



## **In the Loop: Number 4**

### ***The World of Young People***

Welcome to the YWU's fortnightly bulletin aiming to keep the sector up to date with the very latest developments. **Published every fortnight since July 2012**

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**20<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Please share *In the Loop* with your colleagues and partner organisations**

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#### **Youth Work Unit News and Events**

Thanks to all who attended the Yorkshire and the Humber Youth Work leads meeting in York recently.

**Date for diaries: Yorkshire and the Humber Voluntary Youth Organisations Network (VYON) meeting.** The meeting will be taking place on **Tuesday 31st March** in either central Leeds or Central York. We are just confirming the venue. However we would appreciate it if you would [Book a place here](#)

#### **Yorkshire & Humber News**

**Young people take to York's streets to mark one year of climate protest.** Hundreds of teenage climate activists took to the streets of York last Friday to celebrate the one-year anniversary of YouthStrike4Climate: ["This year we need to campaign harder than ever"](#)

**Foster carers call to Sheffield LGBT+ community.** A fostering provider is calling on Sheffield's LGBT+ community to consider fostering as a record number of children are in care: [Another 910 foster carers are needed across Yorkshire and the Humber](#)

#### **Youth Voice Yorkshire and Humber**

**Free Parliamentary Workshops for Youth Groups in Yorkshire and the Humber.** You can still book your **free workshop** for the Spring Term. See the flyer and booking form. The workshops last between one and two hours. [Free Parliament Workshops for your group](#)

#### **National News**

**Schools and councils should be told if a young person's parent is in prison, according to the Children's Commissioner in England,** because the stigma around it means they can't speak out and get help with things like mental health: ["I was just labelled the bad kid"](#)

**UK's new immigration policy is bad news for young people.** How many will have what it takes to make it across the channel? What about young Brits? As the salary threshold for entry - £25,600 is the average salary for white-collar, office-level professions, young people working in 'unskilled' occupations will likely be barred entry: ["Some firms will be left wondering how they will recruit the people needed to run businesses"](#)

**TikTok update: App brings variety of new changes to restrict what young people can see.** The new updates allow parents to restrict their children from seeing adult or otherwise problematic content. It comes amid worries about the kind of videos that young people are able to see on the short video platform: [It was one of the most downloaded apps of 2019](#)

**Keep Young People learning skills up to age 18, a think tank urges.** A think tank is urging the Welsh Government to scrap the school leaving age of 16 and replace it with a '**skills participation age**' of 18 to help equip young people for the jobs of the future: [Workers of all ages must be able to benefit from the education and skills they need in the future](#)

**Vietnam accused of teaching young people that being gay is a 'disease'.** Young people in Vietnam continue to be taught at home and at school that same-sex attraction is a "disease" and a "mental illness" that can be cured and treated, despite legislation designed to support and protect LGBTQ+ rights. [Verbal harassment of LGBTQ+ students is common in public and private schools](#)

**A huge new youth centre is about to open in east Manchester.** What are they like? An account of a visit to a **Youth Zone** in Harpurhey to find out what the young people can expect... ["This building is more than just a youth club with a pool table"](#)

**Boris Johnson's new equalities minister criticised 'puritanical' young people over sexual harassment.** "Friends was the biggest television series of all time. The idea that in a few years people are talking about it as if it's this horrific series, for me that just doesn't compute" ["You can't really put your finger on what is what these days"](#)

**Knife crime: Stop and search not the answer, says youth committee.** Harsher prison sentences and increasing stop and search will not prevent youth knife crime. The Youth Select Committee report says it is "extremely concerned" over the government's plans to focus on a law and order approach to the crisis; ["The issue cannot be "remedied" by increased stop and search"](#)

**Children in Care repeatedly rejected by Academies as admissions 'scandal' grows.** Education secretary has been asked to intervene 72 times as head teachers refuse to let vulnerable teens join school: ["It is now well over a year since this scandal was first exposed"](#)

## **Reports and Studies**

**The world is failing to ensure children have a 'liveable planet', report finds.** Children in biggest carbon-emitting nations are healthiest, while those with tiny environmental footprints suffer twofold from poor health and living at the sharp end of the climate crisis: [Every child is facing "existential threats"](#)

**This generation of American Young People does not want to see Donald Trump get re-elected.** In the 2020 presidential election, 77% of young people are certain or likely to vote. Having a plan to reduce student debt and tackle climate change rank as the top issues that would make young people more likely to support a presidential candidate in 2020: [Gun policy was ranked as a top priority for many](#)

## **Health**

**Young people in England urged to have MMR vaccine following mumps surge.** Public Health England says fivefold increase partly down to 'Wakefield generation' who missed out on vaccine: [Last year there were nearly five times as many cases of mumps as the year before](#)

**'Light activity' may lower depression risk in young people.** Researchers already know that physical activity can help lower the risk of depression in adults. A new study suggests that active young adolescents are less likely to experience symptoms of depression by age 18, compared with their sedentary peers: ["Physical activity is beneficial not just for the body, but for the mind"](#)

**Controversy over Wigan sexual health guide for Year Nines which includes toe-sucking and buying nice underwear.** Wigan's sexual health provider has come under fire for publishing a guide for pupils as young as 13 which suggests buying nice underwear and toe-sucking instead of having sex; ["They deal with the reality that young people are facing"](#)

