

Report of the Strategic Director, Place to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 25th February 2021

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Subject:

YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE – BRADFORD SOUTH.

Summary statement:

This report gives an update on work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford South Area in the past 12 months and outlines the direction of travel for the next 12 months.

Appendix A – Bradford South Youth Service Baseline Provision details the current provisions being delivered within the wards in Bradford South.

Appendix B - Bradford Youth Service South Ward Update gives an overview of ward work and developments

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

The Youth Service as part of the Council's commitment to the District has a responsibility to ensure that the service is accessible to all young people and that participation in the service reflects this approach.

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Portfolio:

Neighbourhoods and Community Safety

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report gives an update on work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford South Area in 2020-21.

1.2 The report outlines the following information:

- An overview and timeline of the Youth Services response to the Covid 19 pandemic.
- An update on how the Youth Service continues to respond to increased demand and complexity of need.
- An introduction to the work of the Young Covid Ambassadors and their role in supporting the public health response to the pandemic.
- An update on youth provision ward by ward and key developments.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Bradford Council Youth Service is part of the wider Bradford District Youth Offer that aims to ensure the provision of a range of activities and services that take place in safe spaces, where young people can develop a sense of belonging, socialise with their peers and develop relationships with adults they can trust. It recognises that with the right supportive relationships, strong ambitions and good opportunities all young people can realise their potential and be positive and active members of society.

2.2 The Youth Service vision statement is to work with partners to ensure that young people grow up healthy, happy, informed and aspiring; proud of who they are, where they come from, and actively involved in their community.

2.3 Youth Service priorities are aligned to the five key elements of the Bradford District Youth Offer – as detailed in the table below:

<i>Youth Offer Element 1 – Information, Advice and Guidance(IAG)</i> Increase the numbers of young people accessing IAG through digital media.
<i>Youth Offer Element 2 – Voice and influence</i> Increase the numbers of young people participating in Youth Voice opportunities at all levels.
<i>Youth Offer Element 3 – Open access/detached</i> Deliver a diverse youth offer through working in partnership with the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) and local communities.
<i>Youth Offer Element 4 - Targeted provision</i> Increase the number of specific interventions to address the needs of vulnerable young people.
<i>Youth Offer Element 5 - Active citizens and young people's contribution to community life</i> Increase the number of young people having a positive impact on their community.

2.4 The Youth Service is managed as one service. Staff are contracted to the Youth Service and are allocated to areas.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Youth Provision during the Covid 19 pandemic

Over the last 11 months' open access youth provision, across all six wards, has largely been replaced by detached (street based) sessions and targeted group work. These sessions have enabled Youth Workers to respond to the needs of young people in a variety of ways. First and foremost, Youth Workers have been able to help minimise the spread of the virus by offering information, advice and guidance on Covid 19 and challenging misinformation.

Between April and June intensive street based work was delivered in all wards that specifically supported the 'Stay at Home' message. Youth Workers sought to map 'hotspots' that required additional resources to ensure greater community compliance. Between June and September Youth Workers offered a menu of support to young people that supported the 'Rule of Six' message. Over the summer months Youth Workers offered social distanced activities in local parks and green spaces that encouraged health and well being. In addition, Youth Workers also targeted young people making the transition between primary and secondary school and offered *Moving Up* sessions that helped build resilience.

In October and November, significant Youth Service resource was used to prevent and challenge the seasonal peak in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) associated with Halloween, Mischief Night and Bon Fire Night. Youth Workers engaged young people in a 'Consequences' campaign that highlighted the impact of ASB and misuse of fireworks.

Over the last 3 months and throughout the pandemic, Youth Workers have continued to experience a significant increase in young people asking for support on a range of issues such as:

Anxiety and Stress – young people have stated that they were experiencing increased levels as a result of not knowing if they are safe, feeling really uncertain about what happens next, feeling overwhelmed by media and tensions within the home/family.

Low Mood – young people reported that they felt 'really down' – when explored they have stated that they miss their friends, say that there is nothing to do, there is no routine or structure to their day – they are staying up late and sleeping all day.

