



IMPACT REPORT 2025-2026

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INTRODUCTION

This Impact Report celebrates a year of youth voice, social action, collaboration and community across Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre and beyond.

Throughout 2025–2026, the United Youth Alliance (UYA) has continued to work alongside young people, communities, schools, businesses, local authorities and national organisations to create opportunities for young people to be seen, heard and valued. From local social action projects to national conversations influencing Government strategy, this report reflects the passion, creativity and determination of young people who are driving change within their communities.

Over the last year, young people involved with the UYA have travelled across the country, spoken in Parliament, contributed to the National Youth Strategy, led workshops, challenged stereotypes, created podcasts, delivered training, organised events and supported campaigns tackling some of the biggest issues affecting young people today. From violence against women and girls, healthy masculinity and community safety, to inclusion, identity, mental health and social justice, young people have continued to demonstrate the power of youth voice when it is genuinely listened to and acted upon.

This report highlights just some of the projects, partnerships and opportunities developed throughout the year. It showcases the importance of creating safe spaces where young people feel confident to share their experiences, challenge barriers and become active leaders within their communities. Across every project runs a common theme - young people are not simply participants in the conversation; they are shaping it.

Partnership working has remained central to our approach. Over the reporting period, we have strengthened relationships with organisations locally, regionally and nationally, including schools, voluntary organisations, local authorities, businesses, youth services and Government departments. Together, we have continued to build opportunities that support young people to thrive, whilst developing stronger connections between communities and the wider youth sector.

One of the most significant developments this year has been the continued growth of place-based partnership working across Wyre and Fylde. Through the development of the Wyre & Fylde Youth Provision Partnership and wider collaborative work, organisations have come together with a shared commitment to improving opportunities and outcomes for young people. This approach recognises that lasting change happens when communities, services and young people work alongside one another with trust, equality and shared purpose.



As you read through this report, you will see stories of resilience, creativity, leadership and hope. You will hear directly from young people about their experiences, their ambitions and the changes they want to see within their communities and wider society. You will also see the impact that can be achieved when organisations invest in youth work, social action and meaningful participation.

Whilst there is still much work to do, this report demonstrates the strength, passion and potential that exists within young people across our communities. It is a reminder that when young people are empowered, supported and listened to, they can create meaningful and lasting change.

We would like to thank every young person, volunteer, partner organisation, school, funder, supporter and community member who has contributed to this journey over the past year. Your continued support, belief and collaboration make this work possible.

Together, we continue to build stronger communities, amplify youth voice and create opportunities for young people to lead change now and for the future.

Deborah Terras,

CEO, United Youth Alliance





MARCH

2025

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - WALES

On Saturday 8th March, we celebrated International Women's Day with a group of intuitive individuals, ready to make history. We began our day by being involved in a workshop which encouraged us to consider the impacts of making assumptions and how sometimes, we make these assumptions incorrectly. Our group then had the chance to create some artwork and explore our creative sides. Following this, we delved into the realm of virtual reality, answering questions about what it is like to be a young woman in modern day Britain, tackling problems around gangs, knife crime and violence. Podcasting was our final venture of the day, where we introduced other youth groups to how we create our own podcasts, and how to ask and answer questions well. We even had some people on the mixer, editing voices and sounds as we went along! Throughout our time in Newport Tilly interviewed different individuals about why they like IWD and why do you think it's important.

The following day, we set back off on our long journey home. Upon reflection, we concluded that the event was great, inspiring and full of friendship. We realised that whilst we have made massive strides in the development of young women and finding our voices, unfortunately, we still have a long way to go. We took inspiration from the event and began considering what else needs to be done to support young women, from across the four nations, striving to enhance the experiences for the next generation of young women.



PODCAST LAUNCH

We launched our Podcast channel, featuring Lavendar Lineage, What About the Boys and Love, Fylde - tackling all issues and curiosities of young people across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre!

Click on the Podcast Image link below to hear to young people interviewing individuals from across the Fylde Coast!



Carla - *"I like meeting new people and getting to hear others experiences from where they are from".*

Mali - *"I was able to recognise how far we had come for women in the future".*

Evie - *"[International Women's Day is] essential, as it brings people from across the world together".*

PLAN INTERNATIONAL & PARLIAMENT

Olivia reports on her trip to London, along with other members of the group, to present their findings about the 'State of Girls' Rights' to MPs, as a part of their work with Plan International.

After 2 trains, a tube and a Greggs for lunch, we arrived at the small youth hostel at around 1pm where we met up with other members of Plan International from London, Scotland, and Great Yarmouth who had their own workshop in Parliament. After icebreakers, food, and practising our activities on others, we went to our rooms and unpacked.

