



By Community VISION

A merger of ERVAS & VANL

Volunteering Voice Annual Report

1st July 2024 – 30th June 2025



EAST RIDING
OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL



COMMUNITY
FUND



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“I’m passionate about making sure young people’s voices are heard loud and clear. I got involved because I believe young people have valuable ideas and perspectives that can help improve our community. Being part of the Youth Council and Youth Parliament allows me to help shape real decisions that affect us all.

When I’m not working on youth projects, I enjoy football, music, volunteering. As well as photography and gaming. I’m proud to represent young people here and help create positive change.”

George Jackson, Co-Chair of the East Riding Youth Council, East Riding Member of the UK Youth Parliament



Introduction

The funding from East Riding of Yorkshire Council has enabled Community VISION to continue employing dedicated staff on the Volunteen Voice project to engage and support young people to participate in a variety of youth voice and influence opportunities across the East Riding, as well as regionally and nationally, between 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2024.

Overall, we have had **639** [1] individual engagements with young people across East Riding over the past 12 months.

We have continued building on our work with partner agencies wanting to engage more young people in voice and influence work such as different services within the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the University of Hull's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Research team, Humberside Police, Humberside Fire & Rescue Service, East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership, voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) groups and East Riding Councillors.

The East Riding Members and Deputy Members of the UK Youth Parliament (M/DMYP) have continued to make great progress with their manifestos to benefit the communities of East Riding, working with key services and partners to achieve a number of successful outcomes over the last 12 months.

Another success has been the East Riding Youth Council, which has gone on tour across the East Riding, holding meetings in Goole, Bridlington and Beverley, enabling more young people to get involved in youth voice within their local communities. This has led to the establishment of a new local Youth Council in Bridlington with support from Bridlington Town Council.

The work of Volunteen Voice has regularly reported into the East Riding Children and Families Partnership Board, ensuring that young people's voices are embedded within key strategic priorities and action plans being developed across the area relating to children, young people and families; as well as wider areas of work that young people feel passionate about such as school meals, mental health and emotional wellbeing, keeping safe, transport, climate change, arts and culture.

[1] This figure is not individual young people, but the number of engagements we have had directly with young people as part of the Volunteen Voice work. This figure can be further broken down as follows: 263 females, 278 males and 98 who identify as non-binary.

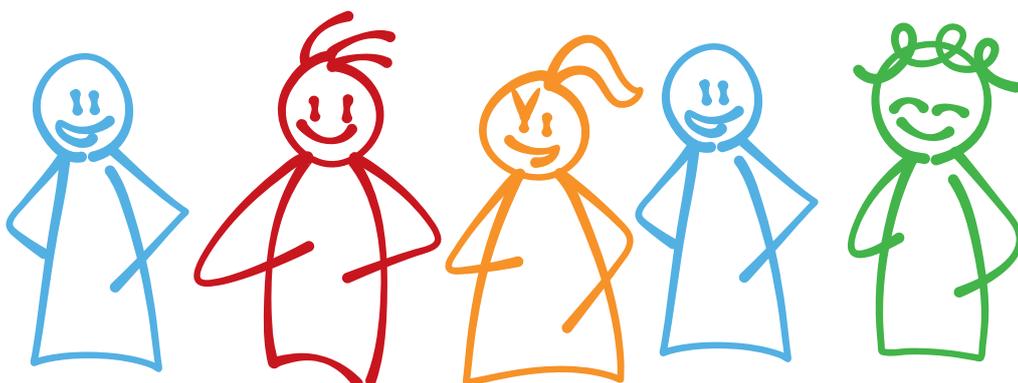


We have made some good progress in working with those agencies who support our most vulnerable young people, including those who are care-experienced, young carers, young people working with our youth justice services, young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, young people who are neurodiverse and young people who are otherwise under-represented across the East Riding.

However, despite the positive results that have been achieved during the last year, there continues to be much work to do to ensure that many more children and young people have their voices heard about things they feel passionate about. This includes building on our work with all education providers across East Riding, along with post-16 providers and those services who engage with young people who are electively home educated; as well as engaging more with children and young people from serving military families at the Defence School of Transport; and providing more opportunities for East Riding Councillors and Town and Parish Councillors to engage with and hear from children and young people on a regular basis.

To read in more detail about the work we have done over the last 12 months, please enjoy reading the following report.

Detty Tyler
Children and Young People's Services Coordinator
Community VISION CIO





What did we do?

As part of the new contract with East Riding of Yorkshire Council that commenced 1st July 2024, Community VISION agreed to the following in regard to the delivery of the Volunteer Voice project:

1. Evidence to be provided that applications have been made for future funding of the Volunteer Voice initiative for period commencing 1st July 2025 onwards.
2. A commitment to work with The Young Leaders of East Riding (T.Y.L.E.R.) and to increase their membership in order to strengthen the voice of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (S.E.N.D.)
3. Quarterly Progress Reports, Action Plans and Impact Statements to be provided in respect of the following areas:
 - a. East Riding Youth Voice work undertaken
 - b. 'Make Your Mark' topics being progressed
 - c. Red Box Project (tackling period poverty) [1]
 - d. Rural Engagement
 - e. East Riding Anti-Bullying Steering Group
 - f. Tackling Climate Change
 - g. Improving access to education and employment opportunities
 - h. Keeping young people safe
 - i. Improving young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing
4. Additional progress updates on all future initiatives detailed within the Volunteer Voice – 3 Year proposal document [2]

Therefore, to summarise the last 12 months, Volunteer Voice has delivered the following:

- We have taken the East Riding Youth Council on tour across 3 different localities of East Riding, including Goole, Bridlington and Beverley
- We have supported the Members and Deputy Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs and DMYPs) to deliver on the manifestos they were elected on
- We have worked with young people and partners to focus on the 'Make Your Mark' top results in East Riding, as well as progress on other priorities chosen by young people
- We have worked with partners to engage more with young people from different communities across the East Riding
- We have shared the UK wide consultation with young people and partners so young people from East Riding can have their say on the development of the forthcoming UK Youth Strategy

[1] Please note that this was a manifesto promise by the former Member of Youth Parliament Freya Edwards, who completed her term in office on 1st March 2024. This area of work will be taken up by the 2 current MYPs as part of the UKYP's elected commitment to Period Dignity

[2] Please see Appendix A for further information on specific areas of focus in the 3-year proposal



- We have supported the voices of young people to be included in the next East Riding Children and Families plan
- We have supported the voices of young people to be included in the Sufficiency Strategy
- We have encouraged young people and their workers to participate in the regional Hustings for the Hull & East Riding Mayor, which took place on 15th April, so they can ask questions about the plans for each of the candidates
- We have presented awards to 71 young people who participate in youth voice and influence across East Riding at the Volunteering Voice Awards evening that took place on 13th June 2025
- We have supported the Voices Mean Choices 'Our Place' presentation at the LGC national awards panel in London in March in regard to the youth voice element of the project, which then went on to win the Children's Services category
- We have met with Democratic Services at East Riding of Yorkshire Council to discuss developing closer engagement between members of the East Riding Youth Council and Members/Deputy Members of Youth Parliament and East Riding Councillors to ensure regular updates are received and support provided where needed.
- We have provided a regular update on youth voice and influence work to the East Riding Children and Families Partnership Board on a quarterly basis
- We have provided updates to the East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership on youth voice work in regard to keeping young people safe
- We have submitted 10 applications for additional funding to support youth voice and wider youth volunteering across East Riding



East Riding Youth Parliament

“As one of the Members of Youth Parliament for the East Riding, I represent the 11- to 18-year-olds in our region. This role includes acting as one of the Chairs for the East Riding Youth Council, and representing youth voice across the region in committees, such as the Financial Inclusion Group. I have a passion for improving first aid education and the financial literacy of young people and have found my work with the Youth Council very rewarding.”

