

NO WRONG DOOR

PARTNERS



No Wrong Door partner circular. 18th June 2020

Issue No 11 During the Covid 19 Lockdown

Now with 44 partner agencies signed up to a data sharing protocol and a collaborative way of working to support young people in Herefordshire

Wow so are we slowly coming out of lockdown?

But there are some big questions still to be answered!

How can we respond effectively to the aftermath and the needs of young people to recover from this!

What are the needs of Children & Young People? What are their issues?

How best can we support them?

From my perspective as a parent, it's a little like this: I know that when I am in charge of looking after my children I generally know that although they may be out of sight, if I can hear them playing happily there are probably ok, its when they go quiet, I worry, what are they up to?

Young people have been in lockdown for nearly 12 weeks now and we as corporate parents have little or no idea how they have been getting on!

Some we know will be perfectly happy enjoying quality time with their parents, some will still have a structured life where they are engaging in home schooling, some have had a respite from bullying or being able to reflect and come to terms with the loss of a grandparent.

But some we know are feeling anxious about the health and safety of loved ones, some are dreading having to come out of a safe secure home, some have been sat cabbaging watching TV and falling behind with the school work.



Some have not got a safe secure home and able to access the social support of teachers, youth workers, friends and extended families. Some are surviving but living in a pressure cooker that will burst open when lockdown ends.

Some young people we know, are in desperate need of the social interaction and the stimulation and development they get from going to school and playing with friends. Are we as corporate parents really going to let young people go through from March to September without checking on them?

Over the past few weeks, I have been gathering information from National agencies, our own Herefordshire Youth Representative group, and our local partners agencies.

UK Youth Movement from their survey predicts that the impact on young people will include:

1. Increased mental health or wellbeing concerns
2. Increased loneliness and isolation
3. Lack of safe space – including not being able to access their youth club/ service and lack of safe spaces at home
4. Challenging family relationships
5. Lack of trusted relationships or someone to turn to
6. Increased social media or online pressure
7. Higher risk for engaging in gangs, substance misuse, carrying weapons or other harmful practices
8. Higher risk for sexual exploitation or grooming

Barnardo's are telling us that the likelihood of organisations that support vulnerable children, are likely to see an increase in demand when the schools open. The provision of face to face support and outreach work will be crucial to help identify those who have suffered harm or trauma and are in need of support.

Our NWD **Herefordshire Youth Reps group** that have been meeting weekly during the lockdown, they are telling us the issues of young people are:

- They feel **forgotten** – young people have been **separated** from services, physical social networks, school, youth clubs and community groups
- They're **anxious** – what will happen to them, their loved ones, the world?
- Domestic **violence risk** with personal space gone in families that are breaking down
- They're **lonely** isolated
- Their pathways to jobs and further education are either *confused*, **unexplained** or **gone**
- They've **lost jobs**
- They're **bored** – there are much fewer positive things easily to do

A message from them to Youth Services working in Herefordshire is:

- *We want young people to have the kind of support they need, delivered by youth services who care.*
- *We would like the youth services to understand our needs.*
- Prevention is better than cure!
- **But whatever youth support services do, they need to work together!**



And from the **National Youth Agency**, a message from Leigh Middleton, NYA chief executive

“Unless urgent action is taken to support vulnerable children and young people, whose needs are often unseen, the long-term damage caused will be **“unimaginable”**,”

So, what next?

“The response to the pandemic has been varied across the regions, size and nature of youth services. There has been a dramatic switch to digitised youth work, borne out of necessity to stay connected to young people and creative in their content. There will be no rowing back from that provision, as for some young people it provides greater access to support, friendships and activities.

Yet the digital divide on broadband, devices and data means that any such provision is not sufficient in itself, but can be complementary to face-to-face provision going forward. Also, peer groups, drop-in services, a safe space outside the home, confidential advice and guidance require youth centres and services to re-open.

Where youth services have been able to maintain detached youth work through lockdown, they have proved a valued source of support for young people, often aligned to outreach for schools, policing and public health for the safety of young people and others.

Modelling services and youth work provision in the “new normal” world post-pandemic, there is likely to be an increased role for detached youth work and outreach from schools, community facilities and pop-ups.”
Leigh Middleton, chief executive, National Youth Agency

The 2010 **Marmot Review** set out how supporting young people to develop their capabilities was an essential component of supporting health equity and greater equity throughout life. Youth services have an essential role to play in that.

10 years on, however, in addition to cuts in school funding, there have been significant cuts in funding for youth services following reductions in local authority funding from central government. Data from the Department of Education indicate that, from 2010–16, spending on youth services fell by 66 percent in real terms. Recommendations have now been made for enabling all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives:

- Put equity at the heart of national decisions about education policy and funding.
- Increase attainment to match the best in Europe by reducing inequalities in attainment.
- Invest in **preventative services** to reduce exclusions and support schools to stop off rolling pupils.



The reduction in professional youth work services over the last decade, and now with public money being focused on COVID 19, there will be continued pressure to find budgets for both statutory and community sector public services, especially for backwater Herefordshire, there is an increased need to work SMART and collaboratively together.

