



UYA



Welcome to this special edition of the UYA Newsletter, where we explore all the work being done to support Young Men across Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre and beyond.

WATB

Find out about our day time event!

HACKATHON

See how the young men from across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre challenged stereotypes.

IMPACT

Learn more about the Fylde Coast Boys Impact Hub!

16 DAYS OF ACTION

The UYA took to the streets to Reclaim the Night!

VAWG

Find out about the UYA's new training all around ending VAWG.



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WHAT ABOUT THE boys

Day time Conference 2025

“This year’s What About The Boys conference left me genuinely moved. Bringing 150 professionals together created more than just a programme of workshops – it created a shared sense of hope and responsibility. The honesty in the room, the willingness to listen, and the commitment to young men’s voices felt powerful.

For me, the most meaningful part was seeing the Coast of Social Action brought to life. Young men shaping the themes, influencing the conversations, and reminding us why this work matters. Their courage and clarity continue to steer everything we do.

I walked away feeling proud, energised, and deeply grateful to everyone who showed up with purpose. Days like this remind us that change doesn’t just happen – it’s built, together, one conversation at a time.”

-Jake Adams, Director UYA





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WHAT ABOUT THE boys

A summary of the day by Ben, Horateo and Chloe



On the 19th of November, our 'What About the Boys' conference took place. Over 120 people attended from a range of different organisations. The aim of the day was to bring together a variety of people together to discuss and share their concerns about young men including the stigma around mental health, involvement in crime and violence and the influence of social media on young men.

Throughout the day, there were a series of workshops and key speakers that the delegates attended. The workshops were met with positive responses from the delegates and people were constantly explaining how much they enjoyed the event.

The day was packed with some difficult conversations but allowed the professionals to discuss the challenges facing young men on a daily basis. It was brilliant to see so many professionals keen to work together to support young men and change the narrative.



WHAT OUR Workshop Hosts & Guest Speakers SAID

SPEAKERS & WORKSHOP HOSTS

Ben Robinson -
Centre of Social
Justice

Vicki Ridley -
YouthLink Scotland

Dr Rajesh Patel -
Youth & Community
Worker

Niall McNulty - Anti-
Racist Cumbria

Charlotte Gordan -
Kip Education

Mike Downey -
Renaissance

Gess Aird - Kinetic
Youth



'It was wonderful meeting so many dedicated youth workers and allies. We need to bottle the atmosphere!' - *Dr Rajesh Patel*

There was a lot I learned from the conversations, but also it was great to be amongst a group of passionate Youth Workers again, and also with an unashamed focus on Young Men and Boys. Thank you to you, your team and the young people that shaped it for organising! - *Niall McNulty*





DR Rajesh Patel

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

A key vehicle for testing the water with practitioners at WABS about what issues they face formed the post-lunch session with a round table discussion led by Dr Rajesh Patel, lecturer in youth and community work. He warmed up the room by asking people to state how long they had been working. The longest serving youth worker had been in the field for an amazing 36 years. Overall, attendees collectively represented, over 1500 years of experience spanning work not just in the North West but geographically with attendees from Scotland down to London. Rajesh highlighted the variety of work and the strengths in the room as well as the communal knowledge available.

The session began with some of the hopes that attendees had for the day these included the opportunity to learn more about contemporary work with young men and boys. Two key questions that were then explored were, firstly a question from the morning sessions and secondly a suggestion for policy-makers that would improve the future for boys and young men.



These stimuli provided a very wide range of suggestions from the audience including, the need for more focused training for youth work practitioners; better resources, particularly for the third sector. The ability of youth workers to network has been stunted by years of austerity and this is vital if they are to respond to contemporary issues. Especially given the constituency of boys work practice, this would allow creative and practice-based knowledge to be examined and shared.

WHAT OUR Delegates SAID



‘[My key takeaway was] to value and lift up positive examples of masculinity, to consider the intersectionality of maleness with other identities, to champion the inclusion of men within the voluntary sector.’

