young people!
- d. **Josh Gibson** – There has been a drop in problems at the Staiths but an increase in bicycle theft. No problems with young people recently.
This Sunday an engagement van will be on the Staiths to talk to people in the area about any issues – behind excelsior in the car park (Staiths Road).
- e. **Christine Frazer** – Has been walking Staiths and wider area in the evening to observe and contact young people, most seem to be quite happy making their own entertainment with very little evidence of anti-social behaviour. Christine would love to meet some of the ‘youngsters’ getting involved in youth leadership and the new youth provision.
Has linked with Calvin Lawson from Low Fell Labour party who are setting up a similar project with young people in Saltwell Park. Exploring opportunities to collaborate between those groups.
Busy Bees (Kingsmeadow Nursery) are interested in community development, particularly

volunteers who can help look after a green space.

Looking to organise a great British Bake Off in Dunston park in August bank holiday. Sixth formers in Kingsmeadow are interested in taking part. Louise (NE Youth) have run a GBBO event for members in the past, will share info about that.

- f. **DoE Students** – the students gave a summary of the requirements for Duke of Edinburgh award: 12 – 18 months for gold award to complete categories including volunteering, physical challenges, and skill development, and a residential. Can start from aged 16 and can be flexible with how they complete each category. Normally each year group goes on an expedition together, these weren't able to go ahead last year.

3. Matters arising

- a. Youth work partnership

Chris gave a summary of the youth work partnership group that grew out of last month's meeting. That group will focus on growing youth provision for specific age range (13 – 17 year olds) in the Teams and Dunston area, calling itself Teamside Youth.

The group will have 2 core objectives:

Short term: to improve the youth provision in the area, especially as we come out of lockdown. We will raise funds to expand the youth workforce, and establish new youth opportunities in community spaces all over Teams & Dunston.

Long term: to provide opportunities for more local people to become youth workers

Current focus will be consultation and promotion of ongoing youth work.

Group will meet as and when needed.

Member Jen Reay volunteered to help run, any further volunteers would be appreciated.

Please send any upcoming youth opportunities in the area for promotion to the BLG email.

Mikaela was not able to attend the last meeting but is interested in joining that group.

Caroline suggested linking our social media and theirs, both Facebook and Instagram have their merits to promote activities to young people.

- b. BLG Summer activities

A new project coming through the Health & Environ network that may interest members was outlined. We are aiming to provide free outdoor activities every weekday of the Summer holidays, including exercise classes, nature and history talks, sporting events, and music.

The programme would benefit from ideas generated by early youth work sessions to help plan sessions for young people in the area.

It's an excellent opportunity for DoE students to get involved helping manage the programme, plan, or deliver activities themselves.

Christine meeting with Dynamix team (based in Felling) - they could be a perfect partner to help deliver some activities such as a skate tournament.

Caroline had struggled to engage young people around Redheugh last week, could we help promote tomorrow's event.

Danielle is interested in getting involved but wouldn't be able to volunteer through the whole Summer. Secondary school year 11 will close early this year (27th of May?), should we be looking at starting the programme early? Or can we train up some of these young people (link into active youth fund from NE Youth) they could train and organise their own activities?

4. Network funds / project proposals

£8,796.55 available for projects in the area this year

5. New members for this network

Christine suggested a young lady called Rachel who has joined the Teams medical practice walk. Rachel is Bill's (ex-walking group member) granddaughter.

6. Any other business / next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11th of May at 4:30pm