

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 2025

PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT



FOREWORD

Welcome to the Phoenix Detached Youth Project 2025 annual report. This report covers April 2024 to March 2025.

It's been another busy year for the project and we hope you enjoy reading about the achievements of our young people as well as highlights of the incredible work of our Youth Work team. For a team of five they continue to engage with our young people, building trusting relationships and working together to create new opportunities as well as in our regular service provision.

There are many factors that contribute to the ongoing success of PDYP; the commitment of our funders, partner organisations and supporters who recognise the value of supporting PDYP as a key provider of services to young people in the borough. Our amazing trustees who continue to give their time, support and commitment voluntarily and so generously. They bring a wide range of experience and expertise to their role of governance and in developing and sustaining our project. Also the Mayor of North Tyneside, local councillors, young ambassadors and volunteers who advocate in so many ways to supporting the ongoing development of the project. Our sincere thanks to you all for ensuring the project continues to be strong and responsive.

In early January our manager Mike Burgess shared with us his plans for retirement in June 2025. I know I speak for us all when I say that although we knew this time would come, the thought of Mike retiring always seemed a long way off, or perhaps that was our hope!

With Mike's retirement only a few weeks away it has given us the opportunity to look back in admiration at all the work he has undertaken since bringing PDYP to life over 21 years ago, and what an incredible job he has done.

Ensuring the project has been both sustained and maintained to the highest standards while enabling the team to develop and respond to the needs of our young

people, providing creative, well managed services and opportunities for direct work with young people have been of the highest quality.

PDYP is very well respected in the area and across the North East and renowned as an established key provider of Youth Work to young people. This is down to all involved, however there are many aspects of Mike's professional and creative approach to the work that have contributed so greatly to this; his ability to work away behind the scenes, doing much of the invisible coordinating, reporting, securing funding, partnership working, while bringing insight, experience and commitment to developing and overseeing the project. He has done this through many changes and challenges, providing a reliable and consistent steer to the direction of the project.

The project has truly been in safe hands under Mike's guidance and leadership due to his incredible ability to manage the project and staff team while securing substantial amounts of funding for staffing and service delivery. As well as this the ability to engage with our partners, funders, the community and continue working out on the streets and directly with our young people while acknowledging and addressing the issues they experience has been exemplary. There will be opportunities for us all to thank Mike and to wish him well as we look forward to celebrating his work and his imminent retirement together.

On behalf of us all, many thanks Mike, it's been a pleasure working with you all these years. Enjoy your retirement, you've done a brilliant job.

We look forward to welcoming Luke Johnston as new CEO. Luke has worked for the PDYP for the past 13 years as the fulltime Detached Youth Worker and brings a wealth of skills and knowledge to his new role. We look forward to working with you all in the year ahead to ensure PDYP and our young people continue to thrive and build on our achievements.

Anne Marron
Chair of the Board of Trustees
April 2025



ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR

- 1 We have contacted and built long term relationships with 375 different young people (155 males 220 females). The staff team have worked hard during the past year in continuing to build effective relationships with young people which has resulted in 5,420 interactions.
- 2 Over the past year we have successfully supported 18 Young people into work, 17 into training and 2 into university, which we feel is an excellent achievement with such a small team.
- 3 The five Helping hands groups continue to be delivered in partnership with Connexions, North Tyneside Council and is a highly valued borough wide service. We have worked with 81 young people involved across the five groups, and young people continued to be offered one to one support with their mental health and emotional well-being.
- 4 We have continued to deliver health and well-being provision to young people from the NE29 area, kindly supported and funded by North Tyneside Council Public Health.
- 5 We have closely worked in partnership with The Meadows, for a second year with partnership funding from The Community Fund (Lottery), to improve and deliver, crisis support for the whole community, memorial benches, street play and community and youth work.
- 6 We continue to have successful relationships with the local secondary schools. Norham High School and John Spence, doing Detached Youth Work, issue-based work, exploring knife crime, relationships, risk taking, health issues and a range of other educational issues as well as one to one work.
- 7 We have supported a number of young person led social action projects, on homelessness with young people giving out welfare packs, 'What's the crack' (educational animated film about drugs), 'Vapes and me' (educational resource exploring health and risks of mazza in vapes). Well done to all the amazing young people involved, thank you.
- 8 NE29 music collective has allowed us to support over 16 local musicians thanks to the Community Foundation JD fund, and Karbon Homes, and a local fund-raising event, by working in partnership with Traxx music studios and Chirton social club.
- 9 Food and fuel poverty continues to be a major issue on this estate, for this reason we have worked closely in partnership with The Meadows, The Bay foodbank, and Norham Road Tesco. This has made the agencies response to the whole community improve in addressing local poverty. We have given out 145 crisis grants in the past year for: food gas, electric, ID, baby equipment, household items etc.
- 10 We have continued to develop positive relationships with local and national businesses and companies and this has made a massive difference in supporting local young people. The majority of funding for supporting young people with crisis grants come from local and national businesses, and without this support we would have been in serious difficulty indeed. In kind support has continued to pay for construction qualifications, fitting of cookers, house repairs, clothes, and presents at Christmas for the young children of the parents we work with.

This report covers the work of Phoenix Detached Youth Project, herein PDYP from April 2024 to March 2025

Statistics

Some of our funders require us to record our interactions in the category of male or female. For this reason our figures are reported as such. However, young people know that at PDYP we treat them as individuals and for some being involved with PDYP is the first time they may be able to go by the chosen; gender, pronoun, name or identity.