‘Very inspiring, thought provoking workshop, the host was incredible. Truly made me emotional’



‘Very thought provoking, and gave me a better understanding to neurodivergent young men’



‘My key take-away from the workshop on ADHD, Autism and Dyslexia was the reminded of how easily we as professionals can create a narrative for a young person which is counter-productive and negative (labelling ADHD behaviour as lazy or naughty). Instead of focusing on correcting behaviour, we must respond with curiosity and empathy to better support our young people.’



YOUNG MEN'S hackathon

What the young people said:

The event was very well planned out and was informative and inclusive. The activity of Sam's Journey was engaging and allowed us to learn about the services we may not have known about before, as well as making us aware of other groups also working towards improving Blackpool.



What they took away:

- Where to go if I'm in trouble
- Resources to help
- How everyone can be affected by the same problems no matter the differences
- That there is support in place if people need it
- How many hazards there are
- I learned how the place you grow up can affect your life





16 DAYS OF Action

As part of the UYA's dedication to ending Violence Against Women and Girls, we took part in the 16 Days of Activism through the White Ribbon Campaign.

#WhiteRibbonDay #WeSpeakUp.



The Clare's Law
Launch - Blackburn
Rovers Football Club



Reclaim the Night
March



VAWG Provider
Celebration
Breakfast

'Not all men are the problem, but all men need to be part of the solution.' - *Mike Crowther, Empowerment*



END MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



RECLAIM **the** NIGHT

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.

From powerful chants and vibrant banners to inspiring speeches and live music, the energy was unstoppable despite the cold drizzle.

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.

We stand united with the White Ribbon UK and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire in saying: Everyone deserves to feel safe day or night.

Massive shoutout to [Robyn](#) from The [#iWill](#) Movement for joining us as part of this campaign



 **BBC Children in Need**

#iwill movement

CLARE'S **law** LAUNCH



Holly and Tasha attended the Clare's Law Launch at Blackburn Rovers Football Club.

The day was full of different businesses, organisations and people all there with the common goal of ending violence against women and girls. We had the opportunity to learn more about the protocol around Clare's Law, the processes and the resources available regarding violence against women and girls.

The day proved a valuable opportunity to network and share best practice about how best to support women and girls, as well as sharing success stories, including how some young women are tackling VAWG in local high schools!

FYLDE COAST boys IMPACT HUB



Dr Alex Blower, Founder of Boy's Impact

Join the Fylde Coast Boys Impact Hub

Sign up to declare your interest to be part of the co creation of the Fylde Coast Boys Impact Hub.

See what other Hubs are currently doing
<https://www.boysimpact.com/regional-hubs>



BOYS' IMPACT

The Study

This year, **Boys' Impact** and **United Learning** partnered on a pilot project tackling the long-standing underachievement of disadvantaged boys.

Running from September 2024 to June 2025, the project involved 17 secondary schools across four regions, supporting over 200 boys. Using Ulster University's Taking Boys Seriously principles, schools designed locally tailored, relationship-centred interventions focused on mentoring, wellbeing, aspiration-raising, family engagement, and staff development.

Early evidence shows improvements in attendance, behaviour, classroom engagement, and emotional wellbeing, alongside stronger relationships between boys, staff, and families. Boys reported feeling more listened to, respected, and motivated, while parents described improved trust and communication with schools.

The pilot shows that early, preventative, and relational approaches can make a meaningful difference – not just for disadvantaged boys, but for whole school communities.

VAWG training



Funded by the PCC and designed with young people, for young people, the UYA has developed some training around ending violence against women and girls.



WHO FOR?

- Young people aged 11-16
- Youth groups, schools, alternative provisions

WHAT DOES IT ENTAIL?

- Gender Based Violence
- Consent and Power
- Appropriate Online behaviour
- Toxic Masculinity Vs Healthy Masculinity
- Equality and Gender Roles
- Intersectionality
- Respect for Boundaries
- Legal Rights and Consequences

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE OR
BOOK SOME TRAINING:

