

Introducing Hearing

About the project

UK Youth's Hearing Unheard Voices is a new project, guided by a steering group of young people aged 11 – 18. Under their leadership the project will bring together and give a voice to disadvantaged and vulnerable young people in England.

Funded through the BIG Lottery, Hearing Unheard Voices is creating opportunities for young people to shape and influence youth work service delivery in the nine English regions, through a programme of media and campaign activities devised by young people themselves.

So far.....a number of youth groups from around the country – called local influence groups – are already involved in Hearing Unheard Voices and a public launch is set for March.

Find out more about Hearing Unheard Voices – and the youth groups involved in the project – on the following pages.



introducing...

Speaking Up Youth Parliament

Young People Speaking Up is a project that works with young people with learning disabilities in a variety of settings. Speaking up Youth Parliament is a place where young people can meet and bring about real change by delivering powerful messages to decision makers about local services and issues they feel strongly about. We run a range of campaigns at a local level on issues that affect young people with learning disabilities, such our current health campaign. Hearing Unheard Voices will give us extra support and the chance to take these to a national level.

go ▶ for more on Speaking Up Youth Parliaments.

Right Track

Our names are Cliona Kelly and Mitzi White and we attend an organisation called Right Track, which is part of the Children's Society. Right Track is the only BME focused group in the whole of the Children's Society.

There is a wide range of project workers in Right Track, of all ages and races. It is almost guaranteed that you will connect with one of the workers, as they are all friendly, supportive and understanding.

We first joined Right Track three years ago and haven't looked back since. We enjoy the group because our voices are heard and not ignored. Through Right Track, we were involved in a DVD project, which looked at racism and culture. In the DVD we reconstructed our experiences and explained our feelings. More recently we made a DVD about Stop and Search rights. We think the DVD would benefit a lot of young people.

Hearing Unheard Voices will allow us to further our work in tackling prejudice faced by young black people, and allow it to be seen on a national level.

go ▶ for more on Right Track national Initiative.

Cliona (15), Mitzi (14)

g Unheard Voices

NETWORK
UPDATE

YOUTH VOICE

ACCREDITATION

FEATURES

ACTIVITIES

WORKFORCE

NEED TO KNOW

About the Steering Group

As the Steering Group for Hearing Unheard Voices, local influence groups from the nine regions of England are responsible for setting the agenda. The Group decides which direction HUV should take and its members are involved at every stage of the project.

Representatives from the local groups meet at residential four times a year to talk about the services that affect them and how they can implement change within them. The groups featured on these pages have representation on the Steering Group.

Photos in this feature are taken from the November residential.



'The BIET's'

'BIET's' stands for Berkshire Irish and English Travellers. We are pupils, aged 13 to 16, who attend Churchmead School in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, in Berkshire. We live in the surrounding areas of Colnbrook, Horton and Langley and are all of Irish and English Traveller backgrounds.

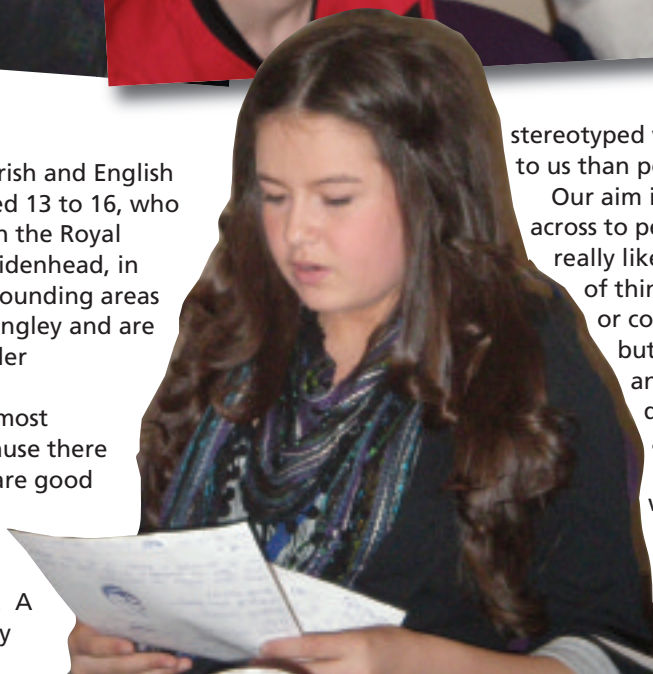
We all live in houses, like most Travellers do nowadays, because there are not enough sites. There are good points about living in a trailer, chalet or a house – we have lived in all three. Some of us still go travelling. A lot of people think negatively about Travellers or hold

stereotyped views. But there is a lot more to us than people think.

Our aim in this campaign is to get across to people what Travellers are really like. In many ways we have lots of things in common with 'gorgies' or country people (non-(Travellers) but we also have a history, culture and traditions which are different and make us who we are today.

At the end of the day we are who we are and we are proud of it. We are all different and unique in our own ways, just like everyone else.

Sharon, Jade, Samson, Terry and Maynie



Project plans

There are two main areas of action across the Hearing Unheard Voices project:

- **Campaign Challenge Toolkit:** The project will be building a practical toolkit for young people to use in their campaigns. The aim of the toolkit is to give youth workers the resources to be able to provide campaigning and media activities to their groups, learning new skills whilst also having the opportunity of participating in UK Youth's accreditation programme – the Youth Achievement Awards – so that all the hard work that young people do can be recognised
- **HUV social network website:** The HUV website is currently under development and will be going live on March 13. The website will showcase the whole of the project – all the campaigns youth workers and young people are working on in the local groups, and at a national level, featuring examples of best practice, along with how campaigns have helped influence decision makers.

The website will act as a platform for local and national campaigns, getting the messages across to a national – and global – audience. The site will also provide a social networking opportunity – a place where young people can invite friends to have a look at the hard work that has been put in to the campaigns. And so everyone can join in, and support the campaigns!



introducing...

Warrington Youth Club

Hello, we are from Warrington Youth Club, based at the Peace Centre in Warrington. The Centre is a friendly place; during the day it has NSPCC staff, then at night it is the youth workers. This is a brief introduction to some of the various groups at the Centre:

- Loud 'n' Clear is for people who want to volunteer at the Peace Centre. It is a 12-week course, with about 12-20 young people working to gain the qualifications to become a volunteer for the Junior drop-in and Planet Blue.
- Junior drop-in is for young people aged 7-11. They come and play and enjoy themselves. Young volunteers deliver activities like football, cake making and arts and crafts.
- Planet Blue is for people with disabilities. Young volunteers deliver activities – we deliver a variety of sports and other activities no one else would do.
- The Girls' Group is for secondary school girls. They work with young girls about growing up dealing with things like puberty, sex, drugs and alcohol. It's mainly about building up your self-esteem and confidence.
- **Detached Youth Work** happens in different areas across Warrington.

With Hearing Unheard Voices we plan to campaign to

get more young people involved in volunteering and highlight the positives it brings to people's lives. There is more information on these and other projects on our website.

go ▶ to the Warrington Youth Club.

Craig (18), Abby (16)

Honeypot

The Honeypot Charity was set up in 1996 to provide support for children and young carers throughout their childhood. Some young carers will have been in a caring role from as young as five years old caring for a parent or a sibling, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Honeypot supports their social development through respite care and a programme of long-term support.

Becoming involved in the UK Youth Hearing Unheard Voices project, will give the young carers from Honeypot the opportunity to make people understand what young carers have to do everyday – to share their stories with their peers and campaign to improve the support services that are currently out there, especially in schools, making sure they can incorporate the different lifestyle that a young carer has into the school programmes.

go ▶ for more on Honeypot Charity.

view ▶ a video about Amy, a Young Carer from Portsmouth.



Being an e-reporter

Young people from around the country are invited to become e-reporters for the Hearing Unheard Voices website.

e-reporters will exist in a virtual community through the website. They will be reporters in their local communities. The aim is for influential people – policy-makers and service providers – to get to know everything that goes on through videos, podcasts, photos, news articles etc... and the HUV website will be the place to show this all off!

YWCA, Kirkby

We have been attending the YWCA in Kirkby, Merseyside, for about 12 months. We do this to achieve our Duke of Edinburgh Award – so far we have completed our Bronze.

YWCA stands for Young Women's Christian Association. What they do is help women and makes their lives easier and better – for example they help young mums and disadvantaged young girls. Our YWCA helps us meet new people, taking us on trips, which are a great experience – they take us places we wouldn't have the opportunity to go to, such as London and Edinburgh.

At the YWCA we get to choose what we want to do. At the moment we are doing fashion nights. We have designed our own pumps, made bags and we are in the middle of decorating one of the rooms in our building.

We think that, if more young women attended the YWCA sessions, there would be less conflict, underage drinking and bullying on the streets. A lot of young girls are at risk of these things, because of a lack of things to do and places to go.

The Hearing Unheard Voices will allow us to educate more young women about the pressures they face and ways to cope with them, such as being street safe.

go ▶ for more on YWCA Kirkby. **Holly (15), Adele (15)**

Care Council Crew

We are a group of young people aged between 12 and 20 – we have all been in care at some point in our lives. We meet up as a group once a month. We aim to try and improve things for children in care and make sure that councillors and Shropshire Council staff take our wishes on board, when they plan services for children in care.

We have achieved many things, since we were set up in 2008. We have helped to set up a mentoring scheme for young people in care, delivered training to foster carers and councillors, and helped to give feedback to other groups who want to know the views of young people in care.

Although we discuss some serious stuff, we try and make the meetings fun and very young-person-friendly. The young people attend on a voluntary basis at the moment, but their hours that they give up are put towards a v Involved certificate.

We are lucky to be a part of UK Youth's Hearing Unheard Voices project; the views of young people in care are rarely taken into account. We are currently working on a short film about the prejudice that young people in care face. This is going to be shown at The Public gallery, as part of the Hearing Unheard Voices exhibition.

go ▶ for more about Care Council Crew.

NETWORK
UPDATE

YOUTH VOICE

ACCREDITATION

FEATURES

ACTIVITIES

WORKFORCE

NEED TO KNOW

Going Public!

March 13 is the date set for the official launch of the HUV project at The Public gallery in Sandwell, in the West Midlands.

We will be exhibiting a range of media projects from 'Unheard Voices'. At the event there will be all-day practical workshops, gallery arts exhibits and a chance to see the creative arts pieces produced by other groups of young people.

There will be plenty of time to share and promote your young people's views to other youth groups, and young people, MPs, journalists, service providers and civil servants.



introducing...

Frederick Street

Frederick Street youth centre is based in Plymouth. Every Thursday they hold a drop-in session for local male young refugees aged 16 to 21. Young people go to Fredrick Street to meet other people, in particular from other countries, like Nigeria, China, and Iran. They learn English language skills and about British culture so they can become involved in British culture.

As a part of Hearing Unheard Voices will look to educate people about the lives of young refugees and to change issues that frustrate us, such as having no accepted form of ID.

Nariman (18), Shoa (18)

Project 28

Project 28 is a young people's drug and alcohol treatment service that works with young people up to the age of 19 who are resident within the Bath and North East Somerset area. We are an open access service and, as such, we recognise the need to be flexible and responsive to young people's needs. Being a part of Hearing Unheard Voices means to we can inform more people about the situation that some young people are in, due to substance misuse.

go ▶ for details of Project 28.

LGYM

For over 30 years, Lesbian and Gay Youth Manchester – LGYM for short – has been a place for young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) aged between 14-24 to go and feel safe, enjoy themselves and meet other young people.