Councils have a statutory duty to “secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient provision of educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people” and to make sure young people have a say in the local offer. This is often referred to as the ‘youth services duty’.

However, local government faces a huge challenge in providing youth services. Due to cuts to funding from central government and an increase in demand for child protection services, councils have had to divert increasingly scarce resources away from early help like youth services, and into services for children at immediate risk of harm.

There is a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient youth services. What is, and should a sufficiency of youth work offer be? Check the National Youth Agency paper: <http://www.nya.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/NYA-Commission-into-%E2%80%98what-is-a-sufficient-youth-offer%E2%80%99.pdf>

Youth workers create conditions where young people can thrive. A good sustained youth work intervention can also reduce the likelihood of a young person needing high cost, more interventionist services later on. It supports an



investment in young services, where its value and savings are long term and not necessarily seen as a return on investment by those providing the services and support. Therefore, youth work is best viewed as a form of education, supporting young people in the present and ambitious for their future. It needs to be a universal service for young people to access from their local communities, with clear pathways to targeted or specialist provision for some young people.

As a **Herefordshire collaborative youth service**, emerging from this COVID 19 Crisis, we now have a golden opportunity to develop a far more holistic service to support both families and young people of our county.

We have the opportunity to take an open vision, not just to respond to the immediate outcomes of crisis interventions and interpretations of what is reasonable and practical to deliver, we should be asking what constitutes ‘**a sufficient youth provision**’; and take into account the needs and views of young people in Herefordshire. I appreciate the reality, that there is a wave of needs and complexities covering lower level needs for young people together with financial, emotional, social and community considerations, however we should surely consider these issues and take a 'holistic' and collective consideration of working together and find resources to meet the needs of all young people in all our communities.

The **NYA** considers that **Core principles** should be set to establish a base line for youth service in determining what is a sufficient minimum level of provision there are some guiding principles of approach:

- Local authorities, in partnership with voluntary sector organisations, should determine how best to use resources to achieve the desired outcomes
- This must include active involvement of young people in the co-production of services and are accessible to young people.
- Services should be easily available via universal settings with clear pathways to targeted or specialist provision, in order to increase uptake and minimise stigma.

We have a real opportunity to develop a vision of something very positive to further develop a cross sector youth service for the county which would:

- Improve Quality of Life and Well Being for all young people in our county
- Provide Proactive Prevention and Early Intervening before we fire fight those at immediate risk
- Share Resources and support partnership delivery - Be truly Multi Agency working
- Listen to the views and needs of young people, work with them and not to them
- Be Locally accessible – Outreach work to engage with our hardest to reach and rural county can create the gateway to provide cost effective service provision

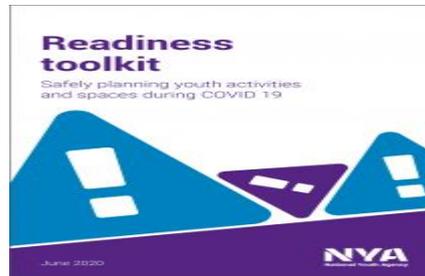
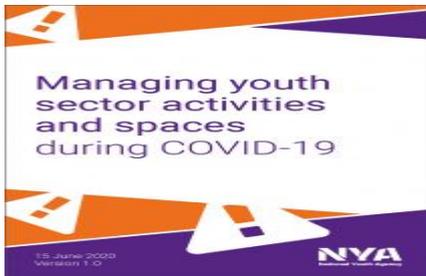


Working together we can make the reality of a ‘fit-for-purpose’ Youth Service for Herefordshire

Resources:

This afternoon the guidance for the re-opening of youth services and activities has been published on the National Youth Agency website, you can access the document [here](#). We've worked in partnership with NYA to create some additional supporting tools to help youth organisations and staff implement the changes in their services. You can access that [here](#).

Everyone should read this document and follow the recommended actions and requirements. This guidance is intended for use in England.



Detached-Guidance
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No Wrong Door Partner Updates

Further Beyond:

See your writing or artwork in print!

Can you write poems or stories? Or maybe you prefer drawing, painting or graphic design?

FurtherBeyond.net and Hereford Men's Mental Health group are teaming up to produce a book of local writing and art.

What are we looking for?

- **Writing by men** of any age who have experienced a mental health problem, loneliness or low mood.
- **Drawings and illustrations** by anyone of any gender, any topic!

Visit FurtherBeyond.net to see some of the creative writing people have already sent in.

Get in touch

CALL or TEXT Leonie on 01432 233194 or Euan on 07432 019404.

Email further.beyond@outlook.com or tweet [@FurtherBeyond01](https://twitter.com/FurtherBeyond01)

Visit FurtherBeyond.net



Hyac – Herefordshire Young Adult Carers - Ed Roberts: My first visitor NWD since lockdown! She is continuing to support young adult carers in a variety of ways....via phone calls, texts, messages, Facetime, social media and a few that are very vulnerable - home visits.

If anyone needs any support, she is more than happy to help. Email Ed @ edroberts.hyac@gmail.com;

The challenge: is now to start planning and preparing to start engaging with young people, working together and with young people to provide a service to all.

Kind regards, Keep safe and Well

Will

Will Edwards BA (Hons) No Wrong Door Project Lead

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