Sophia Osborne, Co-Chair of the East Riding Youth Council, East Riding Member of the UK Youth Parliament

To support the M/DMYPs [1] to make progress on their manifesto promises, which they were elected on, Volunteer Voice has worked with a number of partners including East Riding Council, NHS Teaching Foundation Trust, Public Health, East Riding Food Poverty Alliance and members, members of the Rural Partnership, members of the Financial Inclusion Working Group, First Aid Box, Barclays Bank, Driffield School, Hornsea School and Language College and Creative Projects; organising and facilitating a number of meetings and follow up actions.

Please see below for more information about what each M/DMYP's has achieved.

George Jackson MYP – campaigning for healthy, locally grown and affordable food in schools, as well as for students to have the time to eat it

George has worked hard on his campaign, regularly attending the East Riding Youth Council and the East Riding Rural Partnership to promote his messages and connect with partners, meeting with Incredible Edible in Todmorden to see what they do there, visiting the People's Pantry in Goole and working with his school to see how they can do more around educating young people to grow their own food. He has met regularly with Public Health to seek their views and worked with other young people and Creative Projects (media company) to co-create a short film 'School Meals Matter', which is being used to highlight the need for healthy food in schools and the time to eat it, encouraging health habits for life. You can watch George's film here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKLERBYd6bA>

George is planning to attend the September meeting of the ER Children and Families Partnership Board in September to present on his manifesto work to date and would like to support the development of the East Riding Food Strategy and engage more young people with what it aims to achieve.

[1] Poppy Pacy who was elected as a Deputy Member of Youth Parliament, stepped down from this role due to other commitments. However she has continued to be involved in a range of local and national youth voice work.



Sophia Osborne MYP – campaigning for more First Aid training in educational settings, as well as more education on illnesses such as heart disease and cancer, and financial education for young people.

Sophia has also worked hard on delivering her manifesto promises. She has attended regular meetings with Public Health, worked with First Aid Box (FAB) training and Driffield School to organise a First Aid training session for 21 students in January, with a particular focus on asthma and epilepsy. She then wrote an evaluation report on this, which FAB training were able to use to access additional funding to deliver more sessions in schools. Sophia has agreed to support the development of an asthma policy for schools, currently being developed by Public Health.

Sophia has also met with the Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance to discuss working with schools and colleges across East Riding to educate young people about how to keep well in regard to preventing cancer and how to spot signs early.

Sophia has attended the East Riding Financial Inclusion Working Group (FIWG) in regard to increasing education for young people in secondary schools/post-16 provision around managing their finances as they prepare to leave home. This has been followed up by a meeting and potential future partnership with Barclays Bank, who have a number of resources to support financial education in schools.

Charlotte Rogers DMYP - Reducing waiting times for assessments around neurodiversity for children and young people, flexibility around wearing school uniforms in regard to neurodiversity

Charlotte has met with the Principle Educational Psychologist and the NHS Neurodiversity Lead Officer to discuss neurodiversity waiting times in schools regarding assessments; and has helped to develop a leaflet for young people about what to expect and how to keep well while waiting for assessment. This has led to additional work being developed between the NHS and Matthew's Hub, with the provision of a Band 6 nurse to undertake Core Assessments for children and young people in 12 schools across East Riding who make the highest number of referrals to identify any other needs such as anxiety, which Charlotte is also helping with.

Charlotte has also met with the Service Manager for the Education Welfare Service to discuss school uniforms and whether there can be some flexibility for students during summer when it's hot, as well as in regard to student's neurodiversity needs around sensory issues linked with uniforms. This issue is now being discussed at various strategic meetings and good practice is being identified in schools such as Market Weighton.



Volunteer Voice has supported the MYPs to participate in a number of regional and national UK Youth Parliament activities to further develop their skills and role.

This includes:

Attending the annual residential Conference with George Jackson MYP on 26th October to debate the topics for House of Commons.

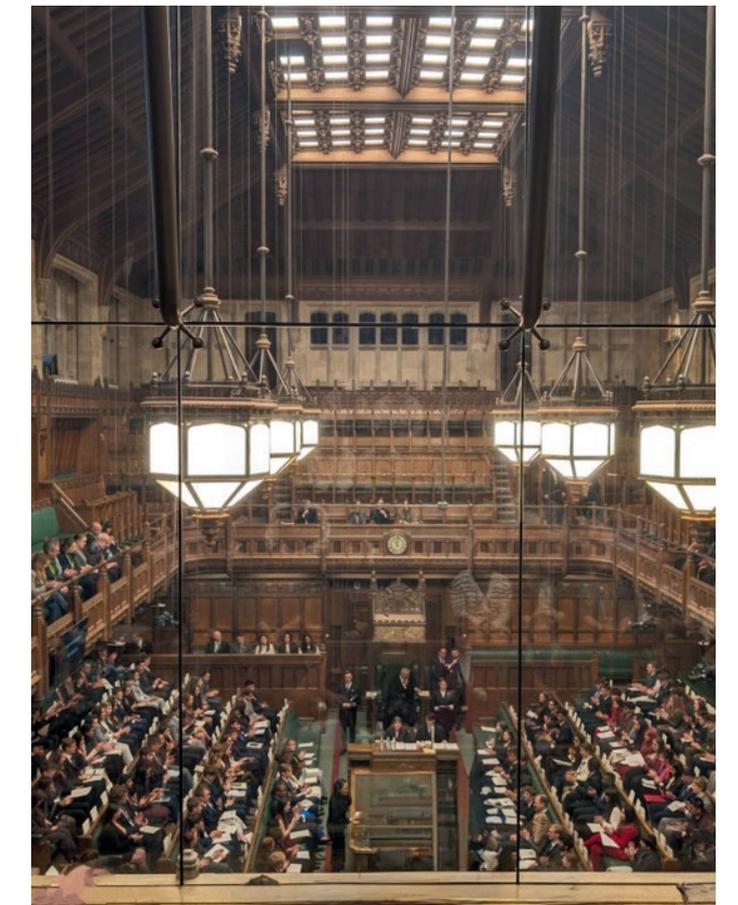
Sophia Osborne MYP and George Jackson MYP attending the Yorkshire & Humber Youth Con 3 in Hull on 20th February 2025.

Sophia Osborne and George Jackson attending the annual sitting at the House of Commons on Friday 28th February 2025 to debate several topics for the UKYP to focus on over the next 12 months. The two elected topics were **Votes at 16** [1] and **Period Dignity**.

“Going to the House of Commons for the annual Youth Parliament sitting was honestly such an incredible experience. Just being in that iconic chamber where all the big decisions happen felt a bit surreal—but also really exciting. It properly felt like young people were being taken seriously for once. I met loads of other young people from across the UK who all care about making a difference, which was really inspiring. We debated proper important issues like mental health, the cost of living, and the environment—stuff that actually affects us every day. Speaking in the actual chamber, with all the cameras and everything, was a bit nerve-racking at first but something I’ll never forget. It just showed that our voices really do matter, and we can make change happen if we keep pushing for it.” **George Jackson, MYP**



[1] This has now been agreed by Government, please visit the following site for more information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/16-year-olds-to-be-given-right-to-vote-through-seismic-government-election-reforms>





East Riding Youth Council

“I’ve been involved with youth voice for 10 years now, being part of Community VISION has given me the opportunity to speak for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities making sure that their voices are heard. I got involved because I believe that Young People can make a change and to make our community better, being part of the Youth Council allows me to engage and shape decisions that affect not just myself, young people but everyone that is here tonight.”

