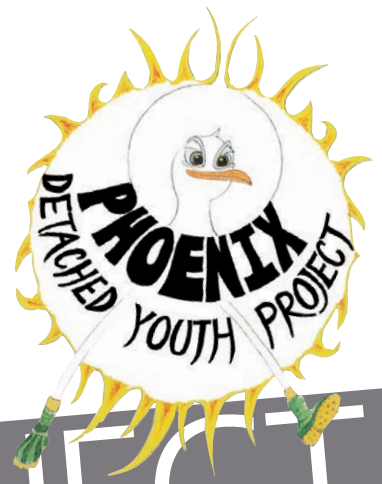


PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT



MISSION STATEMENT

Working with young people
to develop their ideas and
supporting their life choices
and education

Initiated by
young people and
creatively delivered
for young people

Charity number 1106223

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



FOREWORD

Welcome to the Phoenix Detached Youth Project 2023 Annual Report. This report covers April 2022 to March 2023. It's been a busy year for the project and I'm sure you will enjoy reading about the wonderful work of our team and the achievements of our young people highlighted in the success stories of the project.

Our sincere thanks to our amazing staff team including Mike, Becky, Luke, our new worker Becca and our sessional staff Ann and Gary who continue to work hard to create new and innovative opportunities for young people, and particularly this year, responding and supporting many more young people living in poverty due to the current cost of living and energy crisis.

Following the unsettling impact of the global pandemic we agreed it was timely to carry out an extensive evaluation of the project. We commissioned Ann McNulty to do this and during November 2022 she carried out a series of interviews, data collection, and analysis of local information. 36 people took part in interviews including young people, parents, partner organisations, service commissioners, staff members, volunteers, and trustees. A report was produced and in December we held a strategy day facilitated by Ann for staff and trustees. This gave us a chance to discuss the findings, receive feedback and then prioritise the focus of our work. The evaluation outcomes informed our new 5-year development plan and vision for the PDYP 2023-2028.

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the research and generously gave their time and reflections, particularly our young people and parents who shared their experience of PDYP.

It is due to the contributions of our funders, partner agencies and supporters that Phoenix continues to excel and is recognised as a key provider of effective services to young people in the borough. A huge thank you to all of you for ensuring the project continues to be strong and responsive.

I would also like to thank our amazing trustees who give their time, support, and commitment voluntarily and so generously, bringing a wide range of experience and expertise to their role of governance, and in developing and sustaining the project. Our thanks also go to the Mayor of North Tyneside, our local councillors, young ambassadors, and volunteers who continue to see the value of the work and contribute in so many ways to support the ongoing development of the project.

During this year we said a fond farewell to our trustee Sam Richards, we thank her for the commitment and dedication she gave to the project during her time as a young ambassador and later as a member of our board of trustees.

Young people are at the heart of everything we do at Phoenix from our first meeting on a street corner or visit to the project, to identifying their interests and needs. They play a key role in creating opportunities to raise awareness and explore the local issues effecting young people's lives and develop activities and projects for informal learning for themselves and others. They continue to shape the services we offer to ensure the project is aware and responsive to young people in the area and throughout their transition into adulthood.

We look forward to working with you all in the year ahead to ensure PDYP continues to invest in young people and build on our achievements.

Anne Marron – Chair of the Board of Trustees: May 2023

PDYP works with
young people secondary
school age - 25yrs
who live in Chirton,
East Howdon,
Meadow Well, Percy Main
and Royal Quays

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

This report covers the work of Phoenix Detached Youth Project, herein PDYP from April 2022 to March 2023

- 1 We have contacted and built long term relationships with 360 young people (175 males and 185 females). The staff team have worked hard supporting young people post pandemic, with the cost of living crisis having a real impact for the local young people we work with. This has resulted in 5004 interactions across our detached youth work, one to one work and group work.
- 2 This year we have successfully supported 17 young people into work, 15 into training and 5 university, we feel this is a fantastic achievement.
- 3 We have continued to deliver the health and well-being contract on behalf of North Tyneside Council Public Health in the NE29 area. We have successfully bid and won a Public Health grant to continue to deliver health and wellbeing work for the next three years.
- 4 We continue to work in partnership with Connexions, North Tyneside to deliver our Helping Hands groups which support young people from across the borough with their mental health and emotional wellbeing. Over the last year 83 young people have been involved across the 5 groups. Helping Hands has been running since 2005.
- 5 We have worked closely in partnership with Meadow Well Connected, to build memorial benches for two young children who sadly passed away. We also put a joint bid into Nexus for a train carriage for the urban artist to paint which is through to the second stage. The community had also identified the need for a street play project which we have both worked in partnership on, raising joint funding from Karbon Homes and Awards for all, to employ two street play workers to deliver a year's pilot project called NE29 street play, this has successfully worked with 100 young people 8 to 12yrs on the streets in the past year, and also funded 8 local young people to gain qualifications in street play.
- 6 The Louder project in partnership with Helix Arts and Rape Crisis won the young achievement of the year award In November 2022, at the North East Cultural Awards. The group of young women won the award for writing and performing in 4 short films about sexual exploitation, consent and abusive relationships. This will be made available to schools and other organisations working with young people.
- 7 We continued to work in partnership with VODA and local young people to develop a social action project called 'shy bairns getting nowt'. Young people successfully pitched to Virgin Money foundation and were awarded a grant. This resulted in £5,000 worth of smaller grants being given out to local community projects by the group. They also delivered the 'Not so secret santa' project which saw £5,000 worth of presents given to local children. They also successfully repaired the urban art street space, and gave out welfare packs to the homeless, supported by local businesses.
- 8 With there sadly being an increase in knife crime incidents in the North East, we have promoted the use of our 'Cuts Both Ways' educational films and pack free of charge to schools in North Tyneside and agencies around the North East.
- 9 Food and fuel food poverty and the cost of living crisis has escalated and impacted on young people we work with and this year we have spent over £5,000 on supporting young people in crisis. We have given out 137 food parcels / crisis grants for gas, electric and key household items in the last year. This has resulted in the need to employ an additional 16hr experienced, full time qualified youth worker at PDYP to cope with the increased demand and complexities of the issues we face.
- 10 We continued to develop positive relationships with funders, local businesses and companies, and this continues to make a massive difference to the lives of the young people we serve. We would like to thank all those amazing companies/ funders who have stepped up with their corporate responsibility and kindness to assist us as a charity in making a difference, especially when we know how difficult it has been for them in the present economic climate.