Then it was time to go into Parliament. The security was as if we were in an airport: we had to bring identification, get our bags checked and go through a scanner just to enter the building. We were led to a room on the second floor, jaws already dropped from the brilliant artwork placed on the wall, where we set up for our workshop. The girls from Blackpool's workshop were focused on safety, especially on transport, so we created a small-town map, with stickers placed on top of problems a woman could face when taking public transport. These problems were: lack of lighting, lack of security cameras, harassment, poverty, rowdy crowds, intoxicated people, lack of faith in transport.

We were greeted by Lorraine Beavers and Chris Webb, both MPs from Blackpool, who showed their support in attending the event. Overall, I thought this event was truly impactful as we tried to make the most out of this experience which could improve our future.

We were then offered a tour of the Houses of Parliament from MP Sam Rushworth (the Labour MP representing Bishop Auckland) and we obviously couldn't say no! So, we were led to an underground tunnel with marble statues lined up the sides, which matched the marble walls and ceiling.

Each part of the building had some interesting history to it. For example, a statue with the name Falkland engraved on it had a scuff mark on the shoe from when a suffragette had chained herself to it in protest, and the only way she could be removed was by forcefully breaking the chain. Everywhere you looked there was something to fix your glance upon, even the ceilings had faces, foliage and dragons carved into it; the room looked like it came from a fairytale.

After our exploration, we left Parliament, said goodbye to Sam Rushworth, thanked him for the tour, and headed into Piccadilly Circus for a late night snack!





APRIL

2025

PEARS & FEATHERS

The Fit & Fed project, focusses on supporting young people with the skills and confidence to try different physical activities. The aim is to create a healthy relationship with food and exercise outside of the traditional PE classes and sports clubs, showing physical activity is more than team sports or running. During our 24/25 run of this, we took the young people on a hike up Pendle Hill, Youth Pride Games with StreetGames & LEAP sports, participated in golf training, yoga classes, a physical escape room activity, an LGBTQ+ walking tour of Blackpool for history month and so much more.

COAST OF SOCIAL ACTION



UYA, in partnership with #iWill movement, aim to bring together young people, businesses, education and youth organisations to work towards supporting young people's voices and social action.

We work alongside three distinct youth led coastal social action teams. UYA are driving forward a Fylde Coast Call to Action, to come together by signing the [Power of Youth Charter](#), to demonstrate our commitment to Be that Person, which every young person deserves and to have a Call to Action to be the change we want to see here on The Fylde Coast and create the First Coastal Social Action area.

BBC RADIO FIVE LIVE

Evie and Tilly took a trip to Media City in Manchester where they had the opportunity to be involved in a focus group, hosted by the BBC, for their Teen Takeover Week in order to get feedback from teenagers about the issues and concerns they have in today's society.

The questions posed during the feedback sessions stood out to the girls as fresh and unique compared to other sessions they had attended. They appreciated the genuine inquiries into pressing issues faced by young people today.

Some prevalent comments were:

- The overall dislike and distrust of Artificial Intelligence and its environmental impact
- Environmental concerns
- Gender issues, specifically the feelings they all had over the supreme court ruling around transgender rights and the frustrations the young people had regarding this
- The upset and worry over the genocide happening in Gaza and feeling helpless to do anything as the powers at be don't seem to care.

The girls valued the respectful and honest exchange of views, which contributed to a balanced and mature discussion on important topics. This created a safe space for open dialogue, without judgement or conflict, something they found refreshing, as well as inviting young people of all backgrounds and experiences to be involved in the group.

In the Blue Room, Evie enjoyed the session led by a passionate facilitator who highlighted the benefits of AI. He encouraged critical discussion and provided valuable education on online safety and privacy, which Evie found particularly useful for life lessons and general online safety. However, she suggested that the Blue Room session could have included more discussion on the dangers of AI without needing prompts from the participants. Additionally, she felt that the environmental impact of AI, a concern frequently raised by the young attendees, was not adequately addressed and seemed to be overlooked.

Overall, the girls felt the day was well-organised, with a well-paced schedule that allowed participants to engage fully without feeling rushed. They also appreciated the quality of the food and the thoughtful setup of the event.



DCMS YOUTH HACKATHON

The inaugural Deliver You Hack, hosted by the United Youth Alliance in Blackpool, was an electrifying event that brought together young people from Blackpool, Wyre, and Fylde. This vibrant gathering aimed to identify challenges faced by the youth and collaboratively create meaningful solutions, ensuring their voices were heard loud and clear.