Anya, Co-Chair of the East Riding Youth Council, member of T.Y.L.E.R., Humber Youth Action Group, Nothing About Us Without Us, Lollipop

The East Riding Youth Council goes on tour

It was agreed by young people earlier in 2024 that the East Riding Youth Council should go on tour to try and engage with more young people from different communities. Therefore, over the last 12 months, the East Riding Youth Council has gone on tour across the East Riding, meeting on a termly basis in person with the option to attend online. They have met 3 times in the following areas:

- 8th October in Goole (14 young people attended)
- 18th February in Bridlington (6 young people attended)
- 13th May in Beverley (4 young people attended)

These meetings were also supported by Volunteer Voice; Merlin Joseph - Executive Director for Children, Families and Schools; Cllr. Aitken - Portfolio Holder for Children, Families and Education, Cllr. Heslop-Mullens, East Riding Council and Bridlington Town Council; Margaret Wood and Matthew Todd, East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership; Nicola Dixon, Arts Development Service; Joanne Fountain, East Riding Youth Justice Services; Sym Tomlinson, Healthwatch East Riding of Yorkshire; Clair Atherton, Nothing About Us Without Us (Humber and North Yorkshire Health Care Partnership), Debbie Fletcher, Goole Youth Action; Janet O’Toole, the Moorlands Charity, Ayisja Moss, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Research.

15 young people attended the 3 meetings with approximately 50/50 ratio of males and females, representing the following youth voice groups:

- East Riding Members/Deputy Members of Youth Parliament
- Lollipop (LGBTQIA+)
- The Young Leaders of East Riding (East Riding of Yorkshire Council’s youth voice group for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities)
- Nothing About Us Without Us (Humber and North Yorkshire Health Care Partnership youth voice group)
- Humber Youth Action Group (NHS Foundation Trust youth voice group)
- Voices Mean Choices (LA and Barnardo’s Partnership project youth voice group)
- Headlands Secondary School
- Goole Youth Action
- Moorlands



Young people also attend as individuals and not to necessarily represent groups of other young people.

Topics discussed included progress being made on the Members/Deputy Members of Youth Parliament's manifestos, mental health and emotional wellbeing, keeping young people safe, anti-bullying, increasing the creative art and culture offer for young people, climate change issues, transport issues across East Riding, sexual health support, setting up a youth council in Bridlington.

These themes are linked with key strategic leads from the East Riding Local Authority, as well as East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership, NHS Foundation Trust, Integrated Care Boards (ICB) and Humber and North Yorkshire Health Care Partnership (HCP) to move forward on all areas of work highlighted above and below.

Information on areas of youth voice discussed at the East Riding Youth Council feeds into the following strategic Boards and partnerships:

- East Riding Children and Families Partnership Board
- East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership (ERSCP)
- East Riding Financial Inclusion Working Group
- East Riding Rural Partnership
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- East Riding ICB
- Humber and North Yorkshire HCP
- Regional Youth Work Unit
- UK Youth Parliament

As well as a number of relevant subgroups.

There is also a competition for young people to design a logo for the East Riding Youth Council, which will be used once the winner has been announced in September 2025.

For more information on the meetings and what was discussed, please visit the following link where you will find all the minutes, along with the Terms of Reference that is currently being reviewed: <https://www.volunteenvoice.org.uk/index.php/create-a-campaign/>

Bridlington Youth Council –

The first meeting of the Bridlington Youth Council took place on 25th February with 3 young people and Bridlington Town Council, who offered potential financial support for youth events in the town. Discussions were held around how to increase numbers of young people from the area, linking in with both secondary schools and the East Riding College to find out more about matters that are important to young people in the area, as well as working with the Bridlington Youth Activity Partnership and supporting youth fests. This work is being supported by Bridlington Town Council, who have allocated £2,000 for Bridlington Youth Council to support future activities for young people.



Make Your Mark topics

“I think youth voice is incredibly important as a young person who lives in East Riding, I feel young people should have equal and fair opportunities to thrive as young people, I feel it’s extremely important for young people’s voices to be heard and know they are being listened to and that we are trying our best to support them and make life for them as happy as possible.”

Charlotte Rogers, co-Chair of the East Riding Youth Council, Deputy Member of Youth Parliament for the East Riding.

Outside of the East Riding Youth Council, Volunteen Voice has worked with young people and partner agencies to progress on some of the top topics voted on by young people across East Riding as part of the national ‘Make Your Mark’ ballot.

Health and Wellbeing

Volunteen Voice continues to work with partners to engage with young people in regard to improving support for their youth mental health and emotional wellbeing.

A workshop was held with young people in Goole on 17th September in partnership with Goole Youth Action, The Moorlands and Humber and North Yorkshire HCP to find out more about what support needs they have and feed this into the Nothing About Us Without Us work. This was attended by **22** young people.

A Health and Wellbeing event for Hull and East Riding was held on 31st October in Beverley in partnership with ‘Nothing About Us Without Us’ and the Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire Joint Quality Committee health and wellbeing to establish a children and young people’s mental health advisory group. This was attended by **25** young people, along with lead professionals, to discuss what young people want from the group, as well as engage with the ICB around wider experiences of local health and social care services.





Following the success of this event, a number of young people from East Riding are now members of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Advisory Board, where young people work with a wide range of decision-makers to progress the 50 recommendations made by children and young people across Yorkshire and Humber to improve mental health support and access to services. Clair Atherton from the Humber and North Yorkshire HCP who led this work has presented recommendations to members of the East Riding Youth Voice steering group and will be moving this forward with key strategic leads in the future.

5 young people from East Riding attended the 'Nothing About Us Without Us' Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing regional conference on 9th November.



Volunteer Voice has worked with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Research (CAMHR) at the University of Hull, which is starting a new 5-year project across Yorkshire and Humber, to connect them with young people from the East Riding to help co-create appropriate resources and services for young people. Rachel Coleman has presented the research project at the East Riding Youth Voice Steering group and Ayisja Moss has also attended the Youth Council to discuss the project with young people.

Volunteer Voice has worked with East Riding Public Health to support the engagement of young people in developing Smoking and Vaping Cessation educational resources with young people in the East Riding.



Keeping young people safe

Young Safeguarding Champions

Volunteer Voice worked with the ERSCP and 2 young people earlier in 2024 following recommendations from a national webinar they attended around engaging young people with local safeguarding children's partnerships. One of the recommendations was to develop Young Safeguarding Champions and Young Safeguarding Scrutineer roles. These went out for recruitment in July 2024. Volunteer Voice have since worked closely with St Anne's Sixth Form to develop a group of **8** Young Safeguarding Champions, finding out what is important to them and other students around keeping safe. This has helped us to connect them with key partners such as Humberside Fire & Rescue Service who have provided a session to all students around fire and water safety, and there are plans for them to deliver a further session on road safety. It also provides us with a way of communicating safety messages in the most effective way to other students in the school.

ERSCP animated film

Volunteer Voice worked with ERSCP and Creative Projects to co-create an animation to explain what the ERSCP is and how it can help young people. This was made by **3** young people from the Lollipop group. The young people created the animations, voice-overs, ideas and how the film should look. You can access the film via this link:

<https://www.erscp.co.uk/parents-carers-and-families/children-and-young-people/>

Tackling bullying in East Riding

The East Riding Anti-Bullying steering group has met several times over the last 12 months and is attended by 3 young people and has members from the ERSCP, School Behaviour Support Team, Safeguarding in Education Team, Educational Psychologist, Children and Families Partnership Board Manager.