Isolation – young people said that they felt alone. They wanted to know when they could meet up with their friends, they wanted to know if they could get involved in things happening in their community, they wanted to help out and see what other people were doing. They didn't believe that everyone was staying in - they feared that they are missing out.

Self Harm – some young people reported feeling overwhelmed by what was happening either within their own homes or outside – they were struggling to cope and were trying to find ways to manage how they felt.

3.2 **Responding to Lockdown Demand**

Our service has remained focused on meeting demand and delivered the following support:

Garden Gate Visits – young people have been supported through a series of sustained garden gate visits. These visits have provided young people with an opportunity to see that we are #StillHereToHelp. The visits have been incredibly well received with young people often in disbelief that workers would come out and see them and spend time with them (2m apart). Repeat garden gate visits have allowed workers to provide bespoke care packages that have included items that are important to the young person such as: sanitary products, specific art materials, literature and targeted information on issues such as Domestic Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation and Crisis Support.

Care Packs – the Youth Service has developed a series of specific care packs that have been delivered to young people via garden gate visits. The care packs have been painstakingly put together by a team of youth support workers. They have covered topics such as anxiety, low mood and grief and have drawn upon a wide range of resources that workers have used in schools and within specialist groups. The packs have been interactive, engaging and creative; they have included all the items young people needed to make things such as; stress balls, cress-heads crispy cakes and bird feeders. We listen to young people talk about how much screen time they were having and felt that it was important for them to have some practical and creative tasks to focus on and break up the week.

Virtual Support – many of our face to face sessions moved to virtual support. Youth workers spent a considerable amount of time in mid March updating contact details and ensuring that they could contact their current caseloads via the phone. Workers offered support via phone calls, video calls and messages.

Virtual Youth Club – we have delivered a wide range of group session using video calls and whatsapp groups to offer our members regular contact and peer support. These have been successful as we have used a variety of platforms and worked with what young people say they feel comfortable and safe using. Our primary aim has been to keep young people engaged and we have maintained a high retention rate. The use of weekly quizzes, Bingo nights and competitions has helped make it fun for everyone and allowed ideas and themes to flow from one week to the next. You have people been encouraged to take the lead and have helped design and set the agenda.

Safe Space Work – Youth Workers continued to offer face to face crisis support when absolutely necessary. In addition to First Response and the CAMHS Crisis Team we have also linked our referral pathway into the NPT, CSC and the Domestic Violence Team. Despite having the option of a physical space to use and telephone support - many young people have been supported locally and practically. Examples of this include workers meeting a young person and going for a walk with them in the local park. This has led the young person to develop a local, practical and sustainable method of self care.

Care Leavers – we helped to support a large number of young people aged 16-24 who have their own tenancy and are living independently without any links to family.

These young people had been identified as uniquely vulnerable and at an increased risk of isolation. The impact of lockdown has led to some of these young people attempting to take their own lives and we have had two very serious suicide attempts. Many of these young people are survivors of trauma and attachment issues and we have worked hand in glove with trusted adults to build trust and offer support. As a result, we have been able to offer these young people frequent visits and helped them to feel more connected with their local community.

3.3 **Other work targeted at young people with specific needs including vulnerable and at risk.**

The Youth Service continues to provide direct support to young people at risk of exploitation. Through building trust with their Youth Worker, young people have reported feeling less isolated, more connected with their community and safer. Bradford South currently runs a number of targeted provisions all of which offer young people a safe space to engage in positive activities. This work helps reduce raises awareness of issues such as serious organised crime, grooming and county lines.

3.4 **Buddy support as part of Youth in Mind**

The Youth Service has been commissioned to deliver early interventions to young people across the district. This is a collaborative partnership with Bradford District Care Trust and Youth in Mind (YiM) which offers help to young people for their mental health and well-being and seeks to reduce demand on specialist services.

Over the last year, Bradford South has received over 500 referrals from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), School Nurses & other professionals. These referrals are allocated to Youth Workers who act as Buddies to young people, their role is to befriend them, support them using the Signs of Safety approach and navigate local support networks.

