

Youth News



CELEBRATING YOUNG PEOPLE YOUNG LEADERS



Our Ripon YMCA Young Leaders group has been running since June 2022.

In that time young people planned fun events open for all young people of Ripon to attend, such as a Movie Night, Paddleboarding, Board Game night. They have also given their time to meet once a month in the library, raise money, help other events and run activities. In just 6 months they have;

- Raised money for SYD dog rescue
- Attended Ripon Together and Ripon BID's 'SummerFest' running activities for younger children
- Attended the Poetry Festival - running activities for children
- Launched an art competition for young people in Ripon and produced a 2023 calendar of the winning art work.

It has been an absolute pleasure to support these fantastic young people. Watch this space for what they achieve in 2023!

CHRISTMAS WINDOW COMPETITION

Young people who attend our youth provisions came together to design a YMCA window display for the Ripon BID window competition. The task was not without it's challenges as the YMCA window is small and difficult to access due to fixed metal bars, however they were not perturbed and created a 'Peas on Earth' display which although was fun, carried an important message of peace and caring for our planet and each other.

We were thrilled to hear we had won the judges choice trophy and that judges felt the theme perfectly fit the brief of 'Peace & sanctuary'.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FEEDBACK

Young people's feedback is essential to inform and sustain our continued success of our projects. Every Quarter we carry out a feedback questionnaire with those who attend our sessions. See below some of the Q3 results !



COMMUNITY YOUTH WORK

Prior to the pandemic there was no provision of street based youth work in Ripon, growing numbers of young people were gathering unsupervised and at risk. The lockdowns of 2020/21 saw a sharp increase in these numbers, leading to tensions with the police and local community.

In 2019-21 we conducted a number of surveys, consulting community members and young people relating to needs, concerns, and aspirations. From this we learned that young people in Ripon were desperate for 'something to do' and that mental health was overwhelmingly the most serious and widespread worry.

We responded to these messages and stepped into the gap by rolling out Ripon's first street-based youth work programme.

559

Engagements with young people on Street Based Youth Work in 2021-22

959

Engagement on Outreach work 2021-22

OUR YOUTH PROVISION SUCCESS 2022

In 2022 we have enhanced our youth provision offer in the community. As a result we now offer a range of youth projects open to young people aged 11+. We will continue to explore opportunities, to expand and strengthen this into 2023.



Youth Work Sessions Delivered

FUN FACTS!

FROM APRIL TO DECEMBER 2022 WE HAVE . . .

- Stereotype/Prejudice
- Body Image
- PHILES & LGBTQ+
- Identity & Authentic Self
- Positivity & Goal Setting
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Effects of Bullying
- Social Media

Topic delivery



Attendees to our youth provisions



Staff Hours in project delivery

In 2022 we also ran 3 school holiday diversional activity days. A water safety day with free paddleboarding, and Art day and a Christmas Crafts afternoon.

71

Young People attended



Housing News

TENANTS FEEDBACK

Our tenant's feedback is key to continuing to provide quality and impactful support. Feedback is continually recorded both formally and informally; through one to one support sessions and via feedback questionnaires, progress tracking and outcome journeys.

Q3 saw 95% positive feedback on tenant's relationship with staff.

TENANTS TELL US . . .

BEST THING ABOUT LIVING AT YMCA RIPON

"THE STAFF ARE FRIENDLY AND HELP THE MOST THEY CAN"

"UPBEAT STAFF, ACTIVITIES THAT HELP ENGAGEMENT, PLACE TO LIVE"

"MY ROOM IS MY INDEPENDENCE. FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME I FEEL SAFE AND AT EASE"

"COMFORTABLE ISOLATION WHEN NECESSARY WHILST PROVIDING EASY COMMUNITY ACCESS WHEN NEEDED"

"DEFINATELY THE CONVERSATION WITH STAFF AND LEVEL OF COMFORT WHEN IN THE OFFICE"

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Christmas 2022 saw an overwhelming amount of support from our local community of Ripon.

With donations of food produce, including an entire Christmas dinner for all our our tenants to enjoy together and numerous gifts we were able to ensure our tenants could enjoy the festive season.

Our tenant Christmas lunch was a huge success which included a kahoot quiz with huge hamper for the winner and Christmas gifts for each individual, tailored to their preferences and interests.



CELEBRATING OUR SUPPORTED HOUSING SUCCESS IN 2022

THE BEST THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

Ripon YMCA is a small local independent charity and housing association. We are a member of YMCA England and Wales, who provide us with information and support.

Our small team of staff provide Supported Housing to young adults aged between 16 and 35 who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or are vulnerable.

Our dedicated Housing Support Team support young people from dependence to independence, supporting them for up to 2 years to develop, learn living skills and engage in education, employment or training opportunities.

WORK AND TRAINING

Supporting our tenants to access employability opportunities and enhancing their skills and qualifications is key to helping them in moving forward to independant living and reaching their potential.

During April to Dec 2022 **45% of our tenants have accessed work or training.** We continue to develop this with our employability programme 'Works for you' including the offer of on-site Prince's Trust courses starting in 2023.

OUR HOUSING STATS . . .

During Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec) **94% of our rooms were occupied with 22 young people**, with the majority of tenants aged between 19 to 24.



tenants have moved on successfully



tenants have been in service less than 12 months



of tenants have accessed external support services



tenants are registered with a GP & have access to a dentist



of tenants have received debt advice

WELCOMING DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

We are very priviledged to be a part of the tremendous work that is being delivered in our region working along side parntership organisations to support young adults from varied backgrounds, experiences and circumstances.



Currently:

- **10%** of occupants are from a diverse background
- **15%** of tenants are Leaving Care
- **41%** of tenants are estranged from their family



Community News

FUNDRAISING



As with most charities, fund raising is crucial to enable us to continue with our vital work and support of young people and adults.

We are always thrilled to support individuals or organisations who would like and are able to do any fundraising on our behalf.

Please get in touch if you are interested in fundraising for us or perhaps you could dedicate your time to being part of our fundraising committee.

YMCA TRAINING OFFER

In October 2022 we delivered a successful Mental Health Awareness Course open to anyone in the Ripon Community.

We also delivered a workshop as part of Ripon City of Volunteering to organisations who were interested in offering volunteer opportunities to young people.

We continue to deliver our training portfolio in 2023, in addition to expanding the offer, including a Safeguarding Workshop.



Sponsor a room
www.ymca.org.uk/rs-ripon-ymca

Donate £10 by text
Text: **RIPONYMCA to 70085**



Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting into hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from us, please text YMCA RIPONNOINFO instead.

Thank you!

YMCA RIPON SLEEP EASY 2023

What is the Sleep Easy Campaign?

The YMCA Sleep Easy campaign aims to raise awareness of homelessness particularly in young people. Homelessness is often hidden, and although some people do sleep rough on the streets, many with no fixed home will find themselves sleeping on a friend's floor, sofa or in a car.

In the past few years at Ripon YMCA we have worked with many young people who have slept in tents, sheds, on kitchen floors, on sofas, airbeds or outdoors. The main reason young people become homeless is due to relationships with family or a partner breaking down. Many of our young people have mental health issues and suffer low mood and lack of motivation.

What happens at the Sleep Easy?

On Friday 21st April 2023 Ripon YMCA will be holding a sponsored sleep-out in support of the Sleep Easy Campaign. Staff, Trustees and Volunteers will be sleeping outdoors at Ripon Museum to raise awareness of how homelessness affects young people in our local area.

Take part in our Sleep Easy campaign and sleep out so others don't have to. Get in touch if you can support this event or can join us sleeping out: info@riponymca.org



YMCA CHARITY SHOP OPENING JAN 2023

We are thrilled to be able to share the news that Ripon will soon have its very own YMCA Charity Shop. The new shop will be at Marshall Way on the site of the old Argos store.