In that time the group have:

- Developed an Anti-Bullying action plan, which is colour coded Red, Amber, Green as actions are carried out or new ones identified
- Developed anti-bullying training for education providers and voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) youth groups in East Riding, both of which are being developed as a webinar that will be accessible via the Learner Management System on the ERSCP
- Produced voice-notes provided by young people in East Riding to reflect their experiences and the impact that bullying has on their lives, which can support the training and promote the importance of tackling bullying
- Developed Anti-Bullying policy templates for VCFSE youth groups, which can be accessed here: <https://communityvision.org.uk/services/resources-and-guides/toolkits/policies-procedures-toolkit/>

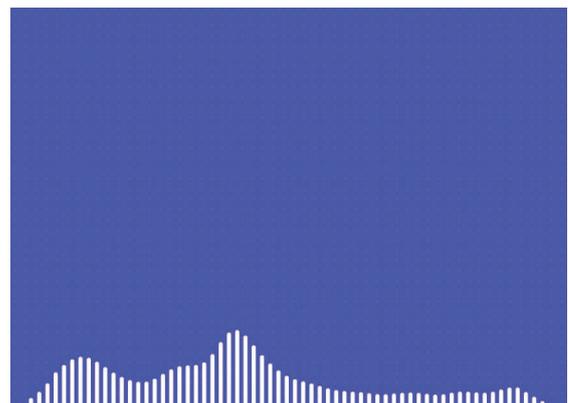
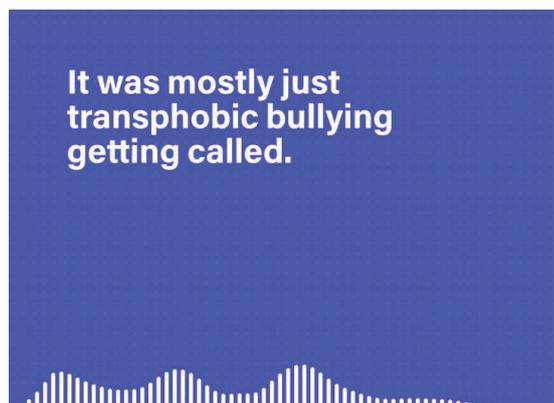
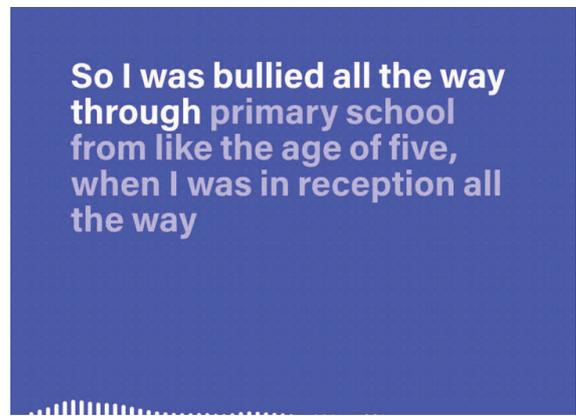
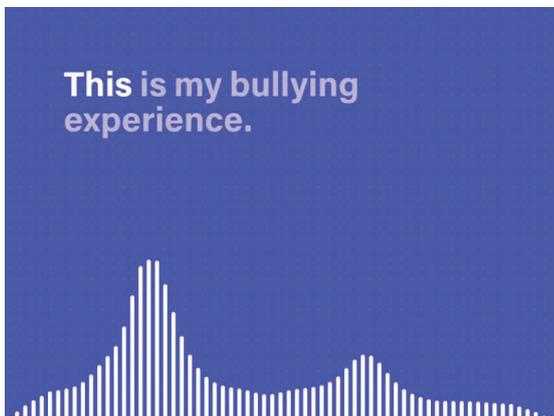


- Developed An Anti-Bullying guidance document with information about different approaches to use within schools/youth settings, as well as where to access further help and support locally and nationally
- Worked with East Riding Council’s Public Relations Officer to promote and coordinate messages and information during Anti-Bullying week across East Riding, 15th – 21st November 2024
- Started to work with Creative Projects to co-create a film with young people to raise awareness of the impact of bullying, both for professionals and for young people

Future discussions are to take place in regard to capturing data related to bullying incidents, who currently captures it, what information is captured and how can we use it to gain insights into the difference that this work is making?

The Anti-Bullying steering group are also now reviewing the current strategy to ensure it has robust links with safeguarding children. This will be taken to a future Children and Families Partnership Board for agreement and sign off.

To hear from **4** young people in East Riding about how bullying affected them and why it is important to tackle it, please click the play buttons below:



[Click Here](#)



Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls

Volunteen Voice have delivered 9 Young Active Bystander sessions to **120** young people, (co-developed with young people for young people) at The Moorlands Charity in Goole , Driffield Youth Action, HYAG, East Riding Council's Young Carers Service, East Riding College in Beverley and Bridlington (Construction, Engineering, media and sport). These sessions cover a range of subjects related to tackling violence against women and girls including toxic masculinity, the 'manosphere', healthy relationships and domestic abuse; and provide opportunities for young people to share their thoughts, views and worries about the topic.

As part of our youth voice work around domestic abuse and healthy relationships, we have worked closely with the HYAG who have created 9 digital posters for young people from different communities highlighting the signs of domestic abuse and coercive control in young relationships. Volunteen Voice have applied for some funding to have these printed off so we can put them up across the area and in schools, colleges, youth and community settings. You can access the digital link to download these posters and see the help available via this link: <https://www.humber.nhs.uk/urgent-help/domestic-abuse-servicessupport-for-young-people/> We are hoping that one of the posters will be used in the next edition of school planners 2026 as recommended by young people from the HYAG.

Volunteen Voice and the Domestic Abuse Lead Representative and Support Officer have worked with Shelley Goodinson, the Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Partnerships Manager, to go through the findings from the 2024 VAWG survey 'It's Time to Listen to Young People', as well as delivered sessions with the HYAG to identify key recommendations and actions that can be included in the VAWG Action Plan.

On 23rd June 2025, Community VISION (Volunteen Voice Officer and Domestic Abuse Support Officer), in partnership with St John's Ambulance Cadets, The Violence Prevention Partnership, Forum and Humber Modern Slavery Lead, hosted a VAWG themed workshop to 40 cadets in 3 different age categories: 11-13 years, 14 -16 years, and 17 and 18 years. The session was developed by Community VISION, utilizing parts of the 'Not In Our Community' session and previous work that has been delivered with young people. The session comprised of one workshop on VAWG, what it is, and why we focus on women and girls, and the second workshop, delivered by Volunteen Voice explored the adapted Young Active Bystander Intervention training for young people. A short film about this important work has been produced and will be made available in the near future.





Crime and Safety

Volunteer Voice attended the ERSCP Executive to present on youth voice in regard to crime and safety, which included sharing young people's views on VAWG, keeping safe online and myth-busting, as young people felt that the information they sometimes saw online and on socials was not always true in regard to crime and safety issues.

Volunteer Voice met with Humberside Police and Humberside Fire & Rescue to find out more about what work is being undertaken with young people in schools around myth-busting in regard to crime and safety. This led to meeting up with the lead officer for the Safer Schools Partnership, which has agreements with all schools in East Riding to provide resources and support around a range of topics linked with crime and safety, and ensures that this reflects the reality for people living in East Riding. Recently, the Safer Schools Partnership have worked with the VPP and Eski to develop a set of resources for schools that have been created with young people and are available on their website via this link: <https://notinourcommunity.org/>

Education and Employment

Volunteer Voice worked with East Riding College to provide a student placement with Community VISIONJ for one of the young people that has been involved with a number of youth voice projects and organisations across East Riding, including the Youth Council. This enabled them to focus on developing creative activities linked with youth voice and influence, including working with Creative Projects on the ERSCP film, designing and developing posters and flyers for a range of youth voice activities, as well as attending strategic meetings as part of the SEND & Inclusion Voice subgroup.

Volunteer Voice attended the Corporate Parenting Board's Education and Employment subgroup, highlighting the importance of volunteering for young people who are care-experienced to gain a range of valuable skills for future employment, including participating in youth voice. As part of this work, Volunteer Voice attended the panel set up by The Pathways Team for young people who are care-experienced and not in education, employment and training, to signpost to potential volunteering opportunities to support individual young people based on what they said they wanted to do.





Culture, Media and Sport

Volunteen Voice worked with Nicola Dixon from ERYC Arts Development Service and Cllr. Coultish to develop the Young Creative Champion role, which was promoted across East Riding for young people to be more engaged and involved in developing and evaluating our youth arts and culture offer.