**Young people have a 'dangerous lack of knowledge' about how the morning after pill - emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) works and it's leaving them at greater risk of unplanned pregnancy:** [43% say that contraception was only 'briefly mentioned' during their sex school education](#)

**Mobile screen exposure can lead to poor sleep.** Mobile phone use at night time is having a negative impact on young people's sleep and mental wellbeing according to a newly published report: ["Poor sleep is a huge problem in our society"](#)

## **Events, Training and Opportunities**

**Date for diaries: Yorkshire and the Humber Voluntary Youth Organisations Network (VYON)** meeting. The meeting will be taking place on **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March** in either central Leeds or Central York. We are just confirming the venue. However we would appreciate it if you would [Book a place here](#)

**2020 International LGBT+ Youth Workers' Conference.** Saturday **28 March 2020, 9am - 5pm** at MMU Brooks, **Manchester**. This is for anyone engaged in LGBT+ youth provision whether as youth workers or managers/directors of a youth organisation: [Professor Elizabeth McDermott will be the keynote speaker](#)

**Street Games Conference and Awards 2020.** Where you live and grow up determines your access to sport. It's true, but is it fair? Is sport a 'nice to have', available to those who have the time, money and inclination? Or does everyone have a right to sport, whatever their circumstances?  
[Wednesday, 25 March 2020 - 9:30am to Thursday, 26 March 2020 - 5:00pm](#)

**See the Spectrums: Supporting LGBT+ and SEND young people.** This best practice seminar is designed as an opportunity for those working with young people to share ideas & suggested service improvements: [11 March 2020. Get more details and booking arrangements](#)

**Trans Pride Leeds is happening from April 3rd to April 5th this year.** There will be a community day, which will include stalls, speakers, a clothes swap, a zine workshop, and (hopefully!) makeup tutorials, 10-4 on **Saturday 4th April at Leeds Central Library**. There will be a specific young people's space in the morning on the day from 10-1 in the Leodis Room on the third floor.

## **Blogs and Comment**

**Craig Pinkney: 'Young people caught up in gang violence are traumatised'.** The Youth Worker and criminologist says policymakers need to prioritise the mental health of those involved in street crime: [We need to ask two key questions: what are we missing and what are we not understanding?](#)

**The government must do more to stop young care leavers ending up on the streets.** Young people leaving care are among the most vulnerable in society. They may have experienced terrible abuse or trauma growing up. They certainly can't rely on the bank of mum and dad: ["A disproportionate number of people sleeping on the streets are care leavers"](#)

**'It's been a really enriching experience': why ambitious young people are choosing apprenticeships.** They share their personal experiences on how taking an apprenticeship is helping to propel their careers forward: [88% of apprentices remain in employment after completing an apprenticeship](#)

**As students, we support our striking lecturers in their fight for education:**  
["Since tuition fees were introduced, higher education in the UK has been run according to market logic"](#)

## **Vacancies**

The very latest Youth Work related vacancies in Yorkshire and the Humber: [Jobs in our region](#)

**A number of Youth Work related vacancies in Kirklees – closing date 23<sup>rd</sup> February**  
[Vacancies in Kirklees](#)

## **Resources**

**Doncaster Young Peoples LGBT+ handbook - full of writing, drawings, songs, photographs and reflections of the young people who are members of the LGBT+ youth group in Doncaster.** Brilliant resource. Sent as a PDF. Contact [theunit@youthworkunit.com](mailto:theunit@youthworkunit.com)

The **Tackling Youth Loneliness website** has been designed to bring together a set of dedicated resources alongside useful research and information to support organisations and professionals to develop

their understanding of youth loneliness and isolation, as well as exploring ways to help young people begin to tackle it: [Tackling Youth Loneliness is a National Youth Partnership project](#)

## **Consultation**

**Asking Good Questions: The Survey.** Three quick questions for you to answer. Once you have answered, you will be able to see a view from across the field – how all your colleagues answered the same questions. This survey is for anyone who works or volunteers with an organisation working with young people in the UK. [Centre for Youth Impact quick survey](#)

**Yorkshire & Humber Charity Digital Survey.** Please take a few minutes to complete this survey as it will provide some significant information to a number of funders [Respond here](#)

## **European Exchange and Partnership Opportunities – Eurodesk**

**Erasmus+:** under the Withdrawal Agreement negotiated with the EU, the UK will continue to participate fully in the current Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programmes. This means that projects successfully bid for will continue to receive EU funding for the full duration of the project, including those where funding runs beyond 2020 and the end of the transition period. [Details](#)

**Have you ever travelled alone in Europe?** Mariam Sohail, from Walsall, travelled to 11 countries in Central and Eastern Europe within a month thanks to the #DiscoverEU pass: [Listen to her story](#)

**Three reasons to be a Young Champions of the Earth 2020!** If you're passionate about the environment and want to take your message far and wide in 2020, this could be your chance. Thousands of young people aged 18 to 30 apply to the Young Champions of the Earth prize every year: [Get involved and be part of the conversation on environmental change](#)

Every two years, the **European Youth Event** brings together thousands of young people from all over the European Union and beyond to share and shape their ideas on the future of Europe. It is a unique opportunity for young people to meet and inspire each other and decision makers: [Will take place at the European Parliament's seat in Strasbourg on 29-30 May 2020](#)

**Eurodesk Opportunity finder.** Find your next opportunity to travel abroad. Don't miss out. Look at the range of current opportunities for young people and for youth workers: [Learning, volunteering, travelling and working](#)

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