This event marks a significant stride in the Deliver You Campaign, following insights garnered from the National Youth Survey. Thousands of young people across England have already 'placed their orders' with the Government to shape a National Youth Strategy designed to confront the issues impacting their generation. With a focus on empowerment, the strategy seeks to enhance youth-centric services and reject a one-size-fits-all approach, giving young people a genuine platform to influence the future of their communities.

The Deliver You Hacks play a crucial role in this campaign. These youth-led workshops are tailored to collaborate on innovative solutions to the key priorities identified in the Deliver You survey. Following the success in Blackpool on Tuesday, 2nd April, six regional Hacks are set to take place across cities like Manchester, Bristol, and Birmingham, fostering unity, collaboration, and change among young people.

100

Chippy teas

1,000

Post-It Notes

20

Flip Charts





JUNE
2025

YOUTH PRIDE & FRINGE FESTIVAL



What an extraordinary day it was at the Pride event, starting at the vibrant Sandcastle Water Park! The atmosphere was electric as we gathered, bursting with excitement and anticipation. Upon arrival, we were greeted with warm smiles and handed our wristbands, each one a symbol of unity and support. In addition to the wristbands, we received colourful trans flags and eye-catching posters, all of which added to the festive spirit.

With the sound of laughter and joy surrounding us, we proudly set off on our journey from South Pier to North Pier. Walking alongside the incomparable MP Chris Webb, who carried his magnificent rainbow umbrella, we felt a profound sense of belonging. The air was filled with camaraderie as we marched with pride, celebrating the incredible community that binds us all together.



Upon reaching North Pier, our first stop was the Youth Pride tent, where we were met with an array of delightful activities provided by the Boat House and UYA. Inside the tent, laughter resonated as children and adults alike relished in face painting, badge making, and hair braiding. The atmosphere was alive with the sounds of live music from the Haven Cast, DJ Humps, and the talented Imogen Evans.

Venturing outside, we discovered games galore! From archery to various ball games and board games, there was no shortage of entertainment. Although the skies opened up, and rain poured down, it certainly didn't dampen our spirits. The vibrant enthusiasm of everyone involved ensured that we pressed on undeterred, embracing the moment with fervour.

All in all, the Pride event was a fantastic celebration of love, acceptance, and community spirit. It was a day filled with joy, pride, and unforgettable memories, reminding us all of the beauty in diversity.



SPORT ENGLAND PARTNERSHIP & RESEARCH

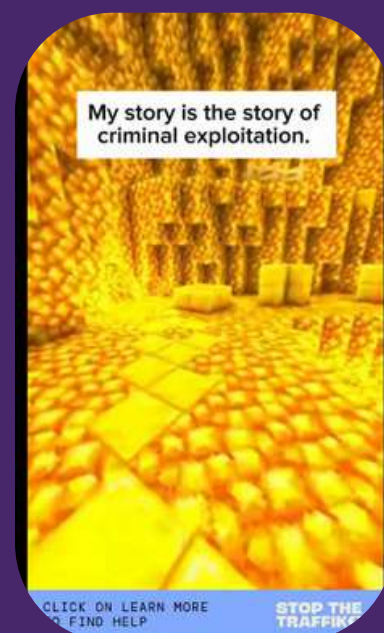


UYA, in partnership with Blackpool Football Community Trust and commissioned by Sport England, co-designed and delivered a youth-led research project exploring the barriers young women face in accessing sport and physical activity in Blackpool. Shaped by the lived experiences of over 500 young women through surveys, focus groups and peer-led engagement, the project placed young women at the centre of the conversation. The findings highlighted a range of challenges, including cost, transport, low confidence, body image pressures and gender-based exclusion, alongside wider issues such as the lack of female coaches, limited visibility of opportunities and the impact of social media messaging. The research also identified emerging concerns around safety, motivation and the need for more inclusive, women-only spaces. In response, five key recommendations were co-produced, including the creation of a youth-led steering group, improved communication strategies, increased female role models and better access to local opportunities. This work reflects UYA's commitment to youth voice, partnership working and creating meaningful, system-level change in physical activity provision. Here is the link

Stop the Traffik's County Lines Prevention Project received a national award from the UK's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Eleanor Lyons, recognising its innovative, youth-led approach to tackling child exploitation and criminal networks across the UK. Developed in partnership with UK Youth, Burger King UK, Together as One, and the United Youth Alliance, the campaign empowers young people to co-design peer-to-peer messaging that raises awareness of county lines exploitation and builds community resilience.