In addition, Youth Workers work closely with all secondary school in Bradford South and help identify students who need support for their mental health and well-being. Youth Workers support these additional caseload in schools, delivering 1:1 work on a weekly basis developing young people's confidence, self-belief and resilience.

3.5 **Early Help and Localities Model**

Young people referred to the Youth Service and are supported by Youth Workers to engage in localised youth provisions, YIM groups and 1:1 support. The young people referred have been supported around a number of issues including non engagement in education, anger management, family breakdowns, Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) & domestic abuse. Where possible, the interventions offered by Youth Workers help reduce the demand for additional specialist support.

3.6 **Young Covid Ambassadors**

In August 2020 four young people from Bradford South were employed as Young Covid Ambassadors (YCA). The Ambassadors are undertaking local Youth Work training to support them in their role and have integrated in to local teams. They work alongside Youth Workers to engage young people and identify local area issues. This information is then collated and analysed for patterns and trends and then shared with Public Health Bradford. The information collected by the YCA has been integral to responding to the issue of community transmission. It has helped inform communication with harder to reach groups and supported behaviour change.

The YCA continue to develop new, youth friendly messages that are prompted across a wide range of media and include; podcasts, TikTok videos, Instagram posts and newsletters. These have increased the reach of key messaging and allow the YCAs to be evaluate the effectiveness of different campaigns. This has also helped to reenergise the Youth Services' publicity and communication across the district at a time when some young people may have reduced contact with other agencies.

The YCAs are an exciting development for the service and come at a time when more resources are need to help support the district to fight the pandemic.

3.7 **Post Covid Response and Intergenerational Work**

The service will seek to build on and expand the work developed by our Young Covid Ambassadors. It is hoped that we can create opportunities for a new cohort of Young Covid Ambassadors who will help develop a programme of work that focuses on intergenerational activity and well-being. We believe that this could help aid groups of people to overcome some of the impacts of lockdown and isolation. The Ambassadors will help to strengthen public health messages and promote community activity through a series of events in each ward.

In addition, Youth Workers will continue to target summer transition support for young people starting secondary school. This programme of work is called Moving UP and aims to build confidence, life skills and local peer support networks.

3.8 **South Wide Provisions**

Bradford South currently leads on the delivery of 3 area wide projects. These sessions are for young people to attend from across Bradford South. The area wide sessions are themed to suit young people's needs, interests and increase our Youth Offer. Bradford South leads on the central inclusion provision for the area. This provision supports young people with additional needs to engage in positive activities with their siblings and peers whilst being supported to engage in universal open access provisions. Information regarding the South Wide provisions can be found in both Appendix A and Appendix B.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The Youth Service base budget remains unchanged for 2021/22. The service will continue to fill vacancies and recruit additional staff to fulfil commissioned service delivery inc: Youth in Mind, Breaking the Cycles, Young Covid Ambassadors and Positive Futures. Some of this commissioned work is geographically specific which may mean that we see demand being met with additional Youth Work resources. For example; Tong and Royds receive more YiM referrals than 27 other wards in the district.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The implementation of the planned budget for the Youth Service is subject to the internal risk management plan of the Council and progress is reported to the Place Departmental Management Team.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

No issues.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Youth Service delivery enables local initiatives to be supported, encouraging groups and individuals to undertake activities that improve the social, economic and environmental well being of their communities.

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Greenhouse gas emissions and wider environmental impacts was a consideration of the Buildings Review.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Young people from across Bradford South engaging in weekly sessions and specialist provisions are directly and indirectly involved with supporting and developing community safety within their local area. Voice and influence is central to youth work delivery ensuring young peoples ideas, suggestions and thoughts are heard.

The strengthened approach to the devolution of the Youth Service as will allow for:

- an increased sense of local democracy for both young people and communities
- young people to be more active in democratic, decision-making processes alongside their political representatives

- the voice and influence of young people to remain central, meaningful and paramount in identifying and addressing needs and issues in their communities
- the requirements of the localism/devolution agenda to be met effectively and efficiently

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no direct Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations below.