DETACHED YOUTH WORK



Detached youth work has existed in Britain since the 1950's, and the PDYP has been delivering this style of youth work since its birth from the ashes of the Waterville project in 2004. While the nature and needs of young people have changed over the years, including how they socialise, the need for high quality detached youth work remains the same. Detached youth work continues to allow us to engage with groups and individuals who might not want to enter a youth project or don't know who we are, while allowing us to engage with young people on their terms. Its adaptability means that it/we change as the community of young people we work with changes, and allows us to work with young people in creative ways to find solutions to issues they identify.

Figures for the last 12 months

We pride ourselves on telling young people they can be who they want to be when they are involved with PDYP and for some this can mean going by a different identity from what they would use elsewhere and can include a different, name, gender or pronouns. The majority of our funders still require us to report back on the number of males and females we have worked with so for recording purposes this is what we need to do, hence the figures being reported in the following ways.

360 different individuals in the last year **175** males and **185** females.

Male new contacts (12-19yr olds)	92
Male new contacts (20-25yr olds)	3
Female new contacts (12-19yr olds)	81
Female new contacts (20-25yr olds)	2

Male existing contacts (12-19yr olds)	74
Male existing contacts (20-25yr olds)	6
Female existing contacts (12-19yr olds)	85
Female existing contacts (20-25yr olds)	17

Total number of interactions **5004**

1385 interactions through one to one work (606 male -779 female)

2767 interactions through group work (1078 male - 1689 female)

852 interactions through detached youth work (463 male - 389 female)

ONGOING CORE WORK

EMPLOYMENT

This continues to be one of the biggest issues facing young people, and the value of working on a process to get young people into work to contribute to the economy and improve their lives generally has never been more important. A recent external evaluation of PDYP highlighted employment as one of the key issues the organisation needed to continue working on effectively. Young people, talked about opportunities they have had through PDYP, for learning, work experience and employment. The following are quotes from the PDYP, External evaluation Dec 2022.

"We can get experience and take it out into our lives".

"When it came to me going to college (name of Phoenix team member) helped me think about what I wanted. They supported me to choose. They make it easier for you to think about what you want to do. I can overthink things, so that's really helpful".

"I have got to socialise with people who are older than me, and that has helped me pick out jobs I might want to do. Phoenix gives information and guidance on jobs. They recommend training and give you options, and interview skills".

"They helped me get work as a volunteer and that kept us going".

I've seen young people who have grown up with contact with Phoenix and now they're in employment. They say they started from a position of a bad time in their lives. Phoenix introduced them to a support system, and information about opportunities. The work is confidence-building". (Commissioner)

"Phoenix helps people live more prosperous, independent lives. It moves young people on from needing support to doing it themselves. People stop us on the street to let us know how they're doing, and they say thank you". (Staff team)

"They have a phenomenally good record in terms of supporting young people into employment. They support young people to realise their aspirations. Employers need young people who are ready for work. My experience is that Phoenix Project prepares young people for employment. They help them in the transition process into work, for example travel costs in the first month". (Partner agency)

This year we have successfully supported 17 young people into work, 15 into training and 5 young people into university.

The support for those regarding employment and training takes various forms and can include identifying opportunities, CV writing, interview skills and helping practically with uniform and travel expenses. For those going to university support has included; proof reading personal statements, going with them to open days and interviews, assisting with applying for student finance and accommodation and purchasing equipment for them starting university.

GROUPWORK

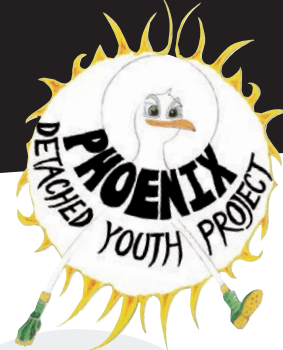
At the PDYP we love group work and everything it brings to the project. It's a great way to get to know different young people, offering them opportunities to do activities with their friends as well as sharing new and creative ideas with staff. Young people set up groups for numerous different reasons, whether this is to have fun with their friends, take part in new and exciting activities, respite from the stresses of being a young adult or to enhance their knowledge on topics impacting their lives, such as dealing with stress, healthy life choices, C-card etc. One thing that we continue to make sure is possible is that activities are accessible to all young people in the project, and we continue to work hard to raise the funds to cover activity costs, so that young people don't miss out. In the past we would list each group individually and what they have taken part in, but with the ever-changing nature of young people, we have found groups are more fluid than ever and young people will mix and match who they go on activities with based on interests. To keep up to date with our groups check out our Facebook page.

HELPING HANDS

Thanks to our effective partnership with Connexions, North Tyneside (Helen Heslop as the main worker and additional sessional support from Christina and James) we continue to run 5 groups which supports young people with their mental health and emotional wellbeing. This is the only project PDYP delivers to young people from across the Borough. Over the last year there have been 83 young people involved across the 5 groups.



PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

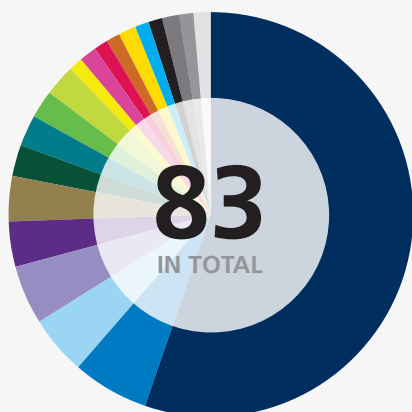


Young people are referred for a variety of reasons e.g., anxiety, low mood, resilience, self-harm, panic attacks, sleep etc. We receive referrals from a wide range of organisations, as can be seen below. Having the chance to meet with other young people offers them the additional support from peers as well as staff. It often gives young people hope, inspiration and motivation that there are different ways situations can be approached and evolve regarding their mental health but also in relation to school, college, training, education including university and employment.