This has led to Eve, a Young Creative Champion, stepping forward to create a Youth Art Exhibition called 'Celebrate Health and Hope', which will showcase children and young people's art from across the East Riding within an NHS location on World Mental Health day '10th October'. Volunteen Voice, ERYC Arts Development Service are working closely with the Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust and the lead for the Humber Youth Action Group to organize this. For more information please see the following link: <https://communityvision.org.uk/young-artists-invited-to-showcase-work-in-celebrate-health-and-hope-exhibition-for-world-mental-health-day/>.

Eve has also developed a young people's survey regarding the youth creative and cultural offer in East Riding. This will be sent out by the East Riding Council once it has been signed off.

Several other young people have come forward to show interest in becoming Young Creative Champions, sharing ideas about Creative Writing projects and developing an Environmental Art Trail in Old Goole.

Additional youth voice priorities

Tackling Climate Change and Helping the Environment

Volunteen Voice worked with a young person, Summer, to develop a survey for young people to capture their views on climate change and other environmental issues, which will help to inform future work and will be shared with appropriate partners, including the ERYC Climate Change team. You can share the survey via this link: [How is Climate Change affecting you? - Volunteen Voice by Community VISION](#)

Volunteen Voice also supported Summer to work with the regional Yorkshire Policy Innovation Partnership (YPIP), where she participates in matters related to Climate Change as a Community Panel member.

Rural Youth Issues - transport

Volunteen Voice are supporting 2 members of the East Riding Youth Council regarding improved access to transport, including young people being able to use their travel pass before 9.30am on buses and rail, as well as developing additional bus routes across East Riding for young people to access. This area of work will now link in with wider work around transport being undertaken by young people across Yorkshire and Humber via the Youth Work Unit.



How have we engaged with different communities of young people across East Riding?

Volunteer Voice is committed to providing open, accessible and inclusive youth voice and influence activities for all children and young people to participate in across the East Riding.

However, as part of this specific contract, we said we would build on our work with those services and organisations supporting children and young people in East Riding who are care-experienced, young carers, young people who are supported by East Riding Youth Justice Services, young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), including those who are neurodiverse, as well as identifying and supporting any other communities of young people who may be under-represented and need additional support to engage with youth voice.

Please see below for more information about what we have done to ensure we are providing an inclusive and supportive project for young people to engage more in youth voice and influence.

Young people who are care-experienced

Volunteer Voice are members of the Corporate Parenting Board and subgroups for Education, Employment and Training as well as Voice and Influence, so we can ensure that children and young people who are care-experienced receive information about different opportunities to get involved in a range of youth voice projects locally, regionally and nationally.

Volunteer Voice have met several times with staff supporting the Children in Care Council (CiCC) and Care Leavers Forum, including senior managers, to discuss partnership working, including applying for additional funding to provide opportunities for this group of young people to participate in wider youth volunteering.

Volunteer Voice has also attended 2 CiCC meetings with children and young people to find out more about what they are doing around youth voice, and if they would like to know more about youth voice and influence activities.

Volunteer Voice were able to offer some funding from an underspend we had available to support children who are care-experienced, which was used to pay for a trip to Laser Station during the summer holidays for 28 young people. This will help us to build a positive relationship with the children and young people, as well as staff, to progress our youth voice work with this group.





Children and young people involved with East Riding Youth Justice Services

Volunteer Voice is a member of the East Riding Youth Board, which oversees the work of the Youth Justice Service and delivery of the plan, attending Board meetings and the workshop to prepare for inspection, particularly in regard to youth voice.

We have worked closely with staff from the Youth Justice Service and met several times with young people to develop creative ways for them to feed their views into the East Riding Youth Board about their experiences of the service and becoming involved with youth justice. This has led to supporting a young person who is interested in attending a future meeting of the East Riding Youth Board to share their experiences and ask Board members any questions they may have.

Children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), including The Young Leaders of East Riding (T.Y.L.E.R.) group –

Volunteer Voice has worked with the SEND and Inclusion Development Officers from East Riding of Yorkshire Council to support the refresh of the T.Y.L.E.R. group, supporting a workshop with existing members of the group, as well as supporting another workshop session at Market Weighton School, which engaged with **15** young people to find out what they would like from the group. Future sessions are planned for other areas of the East Riding.

Volunteer Voice also agreed to Vice-Chair the Voice subgroup of the SEND and Inclusion Board to ensure alignment with all youth voice work, this included the attendance of a young person on placement with us, who is a key member of T.Y.L.E.R.

Volunteer Voice has worked with St. Anne's School and Sixth Form College to support **9** young people to become Young Safeguarding Champions and raise awareness of how to keep safe, linking them with ERSCP and other agencies such as Humberside Fire & Rescue.

Volunteer Voice has worked with the Children and Young People's Specialist Services at East Riding of Yorkshire Council to ensure that young people's voices are included in the development of the Sufficiency Strategy



Children and young people who are young carers

Volunteer Voice attended the workshop organized in October to focus on supporting Young Carers, and met with staff to discuss future partnership working and as well as meeting with a group of young people to find out more about the things that are important to them and to share information about youth voice work they can get involved in.

Volunteer Voice delivered a Youth Active Bystander training session to a group of young people, which also included activities around democracy and debating.

Children and young people who are LGBTQIA+

Volunteer Voice continues to manage and facilitate the Lollipop group, supporting young people from the LGBTQIA+ community from across the East Riding, which meets twice a week for different age ranges. We regularly have between 10 – 15 young people who attend each week, supporting them to participate in a variety of creative activities to have their say on a range of topics including anti-bullying, mental health and emotional wellbeing, keeping safe, and who also participated in the national consultation to develop a UK Youth Strategy.

The Lollipop group have also been involved in a lot of youth voice workshops and meetings. They have worked collaboratively with partner agencies such as ERSCP to produce an animated film explaining what it is and how it helps young people, as well as participating in other youth voice groups such as Healthwatch East Riding of Yorkshire, Nothing About Us Without Us, Humber Youth Action Group and East Riding Youth Council. We have supported the group to talk about issues such as physical health, sexual health, mental health, family issues, keeping safe, bullying, employment searches/CV writing, and much more. Young people from the group have said that they feel part of something and can be themselves whilst feeling safe and supported at all times.

We have met with Community VISION colleagues in June to explore Lollipop becoming an independent voluntary group to ensure future growth and sustainability.





Children and young people from a range of educational settings, including electively home-educated

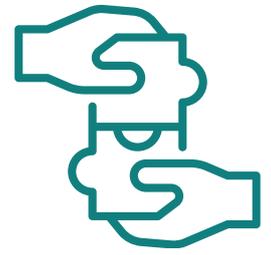
COMMUNITY VISION have worked with the following educational settings to engage with children and young people on a number of topics:

- St Anne's School and Sixth Form College – 9 young people, Young Safeguarding Champions
- Driffield School and Sixth Form – First Aid training was delivered to 21 young people and 2 staff
- East Riding College, Bridlington and Beverley campuses – Young Active Bystander training was delivered to approximately 60 young people
- Market Weighton School – supported the T.Y.L.E.R. workshop to engage with 15 young people
- Hornsea School & Language – supported George Jackson MYP's manifesto on healthy, locally grown and affordable meals in schools

Children and young people from military service families

Volunteer Voice is a member of the Healthy Young People in Education (HYPE) group, which focuses supporting children and young people from serving military families in East Riding, promoting the youth voice work being undertaken across the area, as well as find out more about what this group of children and young people have been doing around youth voice with support from the Army Welfare Service. Please watch the following powerful short video that they have made with My Pockets CIC about what it means to be a 'Dandelion' child: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rUW3IObik4>.





How have we worked in partnership?

Volunteer Voice has worked with a wide range of partners^[1], including statutory services, VCFSE groups and organisations, educational providers and communities to develop our youth voice and influence work over the past 12 months.

