



Update - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

- In February seven GYA members gained their Bronze Arts Award This award was in collaboration between Gateshead Youth Council and the NGI Juice Festival. It's great to be able to do an arts award because of our volunteering, not because we are 'arty'. GYC has secured funding for us to progress to Silver Arts Awards, and our new members are starting their Bronze Arts Awards. We continue to work in collaboration with the World Artists, a group of asylum-seeking young people who are also working towards their Arts Awards.
- We held our annual Christmas Party and instead of Secret Santas and presents, we donated selection boxes to Peace of mind to distribute to their children and young people.
- We are working with Leo from Gateshead Young Womens Project to develop signposting information for LGBTQ+ young people, we are mindful to make this easy to pick up, for people who don't want anyone to notice.
- We are delivering to ourselves a range of courses around confidence and self esteem, sometimes we deliver sessions with the support of Valerie and Sue, sometimes they do, it depends on the content and how we feel about it.
- We wrote to CEOP to try and engage with them about the information given to young people in schools around online safety, we received a fairly bland email back not really answering our questions, so we are doing it ourselves. We are working on a package for schools, probably in the form of a PowerPoint for assemblies.
- We worked with Lucy Adams, who is the North East Chair of Remembering Srebrenica and the Vice Chair of Gateshead Youth Council, on a range of projects around human right, feminism and equality. We are currently looking for funding to develop a range of session plans and assemblies to be distributed to schools.
- One of our members is a St John Cadet trainer, and is designing a session for us, around what to do if our friends are in danger through alcohol and drugs when we are out and about. This was held a few years ago, and while none of those members ever needed to use the training, they did pass on the do's and don't's to other young people who did make use of the information.
- We are still mindful of the environment and waste, we collect the leftover food at Greggs every Monday, this forms the food and refreshments our

members have on Tuesdays, we use fairly traded products wherever possible and try to avoid single use plastic (we still have lots of work to do here).

- We have raised funds to hold a series of holiday projects including days out and project days. This fundraising involved us planning every aspect of the holidays, from risk assessments, letters to parents, booking events and activities and co-ordinating the group.
- We were awarded a High Sheriffs award on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 for our contribution to the community.
- We won four out of the twelve regional categories of The Key Awards, an organisation which provides grant to young people, we won, best overall group, best enterprising group, best group name and a special award for inspiring young people.
- We have been nominated for a National Diversity Award 2019 for our work around inclusivity.
- We are working with an Arts student from Newcastle university to develop an exhibition of our work around human rights. This work will form the basis of one of her final modules.
- We have worked with QE Gateshead on their 15 steps initiative, looking at the way things work for children and young people when they are admitted to hospital and how improvements can be made.
- We are working with the Environment Agency flood resilience team to look at ways young people can get involved and be safer.
- We have undertaken a range of fundraising activities to pay for our summer residential. You may have seen us selling sweets and cakes in the Atrium.