In addition to attending the groups young people are offered additional one to one support and this doesn't have to be mental health related. In the last year we have supported young people on a range of things such as further education, training, university, employment, relationships, physical and sexual health.

"North Tyneside Council's Connexions Service values our partnership with PDYP to support the Helping Hands programme. The offer to help young people with their mental health and emotional well-being is valued by young people, parents, and professionals. The programme links well with our work to support young people into sustained work and learning". John Gibson, Programme Manager, Connexions, North Tyneside Council

WHERE REFERRALS CAME FROM?



CAMHS - 46	Care and Connect - 1
School Nurse - 5	Carers Centre - 1
Connexions, North Tyneside - 4	Kings Priory School - 1
GP - 4	Mental Health Coach - 1
Social Worker - 3	Monkseaton High School - 1
Specialist Mental Health Nurse - 3	Norham High School - 1
Family Partner - 2	North Tyneside Crisis Team - 1
First Contact Clinical - 2	Woodlawn School - 1
John Spence Community High School - 2	Mental Health Concern - 1
St Thomas More Catholic School - 2	Youth Focus - 1

"Helping Hands has aided me in gaining confidence, clarity and comfort when dealing with a couple of bad times I've been through.

It's also allowed me to be more social with a group of people. Though my socials skills still need more work

Helping Hands has showed me how to engage with conversations with other people. I couldn't be more grateful".

Young person



"The Helping Hands group has been a huge source of support to my son, this group has continued to help him over many years now and hugely improved his confidence, self-belief, communication and social skills, mental health and anxiety. This group has enabled him to participate in independent groups activities, mixing with his peers and encouragement and gave him the confidence to attend an activity weekend. This helped him massively to attend a week-long trip away to the Netherlands with college. This would not have been possible if he hadn't been away with this group. The impact of Covid and lockdown had a huge negative affect on my son, the support he was given from this group during that time was invaluable. The staff took the time to check in on him many times, benefiting his mood every time. This group is outstanding. I would recommend Helping Hands 100% for any young person who needed a helping hand in life. The dedication, professionalism and support given to the young people goes above and beyond anything I have experienced in being a mam. I have had to fight for my son's rights to inclusion and equality many times in the past, never at this group, it has been remarkable his needs being met and more every time. Nothing is too much trouble for the staff team, they are all amazing at what they do, my son's life has been impacted by this group hugely".

Parent of young person

"I have referred to Helping Hands and Phoenix Detached Youth Project from my clinic in the ADHD Team at CAMHS. I have done so for young people when they are looking for positive peer relationships and are struggling within their current peer group. In my experience I have found the referral process straight forward and the young people referred report support from the Phoenix project to be very positive, allowing them to develop new friendships in a safe environment". Nigel Denyer, Specialist Neurodevelopmental Nurse, CAMHS

HisSTORY

The HisStory group is our group set up to work with young men who don't have a large friendship group or who want to do activities their usual friends don't want to take part in.

This year has been brilliant for the group, if we do say so ourselves, with the lads taking part in a number of activities, including; Trampolining, high ropes at Go Ape, laser quaser, a Christmas meal at Brewers Fayre and other activities. These sessions are great, as they give the group a chance to chat and interact and create peer support, as well as get to know staff better. This has led to some of the group accessing 1 to 1 support with us on topics such as future employment, healthy relationships etc. This year, we were finally able to go on residential. We took the group to YMCA Lakeside, right on the shore of Windermere. While there the group got to take part in loads of teambuilding games, outward bounds activities and a campfire, and despite an unfortunate incident with a broken shower handle flooding a room, everyone came back happy and feeling like they had pushed their limits of what they thought they could achieve.

INTERGEN

For many years we have linked up with residents from Chirton Lodge and this year we have continued to do so. This has involved a range of things such as; some shopping trips where we have been able to support residents with food shopping, young people delivering Christmas cards and gifts to each resident and also an afternoon tea and games session delivered by our ambassadors. We value the relationship we have with Chirton Lodge and look forward to continuing our work with them.

LGBTQI+

PDYP groups tend to be formed through friendship groups and over the years providing a specific LGBTQI+ hasn't been identified by young people as being something they wish PDYP to provide. We have a long-standing relationship with The Base, Barnardo's and tend to refer young people to their LGBTQI+ groups and this seems to work well for young people and means young people benefit from additional support. We have young people from across the groups who see PDYP as a safe space to be themselves and for some it may be the only place they go by a certain name, gender, identity or clothing style and know that they won't face judgment like they may elsewhere. We have found young people within groups to be very supportive of each other on the subject of identity and tends to enable open conversations amongst peers and discussions on terminology and an opportunity for informal education etc. One young person had kept their identity to themselves during a group discussion but after hearing another young person being so open, contacted us afterwards and asked us to forward to the other young person some ideas and coping strategies they had identified that had helped them.



MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health and emotional wellbeing is something which impacts on many young people, and not just those involved with the Helping Hands groups. For those not involved with Helping Hands we are able to offer one to one support and where appropriate support them in accessing, referring to or attending with them more specialist services e.g., GP, Talking Therapies, Adult mental health services. For some young people they aren't at the stage of needing specific services and the offer of regular one to one support from ourselves can be enough for them, the chance to talk and be listened without feeling judged. Being able to be flexible to the needs of young people, such as when and where we meet is a strength of PDYP.

The Help Yourself leaflet (devised by young people from PDYP) continues to be a popular resource for young people to use and this has been made available to young people across North Tyneside.

We were also involved in North Tyneside's World Mental Health Day in October. It was a good opportunity for some young people from Helping Hands to see what other provision is available across the Borough and for us to network and promote Helping Hands and PDYP.