7.5 TRADE UNION

All budget proposals are subject to consultation with the Trade Unions.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The information in this report is related to all wards in the constituency and appendix B outlines the Youth Service projects and activities delivered across South.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

- 9.1 That Bradford South Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report.
- 9.2 That Bradford South Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report, with amendments.
- 9.3 That Bradford South Area Committee decides not to accept the recommendations outlined in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford South Area as detailed in this report be welcomed.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A: Bradford South Youth Service Baseline Youth Provision
- 11.2 Appendix B: Bradford South – Youth Service Ward Updates

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 12.1 Youth Service – Bradford South Area report. Bradford South Area Committee, 28th September 2019.

Appendix A

Bradford South Youth Service Baseline Youth Provision - 2020

TONG WARD			
For more information contact Chris McMahon, 07582101456, chris.mcmahon@bradford.gov.uk			
Day/Time	Activity	Location	Frequency
Monday 4:30-6.30pm	Targeted Group	TFD Centre	Weekly
Tuesday 5.30-8.00pm	Detached	Holme Wood	Weekly
Wednesday 5.30-8:00pm	Targeted Group	TFD Centre	Weekly

WYKE WARD			
For more information contact Patrick Nyaroko, 07582103696, patrick.nyaroko@bradford.gov.uk			
Day/Time	Activity	Location	Frequency
Tuesday 6.00-9.00pm	Youth Club	Online	Weekly
Thursday 6.00-8.00pm	Detached	Wyke	Weekly
Friday 5:30-8:00pm	Detached	Wyke	Weekly

QUEENSBURY WARD			
For more information contact Helena Rhodes, 07582108191, Helena.rhodes@bradford.gov.uk			
Day/Time	Activity	Location	Frequency
Mondays 5.30 - 7.30pm	Online Support	Online	Weekly
Wednesday 5.30-8.00pm	Detached	Queensbury	Weekly
Thursday 5.30-7.30pm	Peer Support Group	Victoria Hall	Weekly

ROYDS WARDFor more information contact Stephen Harrison, 07582101715, stephen.harrison@bradford.gov.uk

Day/Time	Activity	Location	Frequency
Tuesday 6.00- 8.30pm	Detached	Buttershaw/Woodside	Weekly
Wednesday 6.00-8.30pm	Detached	Buttershaw/Wibsey	Weekly
Thursday 6.00- 8.30pm	Detached	Buttershaw/Woodside	Weekly

WIBSEY WARDFor more information contact Tracey Gill, 07582100683, tracey.gill@bradford.gov.uk

Day/Time	Activity	Location	Frequency
Monday 6.00-8.00pm	Detached	Wibsey/Odsal/Bankfoot	Weekly
Tuesday 7.00-8.30pm	Online	Online	Weekly
Wednesday 6.00-8.30pm	Detached	Wibsey/Buttershaw	Weekly

GREAT HORTON WARDFor more information contact Zwelani Mayo 07582107053, zwelani.mayo@bradford.gov.uk

Day/Time	Activity	Location	Frequency
Monday 6.00-8.00pm	Detached	Great Horton	Weekly
Wednesday 6.00-8.00pm	Detached	Scholemoor	Weekly
Thursday 6.00-8.00pm	Detached	Great Horton	Weekly

Bradford South Constituency WideFor more information contact Anthony Casson, 07582100684, anthony.casson@bradford.gov.uk

Day/Time	Activity	Location	Frequency
Tuesday 4.00-7.00pm	Bradford South Cycling Group	Online	Weekly
Thursday 6.00-8.00pm	Inclusion Session	Online	Weekly
Friday	Peer Support Session	Changes every 12 weeks	Weekly