In a society that does not always respect the equality and rights of the LGBT community, LGYM offers comfort, hope, strength and determination to all young people.

The youth centre has sessions twice a week, on a Tuesday evening and on a Saturday afternoon that are open to all young LGBT people.

LGYM takes part in activities in the local communities, running an annual summer school in the week running up to the famous Manchester Pride weekend, creating costumes and a float to take part in the celebration.

LGYM has trained young people to be peer educators and then go into schools to run workshops around reducing anti-homophobia in high schools. LGYM have received several awards for this work, including the Children and Young People Now Award, and the Diana Award for Anti-bullying. This is a campaign young people at LGYM feel passionate about and want to continue doing, and hope the Hearing Unheard Voices project can help support them.

go ▶ for more about LGYM.

Getting involved

There are a number of ways young people and youth workers can be involved in Hearing Unheard Voices:

- The project is free for selected local influence groups to participate in, including travel expenses and various training and campaigning resources.
- By becoming e-reporters, young people can promote their ideas and campaigns through the platform offered by the website.
- The website will provide information and resources for use by any group campaigning to get its voice heard.
- Find out more by coming to the launch of Hearing Unheard Voices at The Public on March 13.

contact ▶ the Hearing Unheard Voices team, if you want to get involved with HUV or simply to find out more.

see ▶ more information about the launch on the Front Page and in the next edition of the Source.



NETWORK
UPDATE

YOUTH VOICE

ACCREDITATION

FEATURES

ACTIVITIES

WORKFORCE

NEED TO KNOW



Acorns Children's Hospice

Acorns Children's Hospice works with young people with life-limiting or threatening conditions across the West Midlands region. We have units in Walsall, Worcester and Birmingham.

We recently started forum groups, so young people can have a voice and speak up about things that are important to them. Young disabled people are one of the most marginalised groups in society, so it's vital they have the tools and opportunities to say what they need and become more visible.

We decided to link in with the Hearing Unheard Voices project, as it will be a great channel to speak out and be heard in a national arena. Via HUV, young people from Acorns will have opportunities to work with others to have a collective voice and express themselves in a powerful way. This will help build their confidence and empower them to make challenges when they see discrimination against young people with disabilities.

A group from Worcester joined in with recent HUV residential via a Skype link with the group in Edinburgh, and wrote a joint article entitled, 'Get Out of My Space!' about the misuse of disabled parking spaces, and campaigning for the government to enforce tighter penalties for people who use them that shouldn't.

go ▶ for more on Acorns Children's Hospice.

Durham Young Gay People's Network

Hi, our names are Adam and Dane, and we're from Durham Young Gay People's Network (DYGPN). This is a social network where young lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people under the age of 25 can meet to feel safe, secure and supported.

The service aims to reduce inequalities for these groups of young people. The group meets on Tuesday evenings in Durham, providing an opportunity for young LGB people to meet in an accessible, comfortable, safe place for support, advice and information on issues relating to their health and well-being.

We have campaigned for World Aids Day and LGB rights. The reason we believe in campaigning for youth rights is because we think people are being watched by police just because they are young – and people feel unwanted in their own community just because of their age.

Being part of Hearing Unheard Voices will help us to build the skills and resources to be able to campaign about the rights of LGB young people, particularly focusing on education and sexual relationships.

go ▶ for more about Durham Young Gay People Network.

Adam (15), Wilkinson (15)

YWCA, West Kent

YWCA West Kent welcomes all girls and women to its centre in Tonbridge. We work with them to build their self-esteem and encourage them to try new things, speak up, make decisions and share their opinions. We also run programmes at venues across West Kent and are developing our work in Thanet.

In our group we are looking at strong female role models, including women in non-traditional trades, with the aim of raising young women's position in the world. The Hearing Unheard Voices project will allow us to expand this work and take it to a national level.

go ▶ for more about YWCA West Kent.