Figures for 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025 375 (155 M, 220 F) different young people

Male new contacts (secondary age to 17yr olds) **78**

Male new contacts (18-25yr olds) **3**

Male existing contacts (secondary age -17yr olds) **41**

Male existing contacts (18-25yr olds) **33**

Female new contacts (secondary age to 17yr olds) **89**

Female new contacts (18-25yr olds) **6**

Female existing contacts (secondary age -17yr olds) **60**

Female existing contacts (18-25yr olds) **65**

Total number of interactions with young people 5420
(this doesn't include interactions regarding the 145 crisis grants awarded)

594 interactions through one to one work
(262 Male / 332 Female)

1725 interactions through detached youth work
994 Male / 731 Female)

2082 interactions through group work
(922 Male / 1160 Female)

1019 interactions through drop in
(439 Male / 580 Female)

In addition to this there have been a further 894 (214 males and 522 females) interactions with the wider community. This includes the children of the parents we work with, residents of Chirton Lodge for our intergenerational work, and those attending the World Mental health day event, NE29 music collective events and Youth Work careers talks at Newcastle College

MIKE'S TIME AT PHOENIX DYP



It's time for me to say farewell, Mike Burgess extremely maverick MBE.

After setting up the Phoenix out of the ashes of the Waterville children's and young people's project the Phoenix Detached Youth Project was born in 2004. It has been an honour and privilege to serve the young people and community of the Meadow Well and surrounding estates of NE29 for the past 21 years. As a Project Manager/CEO for all that time with the support of the trustees and hardworking staff team we have, I believe made a massive difference to the lives of young people in the community we serve. As I am now the age of 66 years, I have to think of the sacrifices my family has made supporting me and now believe it is time for me and my family to spend quality time together more often. I'm proud of what myself and the team have achieved for others but now sadly feel it is my time to retire from my Phoenix journey.

What an amazing journey it has been and working in this community with the young people will always have a special place in my heart, and I leave knowing I have given my best to be genuine and sincere by matching my words with my actions, to make a difference to the lives of young people I have touched. My greatest challenge has been ultimately responsible for raising the money, Three and a half million pounds to deliver the service over 21 years. My saddest task was to attend 16 funerals of young people I worked with, and one of my greatest honours was to be put forward for an M.B.E. by the community, the lad that was told he wouldn't come to anything at school. I would like to thank all the trustees over the years for their governance and support for without your kind voluntary input there would be no Phoenix Detached Youth Project. I cannot thank you for your support enough through the challenging and difficult times as well as through the celebration of the great results we have achieved together as a team. So, I can say farewell to an amazing community I have served over the past 21 years, it's been a privilege and an honour thanks to you all.

Best wishes
Mike, C.E.O.



"Hi Mike, thank you so much sorting out our memorial bench, it was lovely to chat with you on the streets today, you're an absolute diamond of a man, for what you have done for this community. Your very highly thought of by a lot of folk around the Meadow Well and wider community well done."

Local resident



ONGOING CORE WORK

DETACHED YOUTH WORK

We were set up as a Detached Youth Project, and 21 years later, it is still very much at the core of our work. Detached Youth Work is important because it meets young people where they are rather than expecting them to come to us. By engaging with groups in their own spaces, such as streets, parks, etc, Detached Youth Work allows us to build trust with young people on their terms. This approach is especially valuable for reaching those who may feel excluded from mainstream services or who are facing complex challenges like poverty, exclusion, or lack of support. It allows Youth Workers to offer guidance, support, and education in a way that feels accessible and relevant to the young people's everyday lives.

EMPLOYMENT

This year we have successfully supported 18 young people into work, 17 young people into training and 2 young people into university.

One of the key areas of work for PDYP has been to work with young people 16yrs upwards on their journey to employment.

It is important to look after young people's basic needs, which then allows us to work with them on any barriers they've got going forward as an individual towards training and employment. Working with young people to develop relationships and get to know young people via activities and residentials is crucial to the success of the PDYP, and we thank Public Health for supporting the journey to employment residential each year to High Borran Outdoor centre. We use the centre because of the high quality instruction, and their ability to adapt to our needs, giving young men the opportunity to do groundwork which in turn benefits younger children who come to the centre from the estates through acts of kindness. Doing the groundwork also enables them to learn key hand skills, and also a range of soft skills which helps them work in a team, communicate, listen, and learn from other young people about their journey to employment. We often have young men from other cultures, working in the work teams and speaking about their life experiences, which helps local young men, understand and appreciate other cultures, and their journey to employment, which has been a great success over the years. They then do some outdoor activities together canoeing or caving etc. Getting to know young people through a residential is followed up with working with them individually on their journey to employment when they returned to the estate on a one-to-one basis.

<https://pdyp.org/videos/journey-employment-2025>.



GROUP WORK

Due to our new recording system, we can now record how many hours of group work has taken place. Over the last year there have been 403 sessions which has resulted in 1,195 session hours and 8,413 contact hours.

The PDYP has always operated on getting young people to set up groups with their friends and to take ownership of what and how often they do things. For this reason, group work and activities are essential to how we work at the PDYP because they create opportunities for young people to build relationships, develop social skills, and grow in confidence. Working together in groups encourages teamwork, communication, and problem-solving, while helping young people learn how to respect different opinions and work with others. Activities also provide a safe and supportive environment where young people can explore their identity, try new things, and feel a sense of belonging. Through shared experiences, they gain valuable life skills and develop resilience, all while having fun and forming positive connections with their peers and Youth Workers.