5.00 -8.00pm		(Currently TFD)	
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SCHOOLS WORK				
For more information contact Anthony Casson, 07582100684, anthony.casson@bradford.gov.uk				
Day	Activity	Location	Frequency	Target group
Monday & Tuesday	1:1 Support	Tong	Weekly	YIM
Wednesday & Thursday	1:1 Support	BBEC	Weekly	YIM
Friday	1:1 Support	Appleton	Weekly	YIM
Tuesday & Thursday	1:1 Support	Forsters	Weekly	YIM
Monday	1:1 Support	Queensbury	Weekly	YIM
Thursdays & Friday	1:1 Support	Coop Grange	Weekly	YIM
Tuesday	1:1 Support	Dixons City	Weekly	YIM
Wednesday	1:1 Support	Dixons Kings	Weekly	YIM

The above table provides an overview of the work that is delivered in secondary schools in Bradford South. Each youth worker will hold an average case load of 12 young people who they provide one to one support to over a half-term. This enables youth workers to work with a large number of young people over the course of a school year. The impact of these early interventions helps reduce exclusions and maintain attendance whilst also reducing the demand on specialist services. The support received is unique to each individual but often focuses on emotional well being, anxiety and low self esteem.

The impact of this '*school based support*' has been the growth of '*community based*' peer support groups across the constituency. These groups offer young people the opportunity to share the 'self care skills' that they have learnt with others. We commonly refer to these groups as Youth in Mind – Peer Support groups.

Appendix B

Bradford South – Youth Service Ward Updates:

Great Horton

Throughout the pandemic Great Horton has been highlighted as an area of significant importance. Youth Workers have invested heavily in building trust with local families, business and community partners. We have worked in partnership with the *Young Covid Ambassadors* to ensure that we are better equipped to respond to local information and understand the challenges that young people face during lockdowns. These relationships have been invaluable and continue to support the public health agenda.

Youth workers have worked closely with local community partners including the *Breaking the Cycling Team* to help address a range of local community issues including Anti Social Behaviour (ASB). Through a targeted approach we have built trust with the community and identified a cohort of young people who need to be supported. Through sustained contact and interaction with the targeted group we contributed to reducing levels of anti-social behaviour on Beldon Road (reduced incidents reported on Beldon Road noted by multi-agency meetings), Coppice Wood Grove (residents acknowledging the work done by the service), Weavey close had had no incident since the last reported one in November due to our engagement with young people around the area. Youth workers have also started to work directly with group engaged in fire lighting and other ASB activities in the Scholemoor community.

In addition, Youth Workers have continued to build successful community partnerships that provide young people with an opportunity to engage in new activities without the use of a building. As a result of our partnership with the *Capital of Cycling* 30 young people have participated in an online project learning how to recycle bikes. The components are delivered to young people who get to keep the bikes after they have been built. The project aims to increase recycling and reduce pollution.

Youth Workers have supported several families to access free laptops and internet which enables young people to learn and connect at home. Young Women from Great Horton to apply for funding to run the *Girl on the Street Project*. The funding is just over £1200 and they are now at the interview level of the bid (the bid interview is next week 17th February).

Queensbury

In the Queensbury ward the Youth Work team has undertaken the following work:

Developing new outdoor project at Horton Bank reservoir and working on an application with police and local partners for a bid to encourage young people to use outdoors more for play and personal development through forest school and environmental projects hopefully over the coming spring and summer months

Successful bid for Winter food project with QCP to offer 20 families weekly support for 7 weeks until end March with Lunches for the families of Queensbury identified by local projects, schools and youth workers involving the young ambassadors and young volunteers to pack and distribute the lunch packs to families

One to one support to vulnerable and key worker children throughout the pandemic at school.

Continued to support Buddies through walk and talk, zoom calls and phone contacts to ensure emotional well being and mental health is supported, in addition we have continued to support small groups of 6 young people at a time in 2 separate groups to resume and maintain safe contact with peers and support with mental health through YIM groups at Victoria Hall twice a week

Supporting partner projects to deliver food parcels to the vulnerable and older members of the community

Delivery of self help booklets and resources to buddies and Young people identified through school.

Delivery of the Moving Up program over summer supporting young people transitioning into year 7 and continued to support these over the following months with the Covid 19 impact on school and education.

