

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Young Solutions Worcestershire Charity No: 1128461

Edition 49 - 2020

Welcome to Young Solutions – Keeping Young People Safe and Involved

Chief Officers Update - January 2020

Young Solutions has started the new decade at a pace, with the launch of a range of training courses for members and voluntary sector providers of services in Worcestershire. We have had a lot of interest in the training which is great news. The full range of courses can be found later on in the Newsletter and I would encourage you to book quickly for any courses you are interested in before all the places are filled. Setting the courses up so quickly has been an intensive process and particular thanks to Jo Banfield for sorting out the logistics so efficiently, to Lorraine Preece for co-ordinating the delivery side of the project and to Worcestershire County Council for providing the funding to enable the training to take place.

This programme is yet another example of Young Solutions commitment to its members and affiliates to continue to provide excellent training opportunities ensuring that the safeguarding and support for young people of Worcestershire continues to be paramount in 2020 and beyond. This is not an easy task as the funding for such support is limited and the resource for the infrastructure support needed to make such training programmes happen even more limited, but as can be evidenced from this project we are committed to continue to provide these services.

January has seen Young Solutions continue to support the emerging recommissioning strategy for Positive Activities by providing intelligence and guidance to Public Health and Worcestershire Children's First Commissioners to influence what the new commissioning framework may look like. The current Positive Activities contracts are being extended until September 2020 and over the next month or so we will be informed as to how services will be commissioned for Positive Activities in the future. Again a very labour intensive process but Young Solutions will endeavour to ensure the best outcomes are achieved for young people in the county through this process.

The recommissioning of this programme comes at a time when the new Strategy Guidance for Positive Activities and £500 million investment in the sector is potentially emerging from the Government in the spring. Development of Local Youth Partnerships with an emphasis on the VCS having a lead/influential role appears to be a priority for DCMS moving forward. I will continue to keep you informed of developments and the role of Young Solutions as the process unfolds.

Finally Happy New Year to you all and here's to a successful 2020. Pete Sugg.

YOUNG SOLUTIONS NEWS

Tryangle Awards 2020

The 2020 Tryangle Awards are now open for online nominations!

Now in their fifteenth year, the Awards are looking for nominations of young people or groups of young people and adult volunteers who live in Worcestershire.

Do you know an outstanding young person whose effort and achievement deserves recognition? Or a real 'tryer' who shows commitment and resolve and never makes a fuss?



Worcestershire's premier annual young people awards celebrate the efforts of those who, despite health, disability or social problems, manage to overcome adversity and 'get the job done', at home, at school or college, or within the community.

We believe such effort, commitment and determination should not go unrecognised, so if you work with or have contact with young achievers, volunteers or carers, make sure you nominate your own unsung hero!

Award categories

You can nominate young people in the following categories:

- Bravery
- Arts and Music
- Sports
- Good Friends and Carers
- Citizenship and Environment
- Personal Development



Volunteer Award

This award acknowledges the outstanding contribution that adult volunteers make to our clubs and organisations; celebrating the special or remarkable who make a real difference to the young people in Worcestershire.

Please find enclosed/attached a leaflet about the Tryangle Awards, online nominations can be made at www.youngsolutions.org.uk/tryangle-awards until 23rd February 2020.

Read about last years' Tryangle Awards [here](#).

View the photo gallery of the 2019 recipients [here](#).



Do you know a confident young person aged 16 to 20 who would like to compere at our Tryangle Awards Evening in March at Worcester Bosch?

Please get in touch with Pete Sugg on 07595 099 861.

AROUND THE COUNTY

Raise Funds with Redditch Community Lottery



Redditch Community Lottery is a fun and effective way for your good cause to raise funds. Send your supporters to your very own Redditch Community Lottery page and collect 50% of all ticket sales made. Joining is easy and FREE.

All supporters will get the chance to win prizes of up to £25,000 for just £1 per week. Every ticket has a **1 in 50** chance of winning a prize every week!

Once signed up the lottery will:

- Build your good cause page on the Redditch Community Lottery website
- Provide you with personalised marketing materials to send out to your supporters and local community
- Support you with guides, tips, email and phone assistance

You keep 50% of every ticket sold on your page, funds are sent direct to your account every month. No administration, no fees - just a great way to raise money for your cause.

For further information and how to apply see here <https://www.redditchcommunitylottery.co.uk/good-causes>



Worcestershire Skills Show

4th March 2020 9.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m.

The Worcestershire Skills show 2020 will be held at the Chateau Impney Hotel and Exhibition Venue, Droitwich on Wednesday 4th March.

The Worcestershire Skills Show is Worcestershire's largest careers event providing young people in school between years 7 to 13 the opportunity to interact with Worcestershire's largest employers from a variety of industries.

Young people are given the opportunity to gain an understanding of careers available to them and to find out about the skills and qualifications that employers are really looking for. The event provides a wide variety of exciting activity based stands.

The event is free for employers to attend but exhibition spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you are an employer and are interested in securing a place at this event please see here for further information https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/careersportal/homepage/22/worcestershire_skills_show

You can also visit the Skills for Worcestershire website <http://www.skills4worcestershireshire.co.uk/> a new careers website designed to provide young people, parents, businesses and schools with all the information required to understand the career opportunities and pathways available in Worcestershire.