To list every group and every activity would take too many pages, but over the past year, the PDYP has worked with over 25 different groups doing multiple trips to places like Flamingo land, ice skating, bowling, roller skating, rock climbing, trampoline parks, coasteering, meals out etc.

We want to highlight one of the groups 'The Newcastle Lads' for the variety of things they have done over the past 12 months. Alongside the usual activity based sessions, Newcastle Lads, alongside members of the HisStory group were also successful in raising £250 through The Key towards a residential activity for when they visited Daleby House in Beadnell, back in October. Sadly, due to bad weather, this couldn't go ahead, so they decided instead to spend the money on new fishing equipment for the project. Alongside this, the lads took part in a social action project where, using a pot of funding, they visited Tesco on Norham road as well as Poundland to procure items which they then put into care packages, and in Feb of 2025, they went into Newcastle and distributed 10 care packages to those rough sleeping. It was an eye opening experience for the group of young men, spending time chatting to the people who were receiving the care packages and learning about their experiences living on the streets.



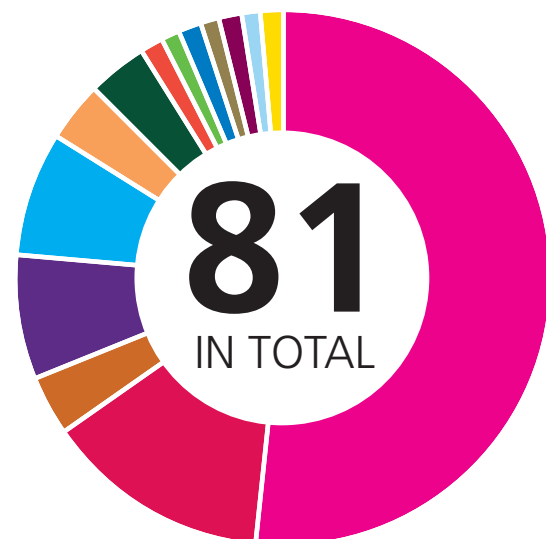
PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT



HELPING HANDS

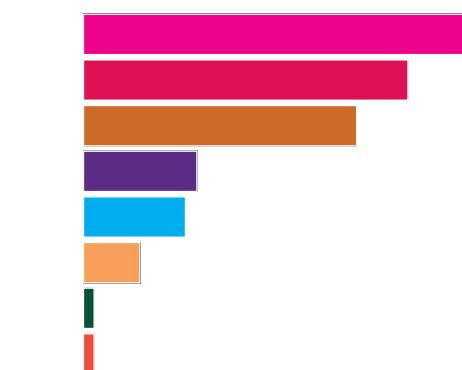
Helping Hands is a long-standing partnership between ourselves and Helen Heslop and colleagues from Connexions, North Tyneside Council. There are 5 Helping Hands groups, each meet fortnightly and provide mental health and emotional wellbeing support to young people from across the Borough. Two of the groups are for over 18 yrs old and the other three groups for under 18 yrs. This year 81 young people have been involved across the five groups. Group sessions focus on providing young people with the opportunity to talk and develop coping strategies on issues such as dealing with anxiety, stress and low mood. During the school holidays groups plan activities with the view it provides them with social opportunities and experiences that see them out of their comfort zones but are done with the support of other group members and staff. In addition to the group support young people can access additional one to one support.

"A key benefit for my daughter was providing her with somewhere to be each fortnight and having to get ready to go, this was especially important when she wasn't attending education. I am very grateful for the support she received and the additional one to one support to build up her confidence."
Parent



WHERE REFERRALS CAME FROM

- 42 CAMHS
- 11 Schools
- 3 Specialist Mental Health Nurse
- 6 Connexions
- 6 GP
- 3 Family Partner
- 3 Social Workers
- 1 Community Learning Disability Team
- 1 Epilepsy Nurse
- 1 First Clinical Direct
- 1 New Key Support
- 1 School Nurse
- 1 Voda Someone Cares
- 1 Youth Focus



REASONS FOR REFERRAL

- 67 Anxiety
- 57 Resilience/Self-esteem/Confidence
- 48 Low Mood
- 20 Self-harm
- 18 Sleep
- 10 Panic Attacks
- 2 Eating Distress
- 2 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder



HEAD V HEART

This is the aspect of our work which focuses on physical health.

As and when required we can refer young people to Active North Tyneside for free gym passes. In addition to this we record how many of our group session are classed as healthy activities. This year we have delivered 81 healthy activities and 70 different young people have been involved.

HisSTORY GROUP

The HisStory group has taken a sabbatical this year. Over the course of the previous year we saw numbers of attendees reduce as they either moved into other groups or decided they no longer needed the project. We ran a few sessions over the summer and half terms but decided by Christmas that the group for the time being had come to a natural pause. We are always happy to restart projects when the need arises but also appreciate young peoples' rights to choose what they attend.

LGBTQIA+

PDYP is somewhere young people tell us they feel able to be themselves and for some it is the first safe place they have found to express their true self. Young people continue to form groups based on friendships and for this reason there hasn't yet been the demand for a specific LGBTQIA+ group. However, some groups by the nature of their friendships are made up of all young people identifying as LGBTQIA+. We are aware of alternative provision in the area and have previously supported young people to access these services.

INTERGEN

We continue to work with residents from Chirton Lodge, Anchor Trust. The monthly shopping trips to Morrisons continue to be popular with young people supporting residents. This year we have also had young people join residents for meals out, a music night with young people performing an eclectic programme, games night and arts and crafts. The arts and crafts proved to be popular so this will become a regular session with young women from the ToGetHer group.