The award highlights the project's effective use of storytelling, youth voice, and data-led interventions to prevent trafficking and help communities recognise grooming tactics. Young participants played a central role in shaping a nationally recognised campaign, while cross-sector collaboration demonstrated how businesses, NGOs, and youth organisations can work together to safeguard vulnerable young people and disrupt exploitation networks.

STOP THE TRAFFIK



**STOP THE
TRAFFIK**



AUGUST

2025

PRIDE GAMES

We had a long trip ahead of us, so started by fuelling up with a Greggs and a short train ride to get to the coach. We started off super well by going to the wrong pickup point (shoutout to Tasha for taking us to the wrong hotel!), after checking her emails she got us back on the right track. We arrived, did a brief introduction with the other groups and loaded onto the coach for the 5-hour drive ahead to the Inverclyde National Sports Training Centre in Largs, Scotland.

A few stops along the way and some snacks later, we arrived, dropped our bags off to our rooms and headed to the cafeteria for an introduction to the weekend and debrief session with the organisers from Pride Sports UK and Leap Sports Scotland. We were served dinner (genuinely top-tier food with loads of options and variety for dietary requirements) and then sent to settle in to our rooms before some evening icebreakers. Whilst we waited in the Sports Hall, we did some spontaneous foot races, and after meeting all the other participants, we hung out in the lounge playing games.

Toby, Ethan, and Tasha played Uno while Elliot sat out for safety reasons (it got intense). Elliot and Ethan played pool, and Elliot absolutely smashed it. To wind down, we watched Netflix with some tea before heading to bed.

The next morning started smoothly, we all split off for various activities for the day, each of us had a standout, Elliot loved the pool party, Ethan killed it in Kung Fu, Toby smashed Gymnastics and Tasha felt passionate about Archery and Pickleball. This barely scratches the surface of all the cool things we got to try though! After dinner there was a roller disco, (Soda Pop played a lot), and Elliot had a minor head injury and almost lost his eyebrow piercing, but it survived (thank goodness!).

Getting Elliot out of bed the next day was a mission, but we made it to breakfast. Toby went to yoga, while Tasha, Ethan, and Elliot did a mindfulness walk (Tasha found it more exhausting than mindful, but Elliot loved it). Tasha convinced Elliot to join her and Ethan for badminton, while Toby did parkour. After lunch, we had a celebration, got medals, took photos, and said our goodbyes.

On the long coach ride back, we stopped for McDonald's and then caught the train home. We all headed back to our houses for some well-earned rest. Watch out for our summary discussion of the weekend coming soon to our podcast Lavender Libraries on Spotify!





WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

The Girls in Construction event in Blackpool was a resounding success, bringing together young women, industry professionals, and educators to celebrate and promote female participation in the construction sector. Hosted by Parkinsons and supported by the United Youth Alliance, the event created an inspiring and practical environment where participants could explore new skills and opportunities within the trades.

Throughout the day, young women engaged in a hands-on workshop, creating their own birdboxes under the guidance of skilled joiners and mentors. This interactive activity not only showcased their craftsmanship but also symbolised building confidence, teamwork, and resilience. The event highlighted how practical experience can empower young women to envision themselves thriving in traditionally male-dominated industries.

Representatives from Parkinsons shared insights into the diverse career paths available in construction, encouraging participants to pursue apprenticeships, training, and professional qualifications. The event also sparked important conversations about breaking down barriers and addressing the stigma surrounding women in construction.

Attendees expressed enthusiasm and pride in their achievements, leaving with a renewed sense of confidence and belonging. The initiative was widely praised for promoting inclusion, representation, and empowerment, helping to challenge stereotypes and reshape perceptions of gender roles within the industry. The success of the Girls in Construction event marked a significant step forward in inspiring the next generation of female tradespeople across Blackpool and the wider Fylde Coast, setting a positive precedent for future community-led engagement.





SEPTEMBER

2025

FIVE YEAR STRATEGY REVIEW



Approximately 50 people from across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre, gathered together to review our 5 Year Strategy, co-created by young women. Tilly introduced the main sections of our strategy including: Green, This Woman Can, Innovation, Happiness and Rainbow. We then ran through harrowing statistics about our local area before starting on the tasks.

Each table was assigned a theme to discuss, explore and consider what improvements can be made in that field. The sheets were then swapped until each group had completed every theme so that we could collect as much data as possible in order for us to effectively review the strategies. After the task was complete we all watched a special screening of the documentary created by our young women, 'Peer to Pier: A Seaside Sisterhood' whilst enjoying some amazing pizza and popcorn. Once we had finished our treats, Holly led the online survey which brought up some clear main issues that the attendees faced in day-to-day lives.