People of Ripon we need :

VOLUNTEERS to help set up the store & to help in the shop

DONATIONS for the shop including furniture, clothes, household goods

For more information about the store and the volunteering opportunities please contact: emma.castle@ymca.org.uk



RIPON YOUTH WORK PARTNERSHIP

Ripon Youth Work Partnership was created after highlighted issues of young people gathering unsupervised and through our contact with young people in the community on our street based youth work project.

Teamed with our surveys we learned that young people in Ripon were desperate for 'something to do' with others outside of school and were in need of advice and support around such topics as sexual health, drugs and mental health.



Local residents were also fearful that young people gathering informally in unsupervised groups outdoors were at risk of harm and there was a negative stigma relating to young people beginning to develop.

Ripon Youth Work Partnership, funded via Ripon City Council meet on a bimonthly basis. Our last meeting on the 7th of November included the police, schools, delivery providers, statutory services, libraries and other 3rd sector partners.

The partnership meet to discuss emerging trends, hot spots, issue, as well as looking at current provision in the community, share best practice and feedback; working together as a collective to sustain and expand youth provision in Ripon. Our last meeting saw the mapping of a SWOT analysis and setting our aims going forward.

We welcome organisations in the Ripon community to join the partnership to help us develop a robust Youth hub in our community.

Contact us if your organisation is interested in becoming a member of Ripon Youth Work Partnership: community@riponymca.org

Page of positivity



YMCA RIPON GO MOBILE



We were absolutely thrilled to receive our YMCA Ripon van in October 2022. The van was generously leased to us by Jorvik Design Group.

Jorvik design Group are a Yorkshire based company who provide survey and design services to the telecommunications industry, designing & planning, fibre and civil construction.

They recognised the advantages of us having our own branded vehicle and were able to help us in achieving our goal of being able to deliver street based youth work in the community as well as utilise the van for collections, donations, moving furniture and general use in supporting our tenants.

The van is an huge bonus for us and helps to raise awareness of the YMCA and our presence and vital work here in Ripon.



CASE STUDY

Several years ago John approached the Young Peoples Pathway Hub at Harrogate Borough Council as he required accommodation outside of his family home. He grew up in a struggling household in challenging circumstances with poor family connections or positive experiences. Life was chaotic and he found himself angry and frustrated a lot of the time which got him into trouble at school.

Ripon YMCA accepted the referral and carried out an Initial needs assessment with John finding out his needs and wants for the future and identifying any risks to explore. He was welcomed into a bedsit at the YMCA. John was struggling with his overall wellbeing and mental health and had no benefits in place. Our Housing Support team provided him with lots of initial guidance and supported him with bedding, cooking utensils, crockery and some essentials.

Our regular Keywork sessions explored Johns needs and challenges and a support plan was developed focusing on positive steps and solutions. Johns poor mental health placed barriers in his day-to-day life, to support John to move forward we encouraged him to take small achievable steps and adapted our working style to suit his individual needs.

John developed independent living skills including self-care, room hygiene, budgeting, physical health, emotion health. John was encouraged to develop confidence by accessing volunteering, employment and recognises his individual accomplishments.

John found a part time job that he enjoyed and was able to save a little for his future. It took a while for him to find confidence to think about moving out given the challenges this would have with benefits and independent money management. In 2021 he was offered accommodation with a local Housing Association, and was able to move in in early 2022.

The YMCA team supported John to apply for appropriate benefits and to access the support available to support his move. John now lives in Harrogate, but knows that the YMCA team will get in contact from time to time to say hello and offer support. Recently he visited Ripon and came to see the staff at the YMCA to share the news that he has been offered a permanent job with more hours with his current employer. He was thrilled and the YMCA team were able to give him some treats for Christmas.

FUN TIMES IN 2022

FUN

One day AT A TIME



enjoy!

its happy