"Some of the residents wouldn't get out if it wasn't for doing the intergen activities with you and they enjoy spending time with young people. A lot of the residents rely on you for their monthly shopping so thank you."

Tania Sansom
Location Manager
Anchor

"I've really enjoyed doing the different arts and crafts, it's something I haven't done for years and I find it really relaxing."

Chirton Lodge
resident



WORK IN SCHOOLS

Over the past year, we have continued to actively engage with two local high schools in a variety of ways. At Norham High School, we have delivered weekly detached sessions, building relationships and providing a consistent presence for students. We were also involved in supporting their transition week which is an excellent way to meet all the new Year 7 students.

We've also offered one-to-one support for young people identified by the school as needing extra help, ensuring they receive tailored support and encouragement. In addition, we supported the school by attending their performance of Hairspray, celebrating the talents and efforts of the students.

We have also supported Norham through their health days, delivering preventative education sessions to entire year groups over the course of a day. These sessions covered Actions and Consequences through our Cuts both Ways session and also a session looking at Personal Safety for Teens.

MENTAL HEALTH

As can be seen from the One to One section within this report, mental health is the biggest issue we offer support on. Young people's mental health is impacted for a variety of reasons and this is the advantage we have of being able to work holistically with young people. The other advantage we have at PDYP is that young people get involved on a voluntary basis and can engage as much or as little as they want until their 26th birthday. With being able to work with young people long term and on their terms we can spend time supporting young people practically and emotionally on complex issues. Where young people need specialist services we will support them in accessing / being referred to other agencies. For many years we have worked in partnership with other agencies to deliver a Borough Wide World Mental Health Day event. This year as well as facilitating an arts and crafts session we were invited to talk about our Helping Hands groups.

SEXUAL HEALTH

We continue to be a C Card outlet which means young people can access us for information on sexual health, STI testing, free condoms and lube. In addition to this we continue to co facilitate the Introduction to Sexual Health course for professionals in partnership with the One to One Centre.

SUMMER PROGRAMME

Summer 2024 was once again full on, and we wouldn't change it. For a lot of young people the summer can be enjoyable but finding things to keep yourself busy can be hard and expensive over 6 weeks. Over the 6 weeks we ran a total of 51 activities with a total of 245 interactions. This is alongside our 1 to 1 work, crisis support and Detached Youth Work. We take great pride in running a diverse programme and it is very much decided by the different groups of young people. Some of the activities included a parents trip to Northumberland zoo, 2 trips to Flamingo Land, countless games of bowling, laser tag and other local activities, and finished off with an overnight stay at Daleby house for some of the parents group.



In both Norham High School and John Spence we have delivered our Risky Business programme (see separate section in report).

"This year, we've continued to receive outstanding support from our partners at PDYP who have worked with a number of Young People across all areas of school. This work has included 1:1 work with Luke or Becky for individual pupils to bespoke group work exploring healthy relationships, friendships and actions & consequences."

Additionally, their outreach work during lunchtimes at school ensures they can continue to work with pupils in the wider community, engaging them in positive activities which support them in making positive choices and growing as individuals."

We continually value the work that the team brings by working with us and supporting our young people."

Chris Drennan, Guidance and Support Manager/DSL
Norham High School





NE29 MUSIC COLLECTIVE

The NE29 Music Collective has been instrumental in nurturing young musical talent in the local community. Through PDYP's dedicated support, young people have had access to singing lessons, studio time, songwriting workshops, and professional music equipment, enabling them to develop their skills and grow in confidence as performers and creators.

For many of the young people involved, this opportunity has been life changing. The access to high-quality equipment and structured guidance with support also from Traxx Studio's and music tutor Kerry Green improved their technical abilities, while the encouragement from mentors and peers has helped them overcome self-doubt and build resilience. Learning to express themselves through music has also given them a powerful tool to share their stories, experiences, and emotions.

The NE29 Collective has not only flourished in the studio but has also made a name for itself in the local music scene. They have performed at a range of venues and events, showcasing their talent and representing the community with pride. Some of their notable performances include Salt Market Social, Mouth of the Tyne Festival, and Coast Fest. These events have provided them with invaluable experience performing in front of live audiences, helping them refine their stage presence and connect with a wider audience.

Beyond performing, the collective has played an active role in fundraising efforts to support the music project. Through gigs, community events, and awareness campaigns, they have helped raise money to sustain and expand the initiative. This not only benefits them but also ensures that future generations of young musicians in Meadow Well and North Shields can access the same opportunities.

PDYP's investment in music has created a positive and creative space where young people feel supported and inspired. By offering a platform for musical expression, the project has encouraged personal growth, strengthened community ties, and empowered young people to follow their artistic ambitions. The success of the NE29 Music Collective is a testament to the power of youth-led creativity and the impact of community-driven support.

With continued opportunities and investment, the NE29 Collective is set to grow even further, helping to shape the next wave of musical talent from North Shields. Their journey is a shining example of how music can transform lives and bring communities together.



ONE TO ONE/CRISIS WORK

We provide vital one to one and crisis support to young people facing significant personal and social challenges. This year there have been 594 one to one sessions and 145 crisis grants / food parcels awarded. Many of the young people engaged with PDYP experience housing insecurity, lack essential identification documents, and struggle to access financial and employment opportunities. By offering practical assistance and emotional support, PDYP has helped young people navigate these crises, enabling them to take control of their circumstances and work towards a more stable future.

