

GYA 2015 – 2016

Plans, Priorities and Position Statements

Plans

We plan to hold weekly meetings during 2015 – 2016, with the exception of staff holidays. We plan to hold three Convivial Suppers during 2015 – 2016 and will invite Overview and Scrutiny Committee members, Directors, Chair of LSCB, elected members, parents and friends. We plan to deliver training to our members on a monthly basis including Youth Work Core skills, confidence building and self-esteem building, Committee Skills and Community Volunteering & Activism.

Priorities

We have a number of Priorities this year; they are in no particular order:

Emotional Wellbeing

To find funds to reprint our EWB posters

To work with other GYA members to develop a range of myth buster factsheets on a range of issues, including emotional wellbeing and mental health

Child Sexual Exploitation

Ask Police cadets to deliver their CSE presentation at GYA

Lobby schools to have the Police cadets in to deliver their session AND ask teachers to stay in the room so they can continue the discussions later.

Include in the myth buster leaflets

Engage with self-confidence and self-esteem training

Child Poverty

Hold a selection box/Christmas present collection for Gateshead Foodbank

Campaign for people to add an extra item to their shopping and donate to the Foodbank

Develop a poster around 'what poverty looks like' not just about financial poverty but also poverty of experience and opportunity.

Survey in schools to ascertain young people's knowledge on the support available to young people experiencing poverty related difficulties, and then address any issues which present by contacting the agency concerned and informing them.

Ask schools to make clear what they do to alleviate the effects of poverty on their students, while maintaining the students' dignity. We believe that Gateshead Schools do many great things and hope this will encourage other schools, possibly outside of Gateshead, to do better.

Publish finding of survey in Newsletter

Religious and Racial Harmony

Invite a range of speakers to address GYA, then lobby schools and youth clubs to follow suit. Follow up each session with a myth busting leaflet.

Arrange visits to organisations whose members are affected by racism to find out more and discuss what we, as young people, can do to help.

Staying Safe

Campaign for people to be aware of their surroundings when out and about, include headphones, the 'smartphone stoop' and making sure you don't inadvertently scare other people by your own behaviour.

Encourage members, and then others, to consider other people when making plans.

Share our Winter Tips leaflets

Encourage people to report incidents to the appropriate bodies, how else can they know what's happening?

Position statements

- We believe that everyone should be entitled to the living wage, the belief that young people don't work hard enough is just fluff, workers not working hard enough is a management issue.
- We believe that Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services should be improved with our help.
- We believe that Young People aged 16 and 17 should be able to vote in all public elections, nothing happens between 16 and 18 which makes 18 year olds better able to vote.
- We believe that Young People will be more ready to be properly contributing workers if they secured good quality work experience and careers advice.
- We believe that young people in Gateshead need and are entitled to a quality Youth Service; we further believe that the Government should commit funds to a properly funded statutory Youth Service.
- We believe that organisations, both public and private need to engage with young people in real, not tokenistic, ways.
- We believe that all young people should access support to develop their self confidence and self-esteem; this has been stated by Northumbria Police as the best protection against being exploited.
- We believe that it is everyone job to try and limit the effects of poverty on children and young people. Whatever the cause of the families' poverty, the children never had any influence over decisions made. We must all work to ensure these children are protected and their dignity preserved.