AROUND THE COUNTY

Violent behaviour, drugs and alcohol issues are forcing thousands of Worcestershire schoolchildren out of education.

Data from the Department for Education (DfE) shows a rising number of primary and secondary school children being excluded. The data shows that in Worcestershire's state-maintained schools 2,850 pupils were excluded between 2017 and 2018.

Worcestershire was recorded as being one of the highest percentages of exclusions due to violence and substance misuse at 39 per cent. A total of 703 pupils were excluded due to a physical assault against a pupil and 323 pupils were excluded because of violence against an adult. A total of 98 schoolchildren were excluded due to drug and alcohol related issues.

Chris Keates, acting general secretary of NASWUT teachers' union, has blamed the government for cutting specialist support for pupils with challenging behaviour. She claimed the government's actions have "driven qualified and specialist teachers out of the profession" and increased "disaffection among pupils". However, the DfE said the government backs headteachers in using their powers to issue fixed-period exclusions and to permanently exclude as a last resort.

Councillor Marcus Hart, cabinet member with responsibility for education and skills, said: "School attendance and ensuring children reach their full potential within education are top priorities for the county council. To exclude a child from school for any period of time is a last resort due to the impact this can have on all members of the school community.

"We are aware of the increase and concerns regarding exclusions in association with physical assault and drug and alcohol related incidents and will continue to work with members of the school community, children and families to closely examine the reasons behind the increase. We are committed to minimising permanent exclusions and ensuring the effective and consistent use of fixed term exclusions, in order to continually improve education for every child across Worcestershire."

NATIONAL NEWS

UK Youth EmpowHER - Boost to Female Empowerment



UK Youth have announced an extension to their funding for their EmpowHER programme.

Launched in October 2018, to celebrate the centenary of woman's suffrage and give a new generation the opportunity to be heard, the programme supports young women and girls age 10-20 in some of the country's most deprived and disadvantaged area, increasing self-esteem, building confidence and wellbeing in young women and girls and ultimately inspiring them to lead change in their communities.

EmpowHER is delivered through face-to-face activity sessions with young women and girls through a network of youth organisations. The sessions focus on themes of individuals' rights, empowerment and resilience, as well as activities exploring inspirational women in history.

Please see their website to find out more <https://www.ukyouth.org/2020/01/07/boost-to-female-empowerment-uk-youths-empowher-programme-extended/>

Study shows UK Young People are miles behind in Foreign Languages

A new study by the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) says that UK's young people are 'miles behind' their European peers in foreign languages, with only a third able to speak a second language. The study calls for a foreign language to be a compulsory subject for GCSE students.

Making the subjects optional at GCSE level - a decision made by Tony Blair's Labour government, led to a severe decline in young people taking languages such as French and German, and it warns that post-Brexit, language skills cannot be ignored, and the UK cannot rely on the assumption that the rest of the world speaks English.

The paper says, "Given fewer than half of pupils now take a GCSE foreign language, compared to 76% in 2002, we are far behind the rest of Europe". The author calculates that at GCSE, entries for French have dropped by 63% since 2002, while German entries have fallen 67%. The report also says that entries for French and German A-level have been falling since the mid-1990s, and there has also been a fall in recent years in numbers applying to study languages at university, affecting the numbers of language graduates and trained teachers. Along with reductions in EU school staff, this will threaten languages in schools.

The study concludes: "The assumption that 'the rest of the world speaks English' hinders new international collaborations and overlooks cultural and cognitive enhancement developed by learning. Political developments mean change is more pressing. If the UK is to thrive outside the EU, language skills cannot be ignored - the UK must address educational declines. It is crucial that ancient and modern languages receive support in schools and higher education."

Nick Hillman, HEPI director said: "The decision to limit language learning in schools by making GCSE languages voluntary is probably the single most damaging education policy implemented in England so far this century. The UK is bottom of the pile for the number of young people familiar with another language, and miles behind every EU country."

The report puts forward a series of recommendations, including calling for foreign language study to be compulsory at GCSE level, with youngsters encouraged, but not obliged to take an accredited GCSE or alternative qualification.

TRAINING

Young Solutions Free Training Opportunities

Young Solutions were delighted to be awarded funding from the Worcestershire County Council, Community Solutions Fund to be able to offer free training to staff and volunteers of voluntary sector organisations throughout Worcestershire working with children, young people and families.

Voluntary sector organisations are often best placed to spot when things start to go wrong or be the first port of call when things do go wrong and therefore by investing in the personal development and support of staff and volunteers working with children, young people and families, we can look to develop knowledge, skills and understanding.

This approach is looking to increase community capacity and reduce future demand on services with the ultimate aim to see more children and young people achieving their full potential in education and being fully prepared to live happy, healthy, independent and prosperous adult lives.

Training available to staff and volunteers:

Safeguarding and Trauma Informed Approach

Wed 29th January: PYPLC, Worcester
Fri 14th February: KDYT, Kidderminster
Wed 4th March: PYPLC, Worcester
Wed 11th March: KDYT, Kidderminster

Time: 09:45 -16:00

Cost: Free for staff and volunteers of voluntary sector organisations working with children, young people and families in Worcestershire.

What is trauma? Understanding the widespread impact of trauma on children including looking at Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), building resilience and understanding potential paths for recovery within the context of safeguarding children. How can voluntary sector organisations - no matter what size, develop a trauma informed approach. What are the benefits? What are the challenges? Where do you start?

Safeguarding will be woven through the training including familiarisation with child protection responsibilities and procedures to be followed if anyone has any concerns about a child's safety or welfare. This multi-agency training is an invaluable opportunity to share knowledge and reflect on practice thus developing a shared understanding of safeguarding children and decision making within Worcestershire.

continued overleaf...

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th February (half term)
Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th March

Time: 09:30 – 16:30

Cost: Free for staff and volunteers of voluntary sector organisations working with children, young people and families in Worcestershire.

Venue for both courses: Warndon Community Centre, Shap Drive, Worcester, WR4 9NX

The two day adult course aims to give delegates the confidence to identify signs and symptoms of mental health, the framework to support someone in crisis and information on professional services for signposting. The course offers an interactive approach and a warm and safe environment in which to explore the subject, using case studies, activities, discussions and videos to enhance the knowledge learned.

The course is broken down into 4 sessions, held over each half day, as follows:

Day 1

Morning – Introduction to Mental Health, Statistics, framework of crisis support and addressing the stigma

Afternoon – Depression and suicide, crisis support, First Aid

Day 2

Morning – Anxiety including PTSD and OCD, Eating Disorders, Self-harm and crisis, First Aid

Afternoon – Psychosis and the recovery model

All delegates receive a manual and workbook to keep and certificates will be handed out at the end of Day 2, on completion of all 4 sessions. As you can imagine, there are some difficult topics to explore, but we aim to make the two days as enjoyable as possible and we encourage delegates to let us know in advance of the course if they have any worries.

Young Solutions will be looking to run additional Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) courses in February and March with a focus on children and young people as opposed to adults. We will notify you as soon as we have confirmed dates.

continued overleaf...

Motivational Interviewing

Thurs 30th January: PYPLC, Worcester

Thurs 27th February: KDYT, Kidderminster

Time: 9:45 – 16:00

Cost: Free for staff and volunteers of voluntary sector organisations working with children, young people and families in Worcestershire.

It can be really difficult for many people to make positive long term life changes – many of us know from personal experience around things like giving up smoking, losing weight, exercising more. So how do we motivate and support people we work with to make positive life choices? How can we overcome resistance or ambivalence?

We will explore service user centred communication techniques—focused on being empathetic, non-judgmental, and supportive—which helps people to express their own reasons for change and take responsibility for their own behaviour. This one day course will give you practical tools to use including effective use of questions, reflective listening and eliciting the pros and cons of change.

Maximum 15 participants on each course (with maximum of 2 x people, per organisation, per course).

To request a place please complete the online booking form on our website

<https://www.youngsolutions.org.uk/training-3/>

We are expecting a high demand for places so please put your request in promptly – this is a fantastic opportunity to access FREE high quality training and for staff and volunteers to meet like minded people from other Worcestershire Voluntary Sector organisations.

SAFEGUARDING

Safer Internet Day – 11th February 2020

Safer Internet Day will be celebrated globally with the theme 'Together for a better Internet'.

Safer Internet Day aims to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.



Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre the celebration sees hundreds of organisations get involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. It calls upon young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers, and wider, to join together in helping to create a better internet.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Community Clean up Fund Grant Scheme Round 2 – Bromsgrove And Redditch Network



Do you have an idea for an environmental project that would improve the cleanliness of your village, town centre or place area?

Community Clean up Grant Funding

Does your community or voluntary group need funding to help make a difference?

Now you can get funding towards environmental community clean-up projects including:
litter picks | gateway planting | sign cleaning
community action days | cleansing equipment
promotional materials | training and more!

Apply online at barn.org.uk/grants
For advice on completion of the form you can call BARN on 01527 60282 or email grants@barn.org.uk.

Bromsgrove District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Bromsgrove and Redditch Network

making a difference
www.barn.org.uk

The second round of the Community Clean Up grant funding is now open for bids! Do you want to make a difference in your community? Do you have an idea for an environmental project to improve the cleanliness of your local area? Then you can apply for funding for community clean-up projects available to voluntary, charitable or community groups.

Applications will close on Monday 10th February. For further information and how to apply please see here <https://barn.org.uk/funding/grants/>

Social Mobility Grant Scheme Wychavon District Council



£20,000 has been set aside for a new Social Mobility Grant scheme to provide support and improve outcomes for Free School Meal (FSM) eligible children and / or their families.

Schools and voluntary organisations can apply for small grants to help close the gap between the most disadvantaged children and young people and their peers. Individual grant awards will normally be between £250 and £1000.

Grants can be for small capital projects or revenue schemes and must be made via an online application form. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate the impact of the grant award as part of this process.

For further information and how to apply please see here <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-and-living/wychavon-communities-and-funding-advisory-panel/social-mobility>