One of the key areas of crisis support provided by PDYP is housing assistance. Some young people find themselves in precarious living situations, facing eviction, homelessness, or unsafe housing conditions. PDYP helps by guiding them through housing applications, liaising with local authorities, and connecting them with emergency accommodation services. This support ensures that young people are not left without a place to stay, reducing the risk of further instability and vulnerability.

Another significant barrier young people face is the lack of personal identification, which prevents them from opening bank accounts, applying for jobs, or accessing essential services. PDYP supports young people in obtaining birth certificates, national insurance numbers, and other vital documents such as a provisional licence, empowering them to take necessary steps toward independence. With these documents, young people can secure employment, manage their finances, and access further education or training opportunities.

Beyond practical assistance, the crisis support provided by PDYP fosters confidence and resilience. By helping young people overcome immediate crises, PDYP empowers them to engage more fully in their communities, develop aspirations, and build positive futures. The project's holistic approach ensures that young people feel supported, valued, and capable of overcoming the challenges they face. Through dedicated crisis intervention, PDYP continues to play a crucial role in transforming young lives.

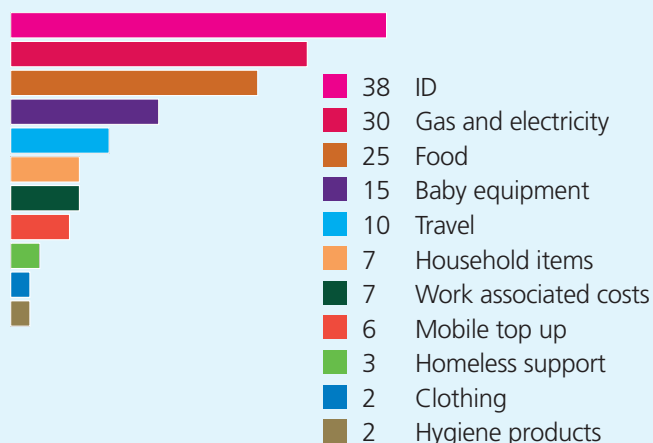
"I just want to say a massive thank you to all the help I have received from the Phoenix, I have been struggling a lot with the rising prices of gas and electric and during this time I have turned to them to support my wellbeing and ask for a crisis grants, especially with having a toddler at home and a baby on the way, the phoenix took time to sit down with me and work out my costs and usage of my gas and electric and very kindly offered me a cost effective alternative. This being an electric airer (heated drying rack covered) this has reduced my bills as using a drier, as it dries clothes and heats a room at the same time, making a huge difference so again thank you so much for all your help and continued support."

Young woman, 22yrs

The breakdown of one-to-one support is:



Thanks to different sources of funding, we have been able to support young people practically with 145 grants and food parcels.



ToGetHer

This group was set up so young women could meet up to take part in a range of activities, develop new skills and have the opportunity to socialise. Due to the popularity of the group (32 young women involved this year) we have split the group into under 18 yr olds and over 18 yr olds. The groups alternate between sessions at the PDYP and then out on an activity of their choice. This allows for a balance of activities taking place in a familiar space with the challenge of going somewhere different. It has been fabulous to see young women's confidence developing over the year and friendships being formed. The ToGetHer residential to High Borran's is a highlight of the PDYP year and it was fantastic that several of the group went on the High Borran's residential this year as peer mentors, having completed the 'Introduction to youth work' through PDYP. A film of the residential can be viewed on our website. Young people also filled in questionnaires before and after the residential, giving valuable feedback for development of future residential's as well as areas of personal development for themselves.



"Another successful year of the Phoenix construction programme we have supported 3 young people to achieve their level 1 award in construction skills, functional skills in English and maths and level 1 in Health & Safety in a Construction Environment. The success of the programme relies on the support and mentoring from Phoenix Detached Youth Project and the experience Mike brings to working with young people from the area is essential to their success. He supports retention, develops learners' soft skills and offers mentoring support into employment and work experience. It has been a pleasure to work alongside Mike and the programme for the past year."

**Belinda Payne, Programme Manager
Apprenticeships, 16-19 provision
North Tyneside Council.**

PHOENIX CONSTRUCTION SCHEME

This has run since 2009 and in its present form since 2015, In partnership with NTC (Learning skills team), Carney Consultancy, NE Access Training, and PDYP, with over 60 young people gaining apprenticeships/ jobs. Since 2015, young people have gained 420 construction qualifications (majority paid for in kind by business costing £30,000). Sadly, due to not having a construction tutor, NTC have informed us they can no longer work with us on the scheme. This year's scheme has had three trainees, all have gained qualifications in construction, 6 qualifications each and two have passed their CSCS card.

"The phoenix construction scheme has helped me pass my NVQ level 1 in construction and get all the qualifications I needed as well as my CSCS card. They have shown me new life skills and found me work experience doing joinery thanks."

Trainee male 16yrs

RESIDENTIALS

We are passionate about giving young people a chance to get off the estate and gain new experiences, and residential's are vital to this. This year we have done 12 nights away on 6 residential trips. The first of the year was a visit to Oban Sea kayaking.

The strong winds meant we spent more time exploring by foot, but the group enjoyed being out camping in the wilds of Scotland and learning about the area around Oban.