National Youth Agency

Volunteer Voice has continued working with the National Youth Agency and the Yorkshire and Humber Youth Work Unit to promote wider opportunities for young people in East Riding to get involved with, such as the regional Youth Conventions, Youth Conferences, UKYP residential, UKYP annual sittings at Westminster.

East Riding Youth Voice steering group

Volunteer Voice meets regularly with the members of our Youth Voice steering group, making sure that they are kept informed of the youth voice work we are delivering and providing opportunities for them to work with us and each other collaboratively, as well as share with the young people they all support to avoid unnecessary duplication and provide more reach for the youth voice work that is available for all our young people across the area and beyond.

As well as the 3 Youth Voice steering group meetings held over the last year, Volunteer Voice has worked closely with members on joint pieces of work related to young people's priorities such as keeping young people safe, tackling bullying, tackling climate change, transport, developing arts and cultural opportunities; as well as supporting children and young people who are care-experienced, involved with youth offending or targeted youth services, those with SEND including neurodiversity, those who are young carers or those who want to focus on young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing.

This ensures we have regular contact with a wide range of practitioners and agencies from all sectors, as well as the wider community and most importantly children and young people, enabling them to shape different areas of work as it evolves.

Partners have also presented on a variety of topics related to youth voice and influence, including:

- The development of a youth voice page on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) website, along with a pro-forma that has been developed to capture children and young people's engagement activity across ER, so that data and insights are available to all partners to shape local plans, services and strategies. You can visit the JSNA youth voice page via this link: <https://eastridingjsna.com/engagement/youth-voice/>
- A presentation from ERYC Voice and Influence service in regard to the new Young Ambassadors scheme being developed for young people who are care-experienced

[1] Please see Appendix B for a list of who we have worked with on a regular basis.



- A discussion led by ERYC Public Health in regard to co-production of educational resources for young people around vaping and smoking.
- A presentation from the University of Hull – Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Research (CAMHR) regarding young people’s mental health in relation to substance misuse
- A presentation from the Humber and North Yorkshire Health Care Partnership in regard to the 50 recommendations that young people have made over the last 12 months to improve mental health support and access to services. It was suggested that Claire attend a future ER Children and Families Partnership Board meeting to present the findings, and young people could also be invited to be part of this.

Volunteer Voice Awards Evening

On Friday, 13th June, Volunteer Voice held its second awards evening at Lazaat Hotel to celebrate the amazing young people from across East Riding who participate in a variety of youth voice and influence work. We were joined by our partners to celebrate and showcase all the great work children and young people have done and continue to do, both locally and nationally, and present them with certificates of achievement, as well as award those organisations and individuals who empower young people to speak out about the issues they feel passionate about.

71 young people were nominated for Volunteer Voice awards by 20 different youth voice projects across the different communities and sectors of East Riding, recognising the young people’s hard work on speaking out on topics such as keeping safe, mental health, positive youth activities, environmental, shaping local services for children and young people, UK Youth Parliament and East Riding Youth Council; with 50 young people attending on the night.

Overall, 121 delegates attended, which included families and friends, as well as professionals from a range of organisations and services who had made nominations or wanted to commend the young people on their fantastic achievements.

6 youth voice services and individuals also received Volunteer Champion awards for their passion and commitment to supporting youth voice in East Riding.

You can find out more about the evening and view the photos by visiting the Volunteer Voice website here:

<https://www.volunteervoice.org.uk/index.php/2025/06/26/volunteer-voice-awards-evening-2025/>.





East Riding strategic boards

Volunteer Voice attends the following strategic boards and subgroups in East Riding to ensure that the broad range of youth voice work being undertaken by young people in regard to the topics highlighted in this report are fed into the appropriate decision-making arena and supported by senior leaders to ensure that improvements are made and challenges are overcome.

- Children and Families Partnership Board
- East Riding Corporate Parenting Board
- East Riding Youth Board (Youth Justice)
- East Riding Emotional Health and Wellbeing Academy
- East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership
- East Riding Safeguarding Adults Board
- East Riding Strategic Domestic Abuse Board
- East Riding Community Safety Partnership
- East Riding Rural Partnership
- East Riding Financial Inclusion Working Group

COMMUNITY VISION also attends a number of other local partnership meetings to update on youth voice and influence work of relevance, such as the Healthy Young People in Education (East Riding children from military service families), Violence Against Women and Girls Independent Advisory Group, Corporate Parenting subgroups focused on youth voice and influence and also education and employment, SEND & Inclusion Voice, Local Cultural and Education Partnership and the East Riding Libraries Service National Portfolio Organisation.

Elected Members – East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Volunteer Voice worked closely with several elected members of East Riding of Yorkshire Council, including Cllr. Aitken - the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Education and Wellbeing, who attends the East Riding Youth Council meetings whenever possible, providing an important link between the young people and the East Riding Cabinet in regard to the issues children and young people are raising.

Volunteer Voice also regularly attends strategic meetings such as the Children and Families Partnership Board, Youth Board, Corporate Parenting Board and subgroups, which are also attended by a number of Councillors.

Cllr. Whittle and Cllr. Aitken attended the Volunteer Voice Awards evening on 13th June to present the young people with their awards for youth voice and influence across East Riding.





Volunteer Voice met with Democratic Services to discuss increasing the link between the East Riding Youth Council and East Riding Members of Youth Parliament and East Riding Council. This will be progressed in the future.

Volunteer Voice met with Cllr. Andrew Cousins and the Interim Director of Children and Young People, Education and Schools to discuss current and previous work undertaken with schools in regard to Make Your Mark and the UK Youth Parliament elections, and how this could progress further when the process for the next round of elections for UK Youth Parliament will start in Autumn 2025.

Town and Parish Councils

In the last 12 months, Volunteer Voice has worked with Bridlington Town Council to engage with young people in their community and establish the Bridlington Youth Council, which has now met and is planning a number of events and activities for young people in the area with financial support from Bridlington Town Council.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Voices Means Choices 'Our Place' mobile youth provision

Volunteer Voice continued to support the development of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's 'Our Place' mobile youth provision, which we have been involved with since its inception, assisting with the presentation to the national LGC awards panel in March, in regard to the fantastic youth voice work that they do to shape and deliver the service.

This fantastic project then went on to win the category for Children's Services in June and you can read more here: <https://awards.lgcplus.com/2025/en/page/2025-winners>

Work with educational settings

Volunteer Voice attended the Secondary Heads Forum on 10th December to discuss youth voice in relation to working with secondary schools across East Riding, as although we do work well with some of the secondary schools already, we would like this to be more consistent across the East Riding.

We promoted a range of local and national youth voice activities and consultations for young people via the Headteachers Bulletin.

We worked closely with East Riding College and Bishop Burton College on a number of projects including keeping young people safe, being Young Active Bystanders and promoting the Young Safeguarding Champions/Scrutineers and Young Creative Champions.

We met with Educational Welfare re: engaging better with electively home-educated children and young people, including promoting youth voice and influence opportunities to them.

We met with the Education and skills partnership manager re: engaging better with young people in post-16 education, including promoting youth voice and influence opportunities to them.



Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

Volunteer Voice worked with the Principal Public Health Intelligence Analyst and the Senior Policy Officer (Health and Wellbeing) from East Riding Council to develop a section of the JSNA website to hold data and information relating to youth voice work being undertaken by a range of partners across East Riding. This also reflected the Conditions of Living Wheel aligns with the Children and Families Partnership Board priorities.

This was presented to the East Riding Youth Voice steering group on 30th January, and a pro-forma that was also developed at the request of members, was shared with the group for them to complete and submit when needed, in order to capture children and young people's youth voice and influence activity across East Riding consistently.

This ensures that all youth voice data wherever possible is centralised for all agencies to access and use to inform local plans and service development.