NORHAM HIGH SCHOOL

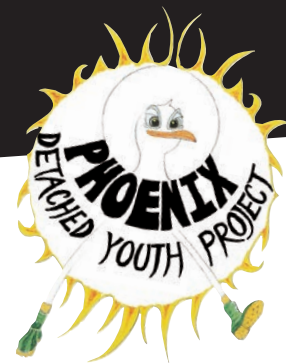
Working with Norham High School continues to be an extremely beneficial relationship for the PDYP, allowing us to use some of our skills as Informal Educators, in very different environments. We continue to deliver our detached and outreach sessions in the school on Thursday lunchtimes, using this opportunity to plan activities with some of the different groups we know as well as getting to know new groups and young people as we walk around the site.

Alongside the detached and outreach sessions, we have continued to support Norham in other ways, such as their focus days, this year delivering a session to all the year 8 classes, looking at their digital footprint and how other people and companies might take information they share for their own needs. Alongside this, we also supported them with their year 7 transition week, going to places such as St Mary's lighthouse, and taking part in fencing/dodgeball, using these opportunities to get to know potential new project users for the PDYP.

We continue to support Norham High School through 1 to 1 support for pupils they identify, getting them to join more Phoenix based activities outside of school as well as running sessions inside Norham. This has worked so well, that when Norham asked us to come in to do some targeted work with one group, both us and the group were surprised to find we had already started doing work with them outside of school time. We have also managed to continue the offer of a 10-week music programme aimed



PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT



at yr7's in which a group of students attend a workshop with top local musicians DJ ADS and Drop Dead Fred, learning song writing, DJ skills and music composition. These sessions have been a great way for young people to express themselves in new and creative ways.

Our partnership with Norham has been so influential on our work that this year while looking at our 5-year plan, it was decided that we would lower our age range from 12 to those in year 7 and above, so we didn't have to make some young people we meet, wait till they were 12yrs.

"We continue to be the strongest of partners with PYDP, working in collaboration to support the needs of our community. PYDP remain a diverse and dynamic team who work extensively with a range of our pupils, meeting their needs both inside but especially outside of school. The partnership results in PYDP regularly (weekly) visiting school to meet our pupils, supporting them in workshops to develop skills and personal qualities, as young people this is invaluable. Outside of school, a number of pupils attend their enrichment programmes which offer a wide range of experiences thus enhancing the lives of children and young people. This year, PYDP also secured sponsorship for one of our pupils to attend a London Theatre visit, the pride I had in awarding this was amazing

and we thank PYDP. All the team deserve praise and thanks for their commitment and service, they really do enhance the lives of individuals within our community". Mr. T. Conway, Headteacher, Norham High School

ONE TO ONE

One to one and crisis support is a significant part of our work at PDYP. Working evenings means we are around when other 9-5pm provision isn't. We pride ourselves on being a flexible and responsive services so aim to help people there and then.

The one to one support we provide is on a wide range of issues such as; poverty, domestic abuse, housing, parenting, training and employment, relationships, health (physical, mental and sexual) and isolation. If young people need more specialist help we will support them to access specific services e.g., CAB, Harbour, One to One Centre, Talking Therapies. This could be through making a phone call to refer them or to go to an appointment with them. One to one sessions involve spending time with a young person and getting to know them and establishing a relationship of trust so we can support them identifying what they need to achieve and what they need to do, this could include identifying and overcoming barriers.

For some young people we are the only people they feel able to confide in. Sometimes being able to help practically is what young people need at a certain time and with a certain situation e.g., a food parcel, gas and electric or household items.

We are fortunate to having funding from various sources who allow us to purchase items for young people. In the last year we have awarded 137 grants and this doesn't include the additional food parcels we've been able to provide thanks to donations from; Newcastle Falcons, Tesco Extra, Poundland, Royal Quays, Little Blossoms nursery, Bay Food Bank and Norham High School or the £100s of paint we've been able to distribute thanks to Tynemouth Decorators Ltd. Grants have enabled us to support people with gas, electric, clothes, baby equipment, decorating items, travel costs, resources for college and university etc.

"They invest in young people's interests, that others overlook. They look into each person's interests and help you realise your potential. They respond immediately to help you to not do things that will harm you. They're not condescending. They look at you as a person. I went to them at a really rough time. I was on the edge, and they helped me to do something about it. Everyone needs a team like that to believe in them, when nobody else is behind them". Young person

"I appreciate everything you've done and continue to do so for me, I will be forever grateful". Young person

PARENTS

The lifting of Covid restrictions had a significant impact on the work we have been able to do with young parents and their children over the last year. This group were significantly impacted by covid with many of the young parents feeling extremely isolated and the children denied the opportunity to interact with other babies and children like they would usually do. It has been fantastic to arrange trips to places such as Kikis Kabin, Acorn and Oak Play café, Adventure Valley and Blue Reef aquarium. We try to mix activities up so parents and their children can benefit from activities that are local and they can walk to as well as ones further afield that they may not otherwise get the chance to do. Following on the success of the Santa doorstep visits, which came about instead of a Christmas party during Covid times, we did this again just before Christmas. It is one of our highlights of the year seeing the excitement of children when they realise it was Santa at their door!

As well as the activities for parents and their children, many parents also ask for one to one support. Over the past year this has been on a wide range of issues such as; relationships, housing, budgeting, debt and health. Where appropriate we have referred onto other agencies such as CAB. We have also been able to help parents access grants to buy; baby equipment, furniture, food, gas, electric and carpet which has been even more beneficial this year in the light of the cost of living crisis.

PHOENIX CONSTRUCTION SCHEME

We have witnessed a clear impact of the covid pandemic on young people's education, with trainees who left school in 2020. This generation, who were out of education for at least a year, seem to have lower resilience, when they are put out of their comfort zone and have to enter the workplace. We had five trainees started the course in September with one dropping out because he realised that the construction industry wasn't for him. The remaining four have done a range of construction qualifications kindly funded by Carney Consultancy, and North East Access Training. We work in partnership with the Learning Alliance (NTC) and local businesses. This work has been supported by the Joyce Trust and this was our final year of funding from them, we thank them for such long-term funding and the difference this has made.

Three of the trainees are presently on site with construction companies and hoping to gain an apprenticeship and another one is being supported by a Connexions worker about his future options. One is being mentored by a young man who is now a full-time qualified joiner, who gained an apprenticeship as a result of the Phoenix Construction Scheme with Compass developments in 2015. It is fantastic to see this progression and him now being able to support other young people.



"I was on the Phoenix construction scheme last year, and I was able to use the scheme as a stepping stone to get an apprenticeship which it did, and I am now working for White Knight Maintenance doing a plumbing and heating four-year apprenticeship course. This is thanks to Lee Bishop for giving me and other local young people the opportunity. Whilst on the construction scheme I gained a number of construction qualifications and was well supported in improving my skills to work in the industry, I would recommend the Phoenix construction scheme to any young people wanting to get into construction". John, past trainee

SEXUAL HEALTH

This year we have continued to work with the One to One centre to co facilitate the Introduction to Sexual health course. This is aimed at a wide range of professionals to enable them to support young people on the issue of sexual health and potentially go on to offer the C Card. PDYP continues to be a C Card outlet which enables young people to get access to free condoms and some STI testing. For other forms of contraception and STI testing we support young people to access the One to One centre in Shiremoor.

"The Northumbria Sexual Health service are often supported by PDYP in the delivery of our Introduction to Sexual Health training course, aimed at practitioners from a variety of North Tyneside services. Throughout the year, Becky is able to co-facilitate with me and shares her knowledge of young people, their sexual health needs and ways in which we can engage with those we work with. I really do value Becky's input for this training course as she is able to draw upon her vast experience of working with young people. Thank you PDYP for linking in with us and for supporting your local sexual health service". Lisa Hanson, Health promotion assistant – Sexual Health, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

SUMMER PROGRAMME

The summer is always a busy time for us in terms of activities and this year was no different. Despite the challenges of covid meaning some staff had to miss several weeks due to illness, we still managed 40 activities over the 6 week period, this included Helping Hands trips, our 6 week Phoenix construction scheme teambuilding, various parents' trips and general group activities including Go Karting, Escape rooms, the Zoo, trampoline parks, bush craft days and so much more. We absolutely love the somewhat organised chaos of the summer, and hearing all the feedback from our different groups, when we get the opportunity to do longer activities, due to not being restricted by when they get out of school, or it getting dark early.



PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

ToGetHer

The ToGetHer group was set up to enable young women to meet other young women and share opportunities and experiences. Young women get involved for different reasons and from a range of backgrounds and circumstances. Some of the main advantages of this and of the ToGetHer group is that young women get the chance to meet people they may not otherwise cross paths with, try things that may see them out of their comfort zone, become more confident, feel listened too and alleviate a sense of isolation. Over the last year 34 young women have been involved in various activities ranging from arts, crafts and wellbeing session at the PDYP, local activities such as bowling and ice skating, to trips further away such as Holy Island and Flamingoland. Through our work in partnership with Active North Tyneside we were also able to do a residential for 10 young women to High Borran, Lake District. This was a fantastic opportunity for young women to explore the Lake District and put something back by building bird and bat boxes for the residential centre. For some of the group it was their first experience of being away from home. Opportunities like this really are priceless for the individuals, wider group and project.



PARTNERSHIP WORK WITH ACTIVE NORTH TYNESIDE, NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL

After recent staffing changes at Active North Tyneside, it's been great to get back up and running with our Club1 lads and Us Girls groups. Alongside planning a few activities at the Parks Leisure Centre where young people from different backgrounds have been able to get together and try new sports, we also ran 2 of this year's 3 successful residential to High Borran. The Club 1 lads residential saw 9 young men visit High Borran for a weekend. While there, the goal was to develop new skills and increase employability for the young men. They took part in a number of activities around the grounds that aimed at improving High Borran for other young people from North Tyneside, this included re-laying a carpark, building benches at the campfire and wet rooms, as well as re-laying the chippings at the low ropes course and dock. This was followed by a day of Ghyll scrambling on the Sunday. The Us Girls residential saw 10 young women from a range of backgrounds visit High Borran. This residential was a chance for young women to come together and push themselves by going on an adventure hike on the Saturday, followed by on Sunday learning skills with hammers and saws, building bat and bird boxes. Working alongside Active North Tyneside allows us to pool resources for these residential which benefits the young people. It's impossible to fully show the value of these residential in the annual report without making the booklet 100 pages long so for a more in depth look at both these residential, there are videos on our website www.pdyp.org

PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH HEALTHWATCH

We continue to work with Healthwatch and this is often in the form of getting young peoples' opinions as this is something they find is harder to get through public consultation. This year young people from PDYP have supported Healthwatch with two pieces of research 'Equally Well' and 'Digital Inclusion'.

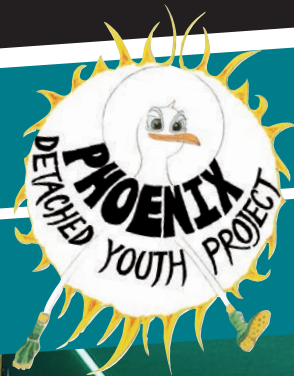
PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH MEADOW WELL CONNECTED

It has been important to develop partnership working with MWC further since the consultation in 2021 with the local community. The demand for increased play work on the estate by residents was clear, with the need for MWC to lead on this area of work, as they have already developed a centre based play work scheme. The request from the residents was to develop Street play work for 8 to 12yr olds, and with working on the streets being an area of expertise of the PDYP, we were asked to support this projects development. We successfully put in for part funding, MWC raised funding for two Street play workers, and PDYP raised funding to support the development of the work on the streets, and for street play training. As part of this 8 local young people gained a qualification in Street play work to support the play workers. This was funded by Karbon Homes with additional funding for equipment to use on the local streets. This was a one year project which has successfully worked with 100 young people, with further funding being applied for this to continue These 100 young people aren't included within our figures for the year. We have also been involved in supporting a funding bid for a metro train to be based at MWC, which some of the local urban artists were keen to have on the estate, we are now awaiting a decision on the bid. Our other piece of partnership work was requests to build two memorial benches for two different pairs of young parents, who sadly had recently lost young children. MWC agreed to build the benches in their woodworking workshop, as a project with local SEN residents, with PDYP liaising with the young parents, and funding the wood for the benches. Once completed both sets of parents were given the benches to put in their gardens, and the local vicar came along and blessed the benches, and the parents were able to thank the SEN residents for kindly building the benches.