Royds

The Youth Work team at Buttershaw Youth Centre are developing a number of new projects, in partnership with local community groups inc the none contact boxing club to help deal with mental health and ASB in the area, launching after lockdown. In addition, partners are also due to start a wood work shop to help develop young people's skills, we are hoping this project will start in the summer. Our outdoor project will be at the back of Buttershaw youth centre this will be focus on growing food and learning new skills.

Youth Workers have helped to ensure that the building is Covid compliant and maintenance work is complete to ensure the building is safe for use. Youth Workers have also helped set up a partnership group called Shoulder to Shoulder which is helping with the use of the building and raising funds for local community action projects.

In addition, Youth Workers have continued one to one support to vulnerable young people in the area with. Youth Workers offer support via walk and talk, gate visits and deliver of self-care resources to young people to ensure emotional well-being and mental health is supported. Youth Workers have helped deliver food parcels for families and also school lunch packs for young people in partnership with Sandale, all identified by local projects, schools and youth workers

Youth Workers have continued detached work 3 evenings a week 2 in Buttershaw and one in Woodside, speaking with young people and members of the community, and challenging behaviour around Covid rules and also ASB.

Tong

In addition to one to one support, school based sessions, small group work and online support, Youth Workers in Tong have supported the following developments over the last year:

Youth Workers have supported the development of a local consortium that supports young people from 5 to 19 years, drawing on local funding to reduce the high rates of obesity in the local area through education and activity. In addition, Youth Workers have also helped to develop a range of supporting tools including a cookbook and resource pack for young people. Helped to transition a charity from a LTD company to ensure continued deliver and support for the most vulnerable young people locally. Successfully integrated a dance project into the area, who are now key in providing a positive pathway for young people on the Buddies project and Wider community. Supported a successful funding bid for Clarion housing, who will develop a 3 year sports and physical activity programme to reduce crime and ASB in the BD4 area.

Youth Workers have also worked with the university to successfully develop work in the centre around STEMM, in particular robotics and coding. Developed a range of resources that support the well-being of young people, in particular around choices, friendships and reducing anger. Developed a transitional group to support young people, bridging the gap from primary school to secondary school. Worked alongside the community partnership to support health messages to young people in the community, raising awareness of physical activity, food and linking in this with young people's mental health.

Youth Workers have continued a successful, long term partnership with the police and crime commissioners' office to focus on key interventions for young people and the community. These interventions include Making the community safer, reducing crime, reducing ASB and engaging young people in learning and education.

Wibsey

Over the last year our youth work team have seen a significant increase in the number of vulnerable young people that access our universal provision. A number of these young people have needed to be supported on a one to one basis in order to help with issues such as anger, low self esteem and self harm. As a result Youth workers have worked closely with services such as Children's Social Care, Early Help and the Police to ensure that young people are safe and families are supported.

In response to the increased levels of vulnerability, the youth work team piloted a Summer Transition Programme that worked with local primary schools in Wibsey to target vulnerable young people in year 6. Over the summer these young people were supported through positive activities that provided them with an opportunity to feel more confident about starting secondary school. These young people will continue to be supported over the next year and it is hoped that this will reduce the risk of exclusion and the need for specialist support.

In addition to our work with vulnerable young people, Youth Workers supported over 50 families in Wibsey/Royds to apply for the government fuel grants for families on token meters, over 50 families successfully receiving 100 pound each, helping families with heating bills over the Christmas period.

Wyke

The Youth Work team uses detached sessions in the local area to encourage young people to engage in a programme of positive activities. The aim of this approach is to protect young people from Covid 19 and minimise the spread of the virus. Youth Workers have continued to build strong community relationships with local partners, businesses and families.

Our relationship with Appleton Academy enables us to build relationships with a wide range of young people whilst also supporting those who are more vulnerable. Our approach in school sees us offering 1 to 1 support, building trust and breaking down isolation. An impact of the work has seen the development of an online peer support session.

Youth Workers have used a range of techniques to support young people including; garden gate visits, walk and talk sessions and digital support. Youth Workers are working with the Delph Hill Centre Manager from Royds Community Association to support the reopening of the building and ensure that it is Covid compliant.