We asked them "which statement is most applicable to you?". The responses highlighted common issues that women face, the top statement was 'Social Media can have a big impact on a young girl' with 'There's not a day I don't think about my body or money or the future' and 'I'm scared to walk alone' also being some of the most applicable to the attendees. Overall, the event was a huge success and many people said they thoroughly enjoyed being there.

WYRE & FYLDE YOUTH PARTNERSHIP ALLIANCE

The Wyre & Fylde Youth Alliance is growing and we're inviting more organisations, providers, and partners to be part of something different.

This is not a network where organisations feel they have to work together. This is a partnership where organisations choose to.

What makes us different?

We are a true, equal partnership.

Voluntary and community youth providers stand alongside:

- Wyre & Fylde Councils
- Lancashire County Council
- Statutory services
- Schools and education partners
- Businesses and private sector organisations
- And most importantly... young people themselves

Every voice matters. Every organisation contributes.
No hierarchy, just shared purpose.

This is just the start and it will continue to evolve
with input from partners and young people.



PENDLE HILL

We kicked off our latest youth adventure with a hike up Pendle Hill, following the sculpture trail, teaming up for a quiz challenge, and soaking up all the fresh air and nature.



From climbing hills and hunting clues to crafting wish jars and sharing lunch, it was a full-on day of connection and movement.

Massive shoutout to our partners at Parkinson for sponsoring the event and bringing ten incredible volunteers all part of our Pears Foundation project to boost physical activity and wellness in young people.

We tracked the walk on [Strava](#) as part of [This Girl Can Run](#) and [#LetsLiftTheCurfew](#) campaign standing up for safer streets and the freedom for women to be active after dark. Why don't you check out the campaign and join with your own hike, run, walk, cycle!

THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



In the true nature of collaboration, UYA has partnered up with Thornton Primary School to support their Year 4 pupils in their social action campaign. As they work alongside their community to raise awareness about drivers breaking the speed limit around their school, the children at Thornton Primary School have had support from professionals to develop their social action and make their community safer. From having support from the UYA with podcasting, bid writing and letter writing, to working with the police and capturing drivers who are speeding using the speed guns and even working alongside HillHouse to develop safety posters to encourage drivers to slow down around Thornton.

[To find out more, listen to their podcast episode here!](#)

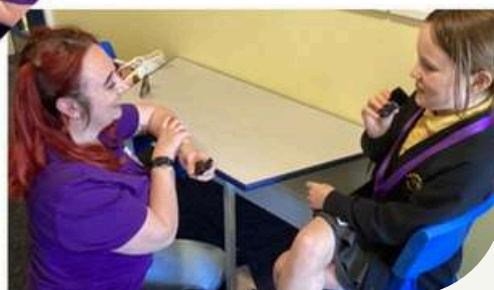
“Rowan Class was excited to learn more...they [UYA] listen to the kids’ - *George*

‘I never knew young people could change the community. I didn’t know young people could speak to the government and take action to change the UK’ - *Juilian*

‘I hope that I can make I can make a change one day’ - *Willow*



Afterwards we recorded a podcast about our event with the United Youth Alliance.





NOVEMBER 2025

WOMEN IN WORK



Hodgson Academy
Imagine • Believe • Achieve

UYA's CEO Deborah inspired young women, in years 7-11 at Hodgson Academy, sharing her journey as a youth and community leader. She led powerful conversations about growing up on the Fylde Coast, community pride and hopes for change. Celebrating youth voice and sparking social action for a brighter future.



RECLAIM THE NIGHT

WHITE RIBBON
END MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
WHITE-RIBBON.ORG.UK

As part of the 16 Days of Activism, we joined the incredible Reclaim the Night March, organised by The DEN, as part of Empowerment Charity Lancashire, alongside young people, families, organisations, and even a few pets! Together, we reclaimed the streets to stand against violence towards ALL women and girls.

Special shoutout to Ella and Tilly, two of our amazing [#iWill](#) Ambassadors! Ella spoke about how UYA supports young women and works with young men to end VAWG, while Tilly got us all fired up with her incredible performance.

WHAT ABOUT THE BOYS? CONFERENCE & HACKATHON

The What About the Boys conference, held on 19 November, brought together over 120–150 professionals from a wide range of organisations to focus on the challenges facing young men today. Through a programme of workshops and keynote speakers, the event created an open, honest space to explore issues such as mental health stigma, crime and violence, and the impact of social media.