Funding

Regarding the future sustainability of the Volunteen Voice project as outlined in our contract, we have submitted the following applications for additional funding to support youth voice and wider youth volunteering across East Riding:

1. Weavers Company (unsuccessful)
2. Steel Charitable Trust (unsuccessful),
3. Children in Need (unsuccessful),
4. The National Lottery Community Fund UK Fund (unsuccessful),
5. Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust (unsuccessful),
6. Foux Foundation
7. East Coast Community Fund (unsuccessful),
8. NFU Mutual Charitable Trust,
9. Bright Futures EOI (unsuccessful)
10. Charles Hayward Foundation (unsuccessful)

Much of the feedback we have received is around funders being heavily over-subscribed, however we don't always receive any feedback or notification of our application. Applying for funding is something we will continue to progress with as new funding arises from different sources.



What worked well?

The work that our MYPs/DMYP alongside members of the East Riding Youth Council have undertaken over the last year is considerable and it's great to see how much they have developed personally in that time and what they have achieved.

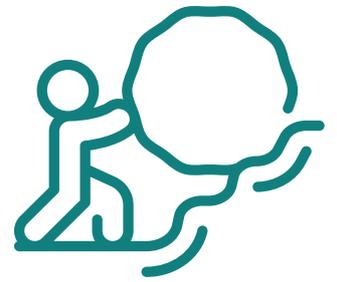
The East Riding Youth Council itself is progressing well, with **15** individual young people attending overall. However, we are hoping to continue growing this in the future by continuing to take the meetings on tour across the different East Riding localities and working with our partners in those areas, particularly those in the VCFSE as well as schools/colleges and statutory services.

The East Riding Youth Voice steering group continues to grow and develop as new organisations and individuals get involved. On average we had 21 attendees representing 20 individual agencies/services engaging young people in youth voice at our meetings. However, there is still work to do with some of the agencies that work with young people in East Riding around youth voice but have not yet attended or engaged with the Volunteering Voice project.

The creative youth voice and influence work we've continued to do with our young people has also been very successful, enabling us to use some underspend from the National Lottery Community Fund to work with Creative Projects, a local media company, to engage with different groups of young people and raise awareness of topics such as keeping safe, the importance of healthy meals in schools and the future work planned around tackling bullying using film and media. This changes the perspective of youth voice, which is sometimes viewed as 'professional' young people sitting in meetings with decision makers, and not reflecting local youth demographics.

The engagement with our strategic partners is also an area that has continued to progress well with some excellent joined up work taking place with members of the Children and Families Partnership Board and the East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership, where it is very positive to see the breadth of youth voice work taking place across the different organisations and services being fed into strategic developments, helping us to support young people to work together on topics related to both the priorities of the East Riding Youth Council, as well as the priorities highlighted in the Children and Families Plan, the ERSCP and those of the sub-groups.





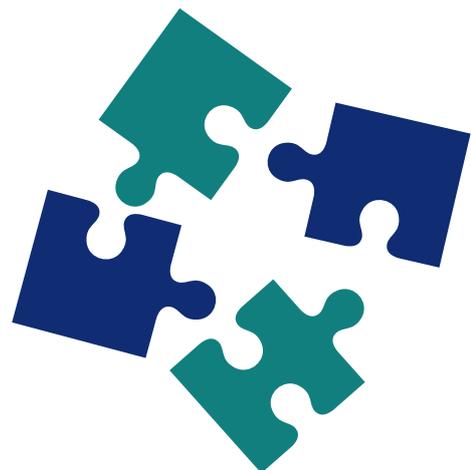
What challenges did we have?

One of our biggest challenges continues to be around engaging with children and young people across the large rural area that makes up East Riding of Yorkshire, which covers approximately 1,000 square miles.

In order to engage with children and young people effectively, it is crucial to first engage with children and youth services across the sectors, including Local Authority services, education providers, the VCFSE sector, local communities and families. Often it is an individual who is the key to how successful this will be, and Community VISION spent a lot of time meeting with people to help them understand the importance of appropriate and meaningful youth voice and influence, how it benefits their service, and more importantly, how it benefits the children and young people they work with. This becomes a challenge when staff changes are made, or the individual does not have the capacity to meet with us as necessary.

This is also reflected in the challenges we experience when working with education providers across East Riding, who often have limited capacity to engage with us on youth voice and influence work. However they are an extremely important partner for us to reach and engage more children and young people across our area in new youth voice opportunities, as well as to recognise the fantastic youth voice work that is happening already in many of our educational settings. As the next round of standing for elections to the UK Youth Parliament are likely to start in autumn 2025, alongside the Government's decision to lower the voting age to 16 years old, which was something that the UK Youth Parliament had also been pushing for, we are hopeful that we will be able to provide additional support and resources to education providers and strengthen our partnership work with them in the future. This is something that we would like to do with East Riding Councillors and democratic services, which we have already had discussions with them about.

Funding has also proved to be a challenge for us in regard to growing and expanding aspects of youth voice work across the area, as well as more general youth volunteering. However, we are hopeful that with the new national Youth Strategy being rolled out and new youth bodies being established alongside the UK Youth Parliament, additional investment will be made to continue listening to the views of children and young people across the country, which will lead to more funding streams opening up.





What difference did we make?

By doing all these things, Volunteer Voice has made the following differences to the lives of the **276** [1] individual children and young people living in East Riding who participated in our youth voice work:

- Increased their confidence and self-esteem
- Increased their aspirations
- Increased opportunities for them to try new things
- Increased their participation in positive activities of interest
- Increased their participation in education/training
- Increased friendships and helped them develop their social skills
- Improved their mental health, emotional wellbeing and widen their support network
- Learned new skills and knowledge, thereby improving their future employability prospects
- Increased their attainment levels, including qualifications and accreditations
- Improved their time management and employment related skills
- Increased their knowledge and understanding of the world they live in
- Increased their understanding and respect for others
- Reduced their participation in negative and risk-taking behaviour and increase their understanding of what impact this has on their lives
- Reduced youth loneliness and social isolation

We also believe that by developing youth voice and influence activity across East Riding services and organisations, we will help to make the following differences to everyone involved:

- Increased their knowledge of what youth voice and influence work is happening in their area and how it can benefit them
- Increased their understanding of the benefits that meaningful youth voice and influence brings to their service and young people
- Increased communications and connectivity between agencies, services, education providers, communities and the young people they support
- Increased the understanding about effectively supporting children and young people to participate in meaningful youth voice and influence work.

[1] This figure is estimated to the best of our ability, based on the different youth voice activities we have delivered throughout the year and accounting for the fact that some young people attended more than one activity.



What will happen next?

Following the continued financial support for the next 12 months from East Riding of Yorkshire Council to continue the Volunteer Voice project from 1st July 2025, Community VISION will continue building on the strong foundations that we have now firmly established in order to continue providing an inclusive offer for ALL young people living in East Riding to have their say about the things that are important to them and to proactively bring about change. Whether this is to do with services that impact upon them and their peers directly through children's service development, or whether it is to do with wider issues such as school meals; keeping safe; climate change and the environment; arts and culture; we want to ensure that the right youth voice opportunities are created and developed in partnership with young people by continuing to progress with the following:

- Further develop effective youth voice partnerships with –
 - Different directorates of East Riding Council, including Public Health, Climate Change and Environment, Economic Development, Arts Development, Active Communities
 - Children and young people by working with East Riding Youth Justice Services
 - Children and young people who are care-experienced, including providing additional support to the Children in Care Council and those who are care-leavers, by working with the Corporate Parenting Board, Fostering Team, Pathways Team and the virtual school
 - Children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, including those who are neuro-diverse by working with Children and Young People's Specialist Services
 - Children and young people who are young carers by working with Participation, Innovation and Improvement
 - Students from a range of educational settings, including those who are electively home-educated, by continuing to build strong partnerships with our secondary and primary schools, as well as East Riding College and Bishop Burton College, potentially holding annual youth summits for student councils to come together across the East Riding and strengthening links with the East Riding Youth Council
- Developing a sustainable model of regular engagement and communication between East Riding Council Members, including Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the East Riding Youth Council and elected East Riding Members of Youth Parliament
- Developing a sustainable model of regular engagement and communication between the East Riding Children and Families Partnership Board and the East Riding Youth Council and elected East Riding Members of Youth Parliament.
- Continue to grow and develop the East Riding Youth Voice steering group, coordinating youth voice and influence work and collaborate to increase opportunities for all our young people locally, regionally and nationally
- Provide a range of skills development and training opportunities for young people to fully participate in youth voice and influence work, including media training