Our next 3 residential's were made possible through Adventure Holidays, who allow us to stay at Daleby House. The first trip saw the parents take their little ones up, enjoying time at the beach, rock pooling and playing in the house. Visits 2 and 3 saw the Mine Orities and the Newcastle Lads visit. While there, the Mine Orities went sand sledding, Coasteering (funded through The Key) a night walk looking at the stars and enjoyed countless games of cards. The Newcastle lads visit saw them going sand sledding, loads of beach football and they hoped to go boat fishing (funded by the Key) but sadly due to strong winds, had to settle for some harbour fishing instead. All groups had a great time while there.

The last 2 residential's of the year were our trips to High Borran's. The Lads and ToGetHer group who went had an amazing time developing the space for future North Tyneside young people as well as exploring the beauty of the Lake District. To say everything that went on would take a second annual report, so instead, if you go to www.pdyp.org/video you will be able to catch up with all the amazing things they did by watching films made of the residential's.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



The Meadows

We are now in year two of a three year partnership funded by The Community Fund. Over the last year staff from both agencies have worked closely to become a stronger voice for the community through NE29 Street play, Noah's memorial Bench project and developing a joint approach to crisis work.

NE29 Street Play

Developing street based activity in its very nature takes more time and with only having 6 to 10 hours a week to do this with part time street play workers means this is a slow process. We are pleased at the progress the street play workers have made and over the past year we have worked with 152 children. The local vicar has developed a positive relationship with the street play workers, helping to promote NE29 street play to local parents and children across the area with children waiting for us when we arrive, with the church and staff at Percy Main Primary school supporting the development of street play also. We would like to thank Sam from the Meadows for leading on this.

"Social inclusion is important for mental and emotional well-being for those in our communities. St John's church provides a safe and welcoming space for both children and adults. The church and local charities have provided leisure activities and healthy snacks to those who might not have regular access to them. Children have been able to stay and play for sessions this supports their development in many important ways. They have also provided the opportunity to make new friends and develop a sense of belonging thank you for providing these wonderful opportunities to our community."

Local parent

Noah's Memorial Bench Project

We continue to provide memorial benches to members of the local community. This project was inspired by 2 parents we work with who sadly lost their son. "Noah Kenneth born asleep on 5/4/24 never in our arms forever in our minds."

PDYP source the funding for the materials with The Meadows and their SEN adult programme building the benches. This year 5 families within the community have benefited from memorial benches.

Develop joint approaches to crisis work

Staff from both agencies have developed an effective working relationship with PDYP offering crisis support for young people under 26 years and the Meadows supporting residents over 26 years. Both agencies have raised funding to support the community with crisis grants, for gas and electric and other items. We are now more able to monitor clear indicators and outcomes around poverty for the whole community. We have also partnered with The Bay food bank, and Tesco Extra to deliver a more coordinated approach for the community by working in partnership for lasting change.



DEVELOPMENTAL AREAS OF WORK



Ambassadors and Community Health Champions

The PDYP Ambassadors have continued to be highly effective at promoting the project to funders and businesses over the past year, whilst also raising issues young people face. They have been key to developing young person led social action projects that young people have identified within the community in the past year, and we thank them for their valued contribution.

Delivery of intro to Youth Work course and promoting our work

At the PDYP we are passionate not only about face-to-face Youth Work, but also making sure that we do our bit to support Youth Works development on a bigger scale. This year we have delivered 3 talks on Youth Work to colleges and universities, showing that Youth Work is so much more than taking groups on activities. Alongside this, we have delivered the Introduction to Youth Work course to 10 individuals over 2 courses. We have a wealth of knowledge within our team and by delivering these sessions, we make sure that those who are coming through the project learn the key skills and responsibilities of being a youth worker.

Risky Business

Young people have always been involved in risk taking behaviour, it's a natural part of growing up, however when it's identified that these behaviours are having a negative impact on both them, their futures and the community, it is part of our responsibility as youth workers to support them to make informed choices. At John Spence High School, we delivered a six-week tailored programme to a group of eight young men, covering a range of important topics such as sexual health, online safety, and knife crime, which concluded with a reward activity at a trampoline park. More recently, we have started working with two separate groups of young men and young women at Norham High School who are facing more complex challenges. Our preventative education sessions with these groups have explored issues such as drug and alcohol misuse, healthy relationships, and understanding the impact of actions and consequences.

What's the crack?

We worked with four young people on this social action project to develop an educational resource for others around drugs. The project was supported by staff from North Tyneside Recovery Partnership. We worked with an animator and young people to create a fun educational animated film. This is linked to community safety and long term solutions to an issue young people are facing. This social action project will be freely promoted to all.

Vapes and Me

We are a group of PDYP ambassadors who whilst working on the 'What's the crack' animation, the local drugs worker told us about mazza (drugs being put in vapes for children). She said the schools were crying out for an educational resource on the effects of vaping and had concerns. When the drug workers sent a vape away to be analysed used by a child in school it was found to contain spice and its street name is mazza.

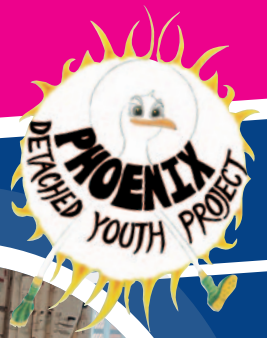
The following quote was part of a bid to fund the creation of the film.

"As young people we are concerned about the other young people, and we wondered where they get it from and its effects. We are also concerned on the effects of vaping has on young people's lives and future health. We have young people who vape and we are going to ask them to help us with the research on the effects and help produce the information for the new film which probably will be called vapes and not in me."