A key highlight was the strong involvement of young men themselves, whose voices helped shape the themes and conversations, bringing the Coast of Social Action to life. Delegates responded very positively to the workshops and valued the opportunity for meaningful, sometimes difficult, discussions. Overall, the conference left attendees feeling energised, hopeful, and committed to working together to better support young men and drive change through collective action.

Co-designed by young men across the Fylde Coast, Sam's Journey explored the challenges facing young men on a daily basis. It encouraged young men to explore the barriers they face and what resources are available to them across the Fylde Coast should they ever find themselves needing of additional support.





DECEMBER 2025

BOYS IMPACT HUB

**BOYS'
IMPACT**

Over the past seven years, UYA has built a strong foundation of work with young men across the Fylde Coast, delivering a range of projects focused on engagement, wellbeing, education and social action. Building on this, we have announced our intention to co-design a Fylde Coast Boys Impact Hub, shaped directly by young men and informed by their lived experiences. This work brings together key stakeholders from across youth services, education, community organisations, workforce partners and academia to create a shared, evidence-informed approach. Linked to the national Boys' Impact network, established in 2023, the hub will focus on addressing inequalities, including the GCSE attainment gap for young men eligible for Free School Meals. Through a collective approach, we will connect and strengthen existing work across the Fylde Coast, ensuring young men's voices are central to shaping solutions, influencing systems and driving meaningful, long-term change within their communities.

NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY LAUNCH

Tilly, aged 14 and a member of UYA Coastal Social Action and an #iWill Ambassador attended the pre-launch event for the National Youth Strategy, in Peckham London with CEO Deborah and Director Jake. Here are her reflections:



What were my expectations?

They were high and I wanted to get a lot out of it and find out about what was in the strategy. I was keen to see if the Government had listened to us and included the themes we highlight in the Blackpool DCMS hack back in April '25!

What did you get out of it?

Surface level information about the strategy and the basics of what was in it but no real detail during this launch. As it's a youth strategy it would have been good to have included young people in their own preview before the pre launch.

What do you hope will happen next?

When the strategy is launched we see clear positive outcomes for young people, especially with how they have incorporated the information and feedback from the Hacks held across the country! More investment in safety for young people and youth provision/ groups more support from Government and organisations would be really good to see.



JANUARY

2026

WYRE & FYLDE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

The Wyre & Fylde Youth Alliance is a collaborative initiative led by voluntary and community youth organisations, statutory partners, and young people. It aims to build a strong, sustainable youth sector by amplifying youth voice, improving opportunities, and strengthening partnerships across Wyre and Fylde.

The initiative targets young people from diverse backgrounds, youth workers, volunteers, and community organisations that support youth development. It also engages local authorities, schools, and businesses to create an inclusive, connected ecosystem that empowers young people to influence decisions and access quality opportunities.

The Alliance will operate as a collaborative network—driven by youth voice. It will establish a Youth Board, deliver training and mentoring, and co-create new services and projects, such as skills development, community engagement, mystery visits and partnership-driven programmes designed to build confidence, leadership, and belonging among young people.



NORTH WEST YOUTH WORK CONFERENCE



The Spotlight on Youth Work Conference 2026, organised by Youth Focus North West, brought together youth workers, organisations and national partners to explore the new National Youth Strategy launched in December 2025. Through workshops, networking and discussions, the event celebrated youth work, strengthened regional collaboration, and supported professionals working to improve opportunities and outcomes for young people.



This was the first of five meetings that will be happening to bring the signatories of the Power of Youth Charter together. To start the presentation Robyn gave a brief introduction about IWill and the Power of Youth Charter, then Cerys introduced our icebreaker of the evening, where we had mixed groups of people answering questions on why they signed the Power of Youth Charter and what they have been doing with their communities already, and how they have contributed to social action in their local area. Once that was finished we presented our ideas to the rest of the groups at the meeting. Debbie then came up to speak about the National Youth Strategy and how it has developed since the beginning and how we can continue to improve it. Throughout the evening everyone got to know everyone better and found ways to improve their youth involvement along with getting to know what everyone's organisations were about.

At the end of the evening Chloe and Liv interviewed different people to find out about what social action and working with young people meant to them. Finally was the award ceremony where everyone who had signed the power of youth charter received an award in recognition of their involvement with the charter. Overall it was a great night and a great opportunity to meet new people and to learn about their involvement within social action and how working with young people has helped them and helped the young people in their community.



CIVIC TRUST AWARDS

The UYA Social Action Group were lucky enough to be awarded the Best Local Youth Group Award from the Blackpool Civic Trust! Congratulations to all those who won an award and were nominated at the event.



MARCH 2026

VAWG TRAINING



135

Young people

7

Different Sessions

7

Different Groups

January 2026, saw the UYA delivering VAWG training, co-designed by young people, for young people. Tackling topical issues, Tasha and Holly explored key themes such as Toxic Masculinity Vs Healthy Masculinity, Boundaries and Gender Based Violence to young people, 11-16 across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre.

Thank you to all of those who participated in the training and to the PCC for funding this fantastic opportunity.

YOUTH WORK COURSES LEVEL 1,2 & 3

UYA successfully delivered its first Level 2 and Level 3 Youth Support Worker qualifications, bringing together a diverse cohort of learners from across the country, from the North East to Plymouth. The programmes were delivered by a team of qualified youth workers and experienced practitioners, offering a rich blend of practical knowledge, sector experience and specialist skills.

In addition, we worked in partnership with Boathouse Youth to deliver a Level 1 course, supporting local progression pathways and embedding a strong “grow your own workforce” approach. This has enabled participants to build confidence, gain recognised qualifications and take their next steps within youth work and community roles.

We received an excellent report from our External Quality Assurer (EQA), recognising the quality of delivery, learner engagement and strong practice standards. Building on this success, we plan to expand our training offer across the sector, including youth work qualifications, supervision and leadership skills, LGBTQ+ inclusion and other specialist areas. This work strengthens the youth workforce, creates new opportunities and positions UYA as a growing provider of high-quality training and development.

COMPASSION PROJECT



Hosted at the UYA in March 2026, the Compassion Project equips organisations with the knowledge and tools to deliver engaging sessions on refugees, asylum seekers and migration.

Participants learnt how to challenge misinformation, promote empathy, and confidently facilitate discussions about inclusion and cultural awareness. The training included, facilitator guidance, and ongoing support, enabling staff or volunteers to deliver the sessions independently across their organisation or community.

A huge thank you to Darius and Viktoriia from Lancashire County Council's Refugee Integration Team for delivering the insightful training.

LIVERPOOL TRANSFORMATIONAL YOUTH PROJECT

As part of our growing consultancy work, UYA was commissioned by Liverpool City Council to facilitate key elements of their transformational youth offer. This included bringing together a "partnership of the willing" across the VCFSE youth sector, supporting organisations to align, collaborate and strengthen their collective impact. We worked with partners to co-develop an agreed governance structure and shared strategic direction, ensuring a more coordinated and effective approach to youth provision across the city.

A key strand of this work has been leading the co-development of a youth participation framework, bringing together organisations and stakeholders to design an approach that is practical, meaningful and rooted in lived experience. This collaborative process ensures that young people's voices are embedded authentically and consistently across services, rather than being an add-on.

The work aligns with the Liverpool Local Youth Transformation Pilot and national youth strategy priorities, while recognising and building on existing practice. By creating space for shared learning and joint commitment, this approach strengthens partnerships, supports long-term sustainability and helps position youth voice at the heart of system-wide change.

DCMS SEEN & HEARD EVENT

The event in Blackpool Tower took place on 16th March 2026, and brought together over 135 individuals from across the Fylde Coast and beyond - even bringing organisations from Liverpool, all of which had a vested interest in working alongside young people to establish how the National Youth Strategy can best be embedded.

The responses from Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre show that young people define being “Seen and Heard” as far more than being asked for their views. They want to be taken seriously, involved in decisions that affect them, and able to see clear, tangible outcomes from their participation. Overall, the findings suggest that young people want a local environment where they feel respected, protected, empowered and genuinely valued as active contributors to their communities.



Key Themes:

- Young people want meaningful voice, not tokenism
- Safety and protection are a major priority
- Young people want better access to support and more joined-up services
- Inclusion, identity, and representation matter
- Young people want more opportunities to grow, connect and develop
- Cost and accessibility are real barriers
- Relationships with adults and the wider community need to improve
- Young people want to see visible change

So...What Now?

- DCMS have committed to taking on board the feedback from the event and relaying this back to Government, with promise for a future update
- Developing more youth voice
- Facilitating more place based opportunities for young people to have their voice heard
- Developing youth leadership and opportunities for young people to be leaders in their local communities
- Youth workers to facilitate safe spaces to lead on social action projects in their local areas



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BELFAST



Throughout the reporting period, the United Youth Alliance (UYA) as part of the W.I.S.E collective, has made significant progress in advancing our aims to strengthen cross-nation connections, amplify young women's voices, and deepen understanding of ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG).

