



Our plans and priorities for 2017 - 2018

Welcome to GYA 2017 – 2018

This is my opportunity to welcome you all to the 2017-2018 Gateshead Youth Assembly. We had a great training weekend and managed to come up with loads of ideas and priorities for the year ahead. Whilst some of our priorities have changed, we will still be sticking with some of our previous projects, including Child Poverty. I expect that GYA will have another packed year, and it already looks like there are some brilliant projects.

We continue to be the voice for Young People in Gateshead and continue to work on issues identified by ourselves and our peers. I'm really looking forward to working with our Youth Assembly team this year and hopefully this newsletter gives you an insight into our ideas. If you want to get involved, have contacts you think we could try or indeed have some spare change down the back of the sofa, we would love to hear from you.

Watch this space!

Andrew Adams, Chair

Welcome to Gateshead Youth Assembly 2017 – 2018

Cardinal Hume Catholic School

Joshua Smith

Sophie Burns

Joseph Swan Academy

Georgina Pendleton

Sophie Cartwright

Heworth Grange School

Andrew Adams

Sophie Adams

Abbie McMullon

James McMullon

Daniel Chard

Sarah Keegan

St. Thomas More Catholic School

Jake Guthrie

Whickham Academy

Robert Barker

Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy

Sabah Ahmed

Ruby Audus

Benjamin Johnson

Martha Laws

Individual Members

Joe Waggitt

Hannah Douglass

Freya Ender

Ayaa Al-Kateeb

Mohammed Al-Kateeb

GYA 2017 – 2018 Executive Committee

Following campaigns, speech writing, hustings and elections at our recent training weekend, the following Executive Committee was elected by our delegates

Chair - Andrew Adams

Vice-Chair - Josh Smith

Member of UK YP - Hannah Douglass,

Secretary - Sophie Adams/Abbie McMullon

Project Leads - Joe Waggitt; Sabah Ahmed; Ruby Audus; Benjamin Johnson; Freya Ender/Sarah Keegan.

Each project lead will work with all GYA members to design and deliver their chosen projects.

Our priorities for 2017 – 2018

Emotional Wellbeing – We plan to carry on our existing work around emotional well-being as this issue hasn't gone away. We plan to ask the CYPs team to talk to us and discuss a way GYA can help support young people who suffer from emotional wellbeing issues. We also run an informal buddy system at GYA so that members who are struggling can access support from other members. We plan to produce a range of resources for parents, teachers and young people around emotional wellbeing, the signs and symptoms and where to get support.

Self - confidence/self – esteem – We plan to continue our series of self-confidence and self-esteem workshops throughout the year. Each year these sessions are delivered by young people who have been through GYA, and coming back to volunteer.

Tobacco & Alcohol– We will continue to work with Public Health around tobacco and alcohol related issues and how we can protect children and young people from the effects of smoking, e-cigs, alcohol and from being manipulated by the manufacturers of tobacco and alcohol related products.

Environment – We will continue to support WWF Earth Hour and make efforts to reduce our consumption of disposable products and encourage our members to use public transport where appropriate.

Bullying – Bullying, both cyber and real world continues to be a massive issue for young people, we plan to work on projects which enhance young people’s self-confidence, self-esteem and emotional resilience so they are better equipped to cope with bullying and stand up against it. We also plan to challenge bullying and body shaming whenever we see it online.

Child Poverty - We continue to work on issues around child poverty, we regularly hold collections for the Foodbank and 5p clothing bus etc. along with some extensive work supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Gateshead.

Peace of GYA – Working with Peace of Mind we have launched a series of drop in sessions for refugee and asylum seeking young people and GYA members to work together on projects, activities and events that affect young people. This project will focus on social action and essential life skills. Our first event is a community Christmas Party where, so far, 120 children and their families have signed up to attend.

LGBT+

Develop links with existing groups to highlight the available support, challenge inequality and discrimination and work to make sure that all Children and Young People in Gateshead are supported to be themselves, whatever that means to them.

Fair Trade – We will work with Gateshead Council to keep Gateshead a Fair Trade Town by encouraging our schools to be Fair Trade Schools and by using Fair Trade products at our meetings and events.

Position Statements

We have developed the statements below, we accept that unfortunately we cannot change the world or indeed legislation in one GYA year but we do have opinions, these statements have been agreed by GYA for 2017 - 2018

- We believe that everyone should be paid the living wage, regardless of age. The argument that young people don’t work hard enough is just fluff, any worker not working to the expected level is a management issue, and age is just an excuse.
- We believe that Emotional Well Being and Mental Health Services need improving, with our help.
- 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 are entitled to and need a good quality Youth Service. We further believe that the Government should commit funds to a properly funded statutory Youth Service.

- We believe that organisations, whether public, voluntary or private need to engage young people in their decision making in real, not tokenistic, ways.
- We believe that young people should be able to access support to develop their self - confidence and self - esteem; this has been stated by Northumbria Police as the best protection from being exploited.
- We believe that it is everyone's job to try and limit the effects of poverty on children and young people. Whatever the cause of a family's poverty, the children never had any influence over decisions made. We must all work to ensure that these children and young people are protected and their dignity preserved.
- We believe that in order for young people to make informed decisions when it comes to voting, sound political education should be delivered efficiently within schools.
- We believe that young people aged 16 and 17 should be entitled to vote in all elections. Nothing happens between the ages of 16 and 18 which make people better qualified to vote, so why not?

If you want to get in touch with us to find out more, get involved or anything else please email Gateshead Youth Council at info@gatesheadyouthcouncil.org.uk You can also find us on Facebook by searching for Gateshead Youth Assembly.

If you are a young person who would like to get involved please contact our support worker Valerie at valerieender@gateshead.gov.uk or valerie@gatesheadyouthcouncil.org.uk

GYA meets weekly, usually at Gateshead Youth Council, 12 Gladstone Terrace, Gateshead, NE8 4DY but we do hold our monthly formal meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at Gateshead Civic Centre, Council Chamber. If you want to attend a meeting for any reason please contact Valerie Ender in the first instance as these are private meetings and guests are welcome by invitation. This is so that the GYA members retain control of their meeting.

Thanks for all the support