Young ambassador female 22yrs

Eight young people worked on the project, some who vaped, including mazza and some who were concerned about vaping. Early on Cody the young mayor for North Tyneside Council visited and supported the project, returning to see the finished product, which was well received by the young people.



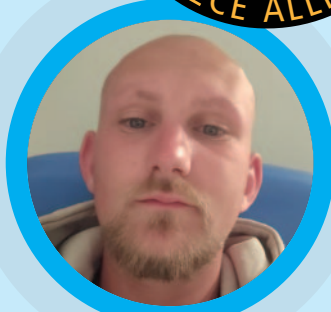


RECOGNISING OTHERS

REECE ALLEN AWARD

This award has been given in memory of Reece Allen who sadly lost his life in 2016. We had worked with Reece for 11 years and 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 Lewis Williamson.



Lewis has been an invaluable member of the PDYP, consistently demonstrating passion, leadership, and a genuine desire to make a difference in the lives of others. They have taken an active role in advocating for the program, speaking confidently to funders about the impact of PDYP and ensuring that the voices of young people are heard. His ability to articulate the importance of the project has contributed significantly to securing support, helping to sustain and expand opportunities for those who need them most.

Beyond Lewis's advocacy work, Lewis has played a crucial role in encouraging and supporting other young people to get involved in the project. They act as a mentor and role model, creating an inclusive and welcoming environment where everyone feels valued and capable.

Lewis's enthusiasm and commitment inspires others to participate and reach their full potential. A standout aspect of Lewis contributions has been his involvement in the High Borran's residential. Initially attending as a participant, he has since stepped into a leadership role as a team leader for the past few years and become someone staff rely on to get the more difficult jobs done. In this capacity, they provide guidance, encouragement, and practical support to other young men, ensuring that everyone works to the best of their abilities. Lewis's leadership fosters teamwork, confidence, and resilience among participants, making a lasting impact on their personal development. In addition to his mentorship and leadership, Lewis has also used their substantial DIY skills, some of which he gained through the Phoenix Construction scheme to enhance the facilities at High Borran's. Through their hard work and dedication, they have contributed to improving the site, creating a better experience for young children across North Tyneside and beyond. Their efforts have left a tangible legacy, ensuring that future participants benefit from a more welcoming and well-maintained environment.

"I honestly love working with the PDYP. I've done everything from small activities to creating new things for youths to do. It is very rewarding for me as I know what it is like to not have a lot to do and giving young people something else to do for example a new wood shed or a new path at High Borran's makes me happy I have always loved what I do with PDYP and if I could stay working with them longer I would, thank you for making me a candidate for this award it makes me very happy to be considered and look forward to what the future of PDYP holds."

Lewis



INVESTORS IN YOUNG PEOPLE AWARD – OUTSTANDING LOCAL PARTNER

Adventure Holidays



Adventure Holidays have been providing us with the opportunity to stay at Daleby House, Beadnell for over 15 years. So many young people over the years have benefited in so many ways from a residential there and not just from the amazing sea views. For some it has been their first experience of being away from home, others their first time to Northumberland, to enjoying activities at and on the coast to night walks without light pollution. Adventure Holidays thoroughly deserve this award for providing so many young people with such amazing opportunities over the years. Everyone always has fond memories of their time away at the 'upside down house'.

"We were delighted to be recognised as an "Outstanding Local Partner," as part of your Investors in Young People Award. It is very pleasing to know that in the many years you have been visiting Daleby, so many young people have been able to benefit from spending time at the beautiful Northumberland coast. On behalf of the trustees, may I send our sincere thanks and wish you continued success in your valuable work."

Jane McFadyen, Chair of Trustees





INVESTORS IN YOUNG PEOPLE AWARD – LOCAL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

This year we have chosen 2 local businesses to receive the award, as they both have been outstanding long term business partners over a number of years. Congratulations to **Carney Consultancy** and **White Knight Maintenance**.



Angela and her team have continued to support the construction scheme with in kind funding for construction qualifications for trainees on the Phoenix construction scheme £2,000 p.a. resulting in, in kind funding of £20,000 over 10 years. They have also funded the staff team to do first aid qualifications and given us grants which were flexible enabling to support young people in need. We thank them for their amazing support over the years, they are a worthy winner.

"As a local company we feel it is important to support our local community via PDYP. Since 2015, we have invested £20,000 of in kind funding to allow local young people to gain construction qualifications, helped to find young people work experience opportunities which have in some cases led to apprenticeships. This helps us ensure we are contributing to making a difference to both the local community and the construction industry. We have donated £3,000 over the last two years to support young people in crisis and the young parents. Supporting Mike and the team, who do a fantastic job in helping and inspiring change that benefits young people, it is a privilege to help make a difference. We are overwhelmed at receiving this year's Business of the Year award once again."

Angela Carney
Managing Director, Carney Consultancy



Director of the company Lee grew up on the estate and understands the local community, he has then committed time and resources with in kind funding which is focused on the real needs of the community over a number of years. The company has successfully taken on three local young people as apprentices, which has clearly inspired and changed their lives for the better, also taking young people locally on work experience from the Phoenix construction scheme as well. They fit cookers, doors, and locks in kind over the past years so we think they are the local knights and an amazing team of workers, admin and trades people this award is for them all thank you, they are a worthy winner.