"Our relationship with PDYP has gone from strength to strength this year as we've delivered a partnership programme of Street Play across the estate. It's been great to learn from each other and combine our knowledge and resources for the benefit of our shared community. We really value the high quality youth work that PDYP deliver and we recognise the positive difference this makes to the lives of young people".

Mandi Cresswell, Chief Officer, Meadow Well Connected

DEVELOPMENTAL AREAS OF WORK



AMBASSADORS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPIONS

This year has seen us complete our Shy Bairns Get Nowt project (originally called Elves not the Elves but renamed by the group) in partnership with VODA and funded by Virgin Money.

It has been a huge year for this group with them smashing all targets and expectations put on them. The group was formed with 3 main goals. Goal 1 was to help their community through social action projects. They did this through 4 events, the first was a very wet, but well attended Easter Egg hunt at Linear Park, where families could come along, complete a word hunt and get free easter eggs, which we gave a total of over 70 out. Their second social action project was distributing care packages to homeless people in Newcastle, where young people designed, then gifted 10 packages, including warm clothes and Greggs vouchers to those sleeping rough in Newcastle. This was a humbling experience for the group, especially seeing some of those sleeping rough sharing what they had with others. Event 3 was the Not So Secret Santa, whereby partnering with Tesco Norham Road, Poundland Royal Quays and Smyths Toy store, they were able to give out roughly £5000 worth of toys and gifts to families



in the local area, and massively helping some of those who had fallen on hard times recently. The final social action project was a High tea and Bingo night at Chirton lodge.

Once again, they had a budget for prizes, and it was a great evening with loads of laughs. Goal 2 of the Shy Bairns project saw the group given a £5000 pot of money to distribute to small community organisations including scout groups, community projects and small youth/sports clubs. The group worked to create a set of criteria, which was then shared in the local area. In total the group had 19 applications submitted, which they then had to assess, before whittling it down to 12 that were invited to present to them at panel. In total 8 projects received funding, with 2 of those projects impressing the group so much that they offered them the remaining budgeted money to develop their projects further. Goal 3 was to show just how amazing young people in the area are, and by reading the outcomes of goals 1 and 2, it's safe to say they smashed this one. It's been truly amazing to see the Shy Bairns take this project and really put their stamp on it, and making such a huge difference to the communities they are part of. They went to High Borran in January as part of the evaluation. This can be seen at www.pdyp.org. It has been great to work with Kirsty from VODA on this project and see everyone develop from the different approach she brought to the project.



PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT



"It has been a pleasure to work alongside Phoenix on the Shy Bairns Project. For me, the key factors in partnership work being successful is for organisations and their staff to have the same shared goals, openness, trust and good communication between staff and this is something I found straight away with the Phoenix. The Shy Bairns project has been a massive success and both workers have always strived to have the young people's voices heard throughout. It has been a great experience for me to get to know the staff at phoenix and the amazing service they offer to young people in the area and I hope to work with them again in the future". Kirsty Christofi, Young Persons' Co-production Senior Worker (DiscoverME and #iwill)

CUTS BOTH WAYS

It saddens us deeply that there has been a general increase in the North East of young people feeling they need to carry and use knives. We continue to do a whole range of preventative work on the local estate. All the Secondary schools in North Tyneside were invited to attend a session so we could show them the three films we have made and discuss the accompanying lesson plan. Our aim is for as many young people in Secondary school across North Tyneside to be able to have access to this resource free of charge. We have always believed it is important to promote this preventive resource to as many young people as possible, and for this reason we have given the resource freely to anybody who is keen to do preventative work with young people. We have promoted the resource to; youth workers who are linked with Karbon homes, Newcastle Falcons and the Violence Reduction Unit who said it was very hard hitting and a valuable resource and they are keen to help promote it and encourage agencies to use it in the North East of England.

LOUDER PROJECT

This project was completed last year, in partnership with Helix Arts and Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland and resulted in young people writing and performing in four films which highlighted different relationships and situations regarding

consent and exploitation. We had a fantastic film premier and we invited people from other organisations who we felt would be able to help promote the fantastic resource. We were delighted to find out that the Louder Project had been nominated at the North East Cultural Awards in the category of Special Award for Young Achievement to be held at Durham Cathedral. The group were delighted to have been nominated and a lot of the group had never been to Durham and those that had, hadn't been to the Cathedral. We had already arrived in Durham when we found out it had been cancelled as news of the Queen passing away was just breaking. It was a surreal atmosphere in Durham and decided that as we were all there, we would go for some food and spend some time together. There was a wide range of conversations about the Queen, Royal family and what would happen next over the coming days.

Fortunately, we were all able to attend the rearranged event in November. To have made the final was amazing, to hear the group had won was even better. We are extremely proud of all the young women who were involved in making such an important resource which will go on to informally educate and benefit so many young people.

"We hope that making these films is a massive eye opener to what's going on around people, that people tend to just brush past, ignore or don't realise until it's past the point".

"I think it brings out the issues that need to be shown in the light, people shouldn't just ignore what is going on as there is a real problem in society. To win the award felt absolutely amazing and hopefully more people can see the short films soon".

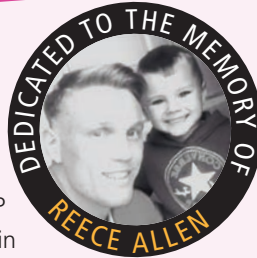
Young women involved in the Louder project.

Some young women from the Louder group are looking to develop a new project in partnership with PDYP and Helix Arts "Louder – under the surface" which will be a participant-led arts project exploring mental health relating to traumatic events.

RECOGNISING OTHERS

REECE ALLEN AWARD

This award is given in memory of Reece Allen who sadly lost his life in 2016. We had worked with Reece for 11 years and the PDYP and Reece's family wanted to create a legacy in his name. The award is in recognition of the contribution to the local community by a local young person.



This year's winner is Carley Partridge. Carley has played a significant role in several of the informal education resources we have produced over the years such as 'Pieces of Mine' and 'Louder'. She has been an ambassador for many years and more recently part of The Shy bairns get nowt' group. Sadly, for PDYP Carley has reached our upper age limit and we feel that her winning this award is a fitting tribute and way to say thank you for everything she has done for other local young people, the community and PDYP.

"Carley deserves this award as she has done so much for the Phoenix DYP and her community, we wish her good luck for the future".

Sylvia Welsh, Reece's Mam

"I'm so grateful to everyone at the Phoenix and how much they've helped me throughout the years. I'm so happy about winning this award as I wasn't expecting it". **Carley Partridge**

INVESTORS IN YOUNG PEOPLE AWARD – OUTSTANDING LOCAL PARTNER

This year we have chosen two local partners to receive this award.

HELIX ARTS deserve this award due to their support and work with us in developing the 'Louder' project. It resulted in four films being developed which explore the issue of sexual violence, consent and relationships.

(Covered in more detail in this report) This project has gone on to win the 'Young achievement of the year' award at the NE culture awards in 2022. 'Louder' is being used in local schools as an educational resource.



HELIX ARTS.

"Having developed a relationship with Phoenix Detached Youth Project over the last few years on Louder, me and the team are beyond chuffed to receive your award in recognition of our work with you. Partnerships need to move with each other at the right pace working towards the shared values and I think that is what we have managed with PDYP, in often bizarre and tough times.

This award will sit 'up there' with the Journal Culture Award we got together for the project. I can't wait to see what else we get to develop in the coming year". **Cheryl Gavin, Director, Helix Arts**

VODA has been supporting PDYP from its conception in 2004. For many years we were supported by Robin Fry, before he moved on to a new role, and we look forward to continuing this partnership with VODA. Special thanks also to other members of the VODA staff team, including; Colin (payroll), Mark and Juliana (finances) and Frank (support with funding). We would like to thank them for their efforts and support over the last 19 years. We have also done a successful project in partnership with VODA over the last year called 'Shy bairns get nowt', a social action project that has been highly successful (covered in more detail in this report). For this reason, we feel it is only right that they receive this award for their service and support towards our charity.



"VODA has had a long association with Phoenix Detached Youth Project successfully working on a number of projects and providing a range of advice, information and guidance to support the project to find funding, governance queries and providing networking opportunities as well as representing their views with the statutory and health sectors. We look forward to continuing our relationship with Mike and the team, we really value the work of the project and how it supports young people in the area".

Keith Hardy, Core Services Manager, North Tyneside Voluntary Organisations Development Agency (VODA)

INVESTORS IN YOUNG PEOPLE AWARD – LOCAL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

We feel two local businesses deserve the award this year.

We originally started our journey with **CARNEY CONSULTANCY** in 2015, this eight-year journey has made a massive difference to the lives of local young people, with over 40 young people benefiting from £16,000 worth of in-kind construction training over an 8 year period. Numerous placements on site with construction companies have been arranged through their network with local companies resulting in a substantial number of young people gaining apprenticeships. They have donated Easter eggs each year, and also help source furniture for young people in need. They have employed two local young people within their company with one being funded to go to university.



PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT



The company has also given grants of around £2,500 to help young people in crisis, this is quite simply an outstanding company and it is a privilege for them to be the only company to have been awarded this award twice. We cannot thank them enough for what they have helped us achieve with local young people.

"Working with the Phoenix team always brings a sense of joy and optimism. If by getting involved and providing the training and searching for opportunities for the young people, can result in someone gaining experience that leads to employment that is all the thanks you need. The younger generation are our future, so it is our moral responsibility to ensure that we help to find the opportunities to secure successful future for them. We value this second award and feel that working closely with a local charity supporting local young people also benefits us as a company".

Angela Carney, Managing Director, Carney Consultancy LTD

We feel Phil and his team of mechanics at **WATERVILLE MOT CENTRE** deserve this award. They are the guys helping to keep our minibus running for the good of the local young people, enabling them to go on activities and residentials, and have done regular repairs and given us advice over a 10-year period. This has often been at cost price or in-kind work and without a minibus we would not be able to deliver an effective service to the local young people and for this reason they have been nominated for the one of the awards this year.

"We have been keen to support the Phoenix workers by looking after repairing and advising them when needed by looking after their minibus for a lot of years, sometimes in kind and also at reduced charge. This we feel is our contribution as a local business to help the local kids go on trips and get off the estate, as we feel the workers do an excellent job for the community and are thrilled at winning this award". **Phil Legender, Managing director, Waterville MOT Centre**

FUNDERS AND BUSINESS

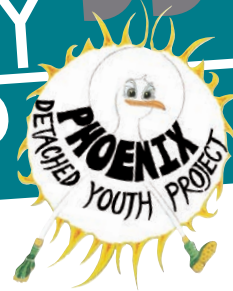
Key to our success is the relationships and partnerships we build with funders and the business sector. Without their support we would be unable to deliver the quality of work that we presently deliver to young people from the local community. We do deliver a flexible and responsive service to young people, which some of our key funders understand, so agree to give us flexible funding which in turn delivers a very flexible responsive service. The Tudor Trust is a good example of this and their flexible responsive funding over a number of years has made a massive difference. The long term funding from the Joyce Trust in funding the Phoenix construction scheme, has enabled us to deliver the scheme over several years and had a positive impact involved, helping them to gain qualifications and apprenticeships with local construction companies. This is now coming to an end, and we would like to thank them for committing to make a difference to the lives of young people, over a long time. We would also like to thank the National Lottery Community Fund which has made a massive difference over a long period of time, funding staffing and core costs to allow us to work in depth with local people to create real change.

Our relationship with local and national businesses, continues to grow and develop and includes funding as well as funding in kind. Examples over the last year include; £6,500 donated to us to support young people in crisis, free tins of paint, items of furniture, easter eggs, £5,000 worth of children's toys and clothes. We even get funding in kind from a local company to install electric and gas cookers for local young parents. As can be seen this is a massive contribution so we would like to thank all the small and large companies that step up and make a difference to the lives of young people that we support.