- Provide a range of skills development and training opportunities for practitioners and professionals across the sectors working with young people, in regard to undertaking effective youth voice and influence
- Continue to grow and develop the East Riding Youth Council, taking it on tour across the different localities and ensuring robust links with all appropriate stakeholders and strategic leads depending upon work being undertaken
- Provide safe and quality opportunities for young people as part of Volunteer Voice, potentially leading to apprenticeships in youth work
- Start discussions around promoting the elections to the UK Youth Parliament for future candidates
- Seek additional funding as appropriate from a wide range of sources to grow aspects of youth voice and influence work as it develops

WHAT'S
NEXT?



Conclusion

As this report evidences, Volunteen Voice has demonstrated a number of successes of the project over the last 12 months, such as building strong partnerships with a variety of services, groups and organisations across all sectors, enabling us to reach many young people from all backgrounds, experiences and geographic localities of East Riding and enabling them to have their say about those issues that they feel passionate about.

We have been able to provide a wide variety of youth voice and influence opportunities for young people to participate in, both locally and nationally, including one-off surveys, workshops and focus groups, East Riding Youth Council meetings; as well as longer-term projects such as creating films and art exhibitions, to raise awareness of issues such as keeping safe and mental health support, amongst others.

We have been able to engage with more children and young people by working with our key partners, such as the Youth Justice Service, Voices That Influence Service and VCFSE groups.

However, we still have work to do to engage more effectively with other key partners such as education providers and the Defence School of Transport, in order to reach more children and young people across the East Riding.

However, most importantly, we have demonstrated how we have listened to what young people have told us about the things that are important to them and then supported them to feed that into the most appropriate strategic arenas in order to make a positive difference, with young people speaking truth to power locally at strategic meetings including the East Riding Children and Families Partnership Board, East Riding Emotional Health and Wellbeing Academy, East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership, East Riding Rural Partnership and via the regular East Riding Youth Council; as well as regionally and nationally via the UK Youth Parliament, Youth Conferences, Youth Residentials, Youth Conventions and other national opportunities that arise.

Volunteen Voice would therefore like to thank all the children, young people, parents/carers, professionals and leaders who have worked with us over the last 12 months to make sure that children and young people's voices across East Riding are heard loud and clear.





Appendix A

In 2024, Community VISION put forward a proposal for the next 3 years to build on the excellent foundations that we had firmly established, in order to continue providing an inclusive offer for ALL young people living in East Riding to have their say about the things that are important to them and to proactively bring about change. Whether this is to do with services that impact upon them and their peers directly through children's service development, or whether it is to do with wider issues such as climate change and the environment; arts and culture; employment, education and economic success; we want to ensure that the right youth voice opportunities are created and developed in partnership with young people by delivering the following:

- Further develop effective youth voice partnerships with –
 - Different directorates of East Riding Council, including Public Health, Climate Change and Environment, Economic Development, Arts Development, Active Communities
 - Children and young people by working with East Riding Youth Justice Services
 - Children and young people who are care-experienced, including providing additional support to the Children in Care Council and those who are care-leavers, by working with the Corporate Parenting Board, Fostering Team, Pathways Team and the virtual school
 - Children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities, including those who are neuro-diverse by working with Children and Young People's Specialist Services
 - Children and young people who are young carers by working with Participation, Innovation and Improvement
 - Students from a range of educational settings, including those who are electively home-educated, by continuing to build strong partnerships with our secondary and primary schools, as well as East Riding College and Bishop Burton College, potentially holding annual youth summits for student councils to come together across the East Riding and strengthening links with the East Riding Youth Council
- Developing a sustainable model of regular engagement and communication between East Riding Council Members, including Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the East Riding Youth Council and elected East Riding Members of Youth Parliament
- Developing a sustainable model of regular engagement and communication between the newly established East Riding Children, Young People and Families Partnership Board and the East Riding Youth Council and elected East Riding Members of Youth Parliament.
- More effective and sustainable ways of engagement between other key strategic boards and sub-groups and young people such as the Corporate Parenting Board, Youth Board/Universal Youth Offer group, Rural Partnership, Climate Change, Emotional Health and Wellbeing Academy, East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership etc.
- Continue to grow and develop the East Riding Youth Voice steering group, coordinating youth voice and influence work and collaborate to increase opportunities for all our young people locally, regionally and nationally



- Provide a range of skills development and training opportunities for young people to fully participate in youth voice and influence work, including media training
- Provide a range of skills development and training opportunities for practitioners and professionals across the sectors working with young people, in regard to undertaking effective youth voice and influence
- Continue to grow and develop the East Riding Youth Council and ensure robust links with all appropriate stakeholders and strategic leads depending upon work being undertaken
- Provide safe and quality volunteering and work experience opportunities for young people as part of Volunteer Voice, potentially leading to apprenticeships in youth work
- Seek additional funding as appropriate from a wide range of sources to grow aspects of youth voice and influence work as it develops



Appendix B

The following groups, services and organisations across the East Riding of Yorkshire have worked with Volunteer Voice over the last 12 months:

1. Active Humber
2. Bishop Burton College
3. Bridlington Town Council
4. Defence School of Transport – Army Welfare Service
5. Driffield School
6. Driffield Youth Action
7. East Riding Children and Families Partnership Board/Executive Director for Children, Families and Schools
8. East Riding College Beverley and Bridlington sites
9. East Riding Council – Councillors, including the Portfolio Holder for Children, Families and Education
10. East Riding Council’s ‘Our Place’ mobile youth provision
11. East Riding Council’s Active Communities team
12. East Riding Council’s Adult Social Care
13. East Riding Council’s Arts Development service
14. East Riding Council’s Climate Change team
15. East Riding Council’s Domestic Abuse Service
16. East Riding Council’s Educational Psychology Team
17. East Riding Council’s Financial Inclusion Working Group
18. East Riding Council’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Team
19. East Riding Council’s Library Service
20. East Riding Council’s Making a Change Team
21. East Riding Council’s Pathway Team
22. East Riding Council’s Public Health Team
23. East Riding Council’s Rural Partnership
24. East Riding Council’s Safeguarding in Education Team
25. East Riding Council’s School Behaviour Support Team
26. East Riding Council’s SEND service
27. East Riding Council’s The Young Leaders of East Riding group
28. East Riding Council’s Voices That Influence Service
29. East Riding Council’s Youth Justice Service
30. East Riding Safeguarding Adults Board
31. East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership
32. Fuse youth group
33. Goole Youth Action
34. Healthwatch East Riding of Yorkshire
35. HEY Mind
36. Hornsea School
37. Humber and North Yorkshire Health Care Partnership – Nothing About Us Without Us



38. Humber NHS Foundation Trust – Humber Youth Action Group
39. Humber Violence Prevention Partnership
40. Humberside Fire & Rescue
41. Humberside Police
42. Kids Yorkshire
43. Market Weighton School
44. Moorlands Charity
45. National Youth Agency
46. St Anne’s School & Sixth Form College
47. St John Ambulance Cadets
48. University of Hull – Centre for Mental Health and Addiction Research
49. Yorkshire and Humber Youth Work Unit
50. Yorkshire Policy Innovation Partnership

Volunteer Voice Annual Report

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