"A heartfelt thank you from Lee Bishop and the white knight maintenance team, we are incredibly honoured to receive the business of the year award from the Phoenix detached youth project. Over the past five years we have had the privilege of working closely with this inspiring organisation, creating apprenticeships and providing valuable placements for young people in our community. This partnership has been about more than just work it's been about building futures, nurturing talent, and supporting youth as they take their first steps towards successful careers. This recognition means the world to us, and it only strengthens our commitment to continue to support our community within the community. Thank you once again to everyone at the Phoenix detached youth project here's to many more years of making a difference together!"

Lee Bishop and all the team at
White Knight maintenance



WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT PHOENIX DYP

"Collaboration goes to the heart of everything we as an organisation do. Collaboration with service users, with funders, with local government. Most important is our collaboration with other charitable organisations. Only by collaborating with other, like minded organisations can we support the people that we do. Based less than half a mile from us, The Phoenix Detached Youth Project, and The Meadows where we are based have long been key partners of ours. One area of this partnership has been on the distribution of excess or donated items. The Partnership, by collecting donations from a local supermarket have been able to pass on items to us that can benefit our service users. As a foodbank we provide emergency parcels via referrals from agencies across North Tyneside. We rely upon the organisations that refer to us to provide the holistic support needed to address the underlying issues. An emergency food parcel is not the solution to a service users' wider issues. However, by providing emergency food we're able to remove one area of worry, giving the client enough breathing space to engage with organisations such as The Meadows and Phoenix Detached Youth Project, who by working one on one with them can facilitate long lasting change by addressing the underlying causes of their food insecurity. The work of The Phoenix Detached Youth Project, The Meadows and The Bay Foodbank is testament to the benefits of working together. After all, the community is better together."

Joe Scrase, Manager, Bay Foodbank

"The partnership between Voda and PDYP brings together the strengths of both organisations to ensure young people receive timely and appropriate support. Our cross-referral pathway between DiscoverMe and PDYP reflect a strong commitment to information sharing and collaborative working, helping to ensure young people have access to the right services. PDYP has also supported the upskilling of our staff team by offering training to our staff and sharing their expertise and experience in working effectively with young people. Additionally, PDYP plays an active role in the Mental Health Alliance, working alongside VCSE partners and other stakeholders to promote a more integrated and coordinated approach to mental health support."

Kirsty Christofi, Health Projects Manager, VODA

"During the Summer holidays, St John's Church Percy Main has been working closely with the Street Play Workers, in connection with The Phoenix Detached Youth Project and The Meadows Community Centre. The Street Play Workers have provided activities for local children in the Percy Main area with a very good response from the children. My hope is that we can continue to build on our relationship with the street play workers and continue to provide these much needed sessions throughout the winter months for local children".

**Revd Lee Cleminson Priest in charge
St Peters Balkwell and St Johns Pery Main**





PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT



FUNDERS AND BUSINESS

The key to the success of PDYP is the continued importance of developing effective relationships with funders and business nationally and locally. We continue to work closely with North Tyneside Council, who are committed in supporting us in kind, and with grant funding. They have worked closely with us over a number of years, in supporting the local community, and also our borough wide service, Helping Hands, which supports young people with their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

National funders and business look at how much support and partnership working we are getting as a charity from the local authority and it is important for our future for this to continue. As the present CEO Mike retires the key work we deliver to the community will be continued with the PDYP having a clear focused vision going forward.

A full list of everyone who has funded and supported the PDYP over the last year can be found on the back page.



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

National Lottery Community fund
(in partnership with The Meadows)
Alex and William De Winton Trust
Ballinger Charitable Trust
Community Foundation Tyne and Wear and Northumberland
Co-op Community Fund
Garfield Weston Foundation
North Tyneside Council, Public Health Department and VRU
Tudor Trust
A&K Auto electrics
Bay food bank
Carney Consultancy
Chirton Social club
Jes Des Staff fund
John Spence High School
Joyce Trust
Karbon Homes

Little Blossoms child care
National Lottery Community
Fund (Awards for all)
Norham High School
North East Access Training
North Shields Poly Sports Club
Poundland Royal Quays
Prudhoe Street Mission
Foundation
Red Brain Charity Set up
St Hildas Trust
Tesco Extra Norham road
The 1989 Willan Charitable Trust
The Key
Traxx Studios
Tynemouth Decorators
Ward Hadaway solicitors

Waterville MOT Centre
Wellesley Trust
White knight maintenance
Winter family fund
WRF financial solutions
U.K.S.P. & VODA
Chirton lodge residents
Hanna Johnson, North Tyneside Councillor
Lee Kelly
Nigel Verdon
Rachel Marron
Sally Bradford
Donation in memory of the late
Alexander and Margy Akenclose
As well as other individual donations
from across the community



PHOENIX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/PROJECT MANAGER

Mike Burgess MBE

SENIOR DETACHED YOUTH WORKER (28hrs)

Becky Rowe

DETACHED YOUTH WORKER

Luke Johnston

DETACHED YOUTH WORKER (16hrs)

Becca O'Keefe

SESSIONAL STAFF / VOLUNTEERS

Ann Courtney

TRAINEE STREET PLAY WORKER

Lochlan Mitchell (10hrs)



CORRESPONDENCE:

Phoenix DYP, PO Box 957, North Shields, NE29 1HF.

TRUSTEES

Anne Marron - Chair

Rev Lee Cleminson - Company Secretary

Ben Appleby-Dean - Treasurer

Taz Akhtar - Trustee

Peter Hopkins - Trustee

Cath Davis - Trustee

Karen Bolger - Trustee



North
Tyneside
Council

the
Tudor trust



Community
Foundation



W
Garfield Weston
Foundation

BALLINGER
CHARITABLE TRUST