Building on four years of collaboration through the W.I.S.E Women 4 Nations partnership, with a particular focus on the East-West collaboration, this year's project has resulted in strengthened relationships, meaningful youth-led learning and planning for future collaborations.

The cross-nation collaboration remained a core strength throughout the project. Young women from UYA worked alongside their counterparts from Youth Action NI, Newport Youth and Play Service and Dumfries and Galloway Young Women's Network, fostering a strong sense of connection and shared purpose.

The event proved transformative—strengthening cross-nation partnerships, elevating youth voice, and offering young women a safe, inclusive space to learn, reflect, and build relationships that have continued through digital platforms and online socials. .





OTHER PROJECTS



FREDDIE FLINTOFF'S FIELD OF DREAMS

Blackpool was chosen as one of the key areas to encourage young women into cricket on Freddie Flintoff's Field of Dreams. Supporting the engagement of young women in sport and physical activities has been a key part of the Young women's Fylde Coast 5 Year Strategy. We are very proud of ALL the young women involved in the new series, some of whom are part of the Coastal social action group.

OXFORDSHIRE YOUTH REVIEW

UYA was commissioned to support Oxfordshire Youth through a comprehensive organisational review, working alongside sector expert Vanessa Rogers. Over a four-month period, we undertook an in-depth process of engagement, including conversations with staff, partners and stakeholders, alongside direct observation of programmes in delivery. This approach allowed us to build a detailed understanding of how the organisation is operating in practice and how this aligns with its strategic ambitions.

The review identified clear strengths in delivery, partnerships and impact, while also highlighting areas for development to support future growth and sustainability. Through honest reflection and constructive challenge, we were able to surface key insights that may not be visible within day-to-day operations. We produced a thorough report with practical, evidence-informed recommendations, supporting Oxfordshire Youth to strengthen its practice, refine priorities and enhance effectiveness. These findings have been translated into a clear action plan for ongoing improvement.

This work demonstrates UYA's growing role in consultancy and systems support, providing trusted, reflective and sector-informed insight to help organisations strengthen their impact and better support young people and communities.

ONE YEAR WITH THE BOATHOUSE



UYA has developed a strong partnership with The Boathouse Youth to build workforce capacity and strengthen youth work practice across the sector. Together, we have supported the development of clear progression pathways from Level 1 through to Level 6, enabling practitioners at all stages of their journey to access training, qualifications and professional development opportunities.

This partnership has embedded a “grow your own workforce” approach, supporting local staff and volunteers to gain confidence, skills and recognised qualifications, while creating sustainable pathways into youth work careers. Through joint delivery, mentoring and peer learning, we have strengthened practice across teams and ensured consistency in youth work approaches.

We have also worked collaboratively to develop and share best practice, aligning delivery with recognised youth work standards and principles. This has included supporting quality assurance processes, reflective practice and continuous improvement across programmes.

The partnership demonstrates the value of collaborative working in building a skilled, confident and resilient workforce. By investing in people and shared learning, we are strengthening the sector’s ability to deliver high-quality, youth-centred provision and ensuring organisations are better equipped to meet the evolving needs of young people. We are thrilled to announce we have secured another 3 years partnership with The Boathouse and loom forward to this shared journey together.

Thank you to Laurance and all the Team.



Blackpool
Better Start

ENGAGING DADS

Over the past two years, UYA has co-developed a training package with dads, enabling them to share their stories and act as consultants for change. UYA has facilitated and delivered training sessions with dads to practitioners in Blackpool, ensuring that dads’ voices are heard and meaningfully included in service development.

Practitioners highlighted individual takeaways from these sessions that will positively shape their practice, organisational cultures, and policy approaches to better support dads – ultimately improving outcomes for children’s growth and development.

In addition, UYA has developed an online training course for the Blackpool workforce as part of the town’s workforce development programme. This course serves as an accessible introduction to engaging and supporting dads effectively, helping practitioners navigate and break down barriers to father involvement.

LGBTQ+ MARK



The LGBTQ+ QA Mark is a project developed by the LGBTQ+ youth who attend UYA to assess how safe youth provisions are for queer young people. This project headed under the BeYou name in partnership with Blackpool Council is allowing young people to develop their own criteria on what makes spaces safe for them. They also are able to grant a visual award to those who make the effort to be inclusive and hold those standards throughout their organisation.

More details on the QA Mark are to follow!



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WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN OUR PROJECTS