We also continue to have support from the local councillors, and staff at North Tyneside council from a range of departments, this includes staffing, funding in kind, and partnership funding in kind for residential's for young people. We continue to work closely with North Tyneside Public Health Department who also fund the work we do on health and well-being for local young people.

"The Tudor Trust has been a long-term supporter of the Phoenix Detached Youth Project. Phoenix works with young people and families who are dealing with challenging and complex issues, and holds these complexities with skill, thought and care. The team at Phoenix is deeply embedded in the community and has built deep and trusting relationships with local young people, enabling them to provide individualised, vital support while also expanding young people's horizons and developing their confidence and skills. They are a key organisation in Meadow Well for both young people and their families". **Nicky Lappin, Head of Research and Information, Tudor Trust**

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT PHOENIX DYP



"I was a social work student on placement at Phoenix Detached Youth Project (PDYP). I really enjoyed my time here and am so thankful for the opportunities I gained. I was even lucky enough to partake in one of PDYPs famous residential trips to High Borran, with an amazing group of young people! I cannot begin to say how amazing the PDYP staff are at their job, their combination of friendly faces, humour and kind demeanour simply highlights how they can make such a positive impact to the lives of so many young people. The young people involved in PDYP are all a credit to themselves, it was a privilege to have met everyone. I am so thankful to PDYP for helping me learn vital knowledge and skills, it is an experience that I treasure and will not forget".
Caitlin, Social Work student, Northumbria University

"Weekends at High Borran with PDYP are a highlight. They might go down well with the young people and PDYP staff, but I'm talking about the High Borran staff when I say that. They are genuinely courses that the team here relish, look forward to, talk about excitedly beforehand, relive with passion afterwards, put their heart and soul into. They make sure everyone else here sees the videos that Luke puts together from each course. They bang the drum about the value of these experiences for the young people they work with from PDYP. It really matters to them – more than a few words here can get across. It's one of those times when you hear people that you work with say "that's why I do this job". Long may the relationship between PDYP and High Borran continue! "
Loz, High Borran Outdoor Education Centre

This year we have been able to support the promotion of two resources developed by young people at the PDYP for young people. The 'Cuts Both Ways' films and lesson plan provided schools with a locally made resource to help educate young people about the impact carrying a knife has on all involved and the wider community. These films were shared with PSHE leads from secondary schools via an online session led by Becky and Luke, which also provided opportunity for discussion. Feedback about the films was very positive and all schools have now had the opportunity to access them through direct contact with the PDYP. The 'Louder' project saw the creation of 4 short films made by young people to address aspects of relationship abuse. The young people were passionate about using these films to teach about relationships in schools. Therefore, working with the PDYP and Helix Arts, these films were again shared via an online session with secondary PSHE leads and then made available to schools, so that they could be included in the Relationships and Sex Education curriculum. The 'Cuts both ways' and 'Louder' films have provided valuable locally created resources to support the teaching of challenging topics and it has been a pleasure to work with the PDYP again".

Elaine Robson, Health and Well-being Adviser, Education North Tyneside

"Every year I marvel at how quickly time flies and how much the Phoenix Detached Youth Project manage to achieve in a year! We know that many of the issues facing young people are wide ranging and complex, but the range of projects covered in this annual report clearly demonstrate the positive contribution our young people are making in their community, despite the challenges they face. It's always more difficult to show the benefits of preventative work, but the PDYP help a lot of young people's issues or personal challenges from escalating or overwhelming them. Many of the skills and experiences young people get through Phoenix will have a lifelong impact and increase their capabilities, aspirations, and self-belief. This is the key measure of success. The Louder Project is one example of an innovative project using a creative peer education programme and drama to engage young people in conversations around relationships, harassment and sexual assault. Relationships play a key part in every young person's wellbeing, but we know that unhealthy relationships can have a long-lasting negative impact. Young people want to be informed and understand what positive, equal, and enjoyable relationships are and understand what an abusive one is. The Louder project will help young people navigate relationships in a safe and positive way and help them make informed decisions. I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank Mike and his fantastic team, as well as the young people who lead many of the exciting projects highlighted in this report. They really are the heart and soul of this organisation".

Wendy Burke, North Tyneside Director of Public Health

"Phoenix Study programme offers an innovative pathway approach, bespoke to the needs of young people at risk of becoming NEET and grounded in partnership work between Phoenix Detached Youth Project and NTC Adult Learning Service. As partners we are centred around a fundamental drive to help to transform young people's lives offering those at risk of social exclusion/severe disadvantage and who feel far removed from employment and the labour market, the opportunity to engage in meaningful learning and skills development through strong mentoring support, functional skills maths and English, level 1 Certificate in Construction, Health & Safety in a Construction Environment and work experience. The partnership is the strength of the programme ensuring that each stakeholder brings their particular skills to support the young people with a bespoke approach that has created positive outcomes for several young people over the years".

Belinda Payne, Programme Manager Apprenticeships, North Tyneside Council

"Tesco aims to serve its local community in any way it can as well know a little help can make a big difference".

Kerry Lockey, Tesco Community Champion, Tesco Extra Store

Thank you to everyone who supports the Phoenix Detached Youth Project and especially our funders and local businesses:

National Lottery Community Fund

Community Foundation Tyne and Wear and Northumberland

Tudor trust

Department of Public Health,

North Tyneside Council

Virgin Money Foundation

A & K Auto Electrics

Active North Tyneside, North Tyneside Council

Alex and William de Winton Trust

Carney Consultancy

Co-op local community fund

FCH Johnson

Greggs Foundation

HAF, North Tyneside Council

Healthwatch North Tyneside

Karbon Homes

Little Blossoms Childcare

Newcastle Falcons

Norham High School

North East Access Training

Poundland Royal Quays

Ron and Louise Bowey Fund

Tesco Extra Norham Road

The Joyce Trust

The Red Brain Charity Set Up

This and That

Tyne and Wear High Sheriff Award Fund

Tynemouth Decorators Ltd

Waterville MOT Centre

Wellesley Trust

White Knight Maintenance Limited

WJR Financial Solutions

Donation in memory of Christine Graham

S. Hogg and friends

Residents of Chirton Lodge

As well as individuals from across our Community



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