



We are

 **YOUTH ACCESS**

Championing Youth Advice and Counselling

Introduction

Who we are

We support the national network of youth advice and counselling services to provide young people aged 11-25 with access to the highest-quality community-based services.

Championing youth advice and counselling

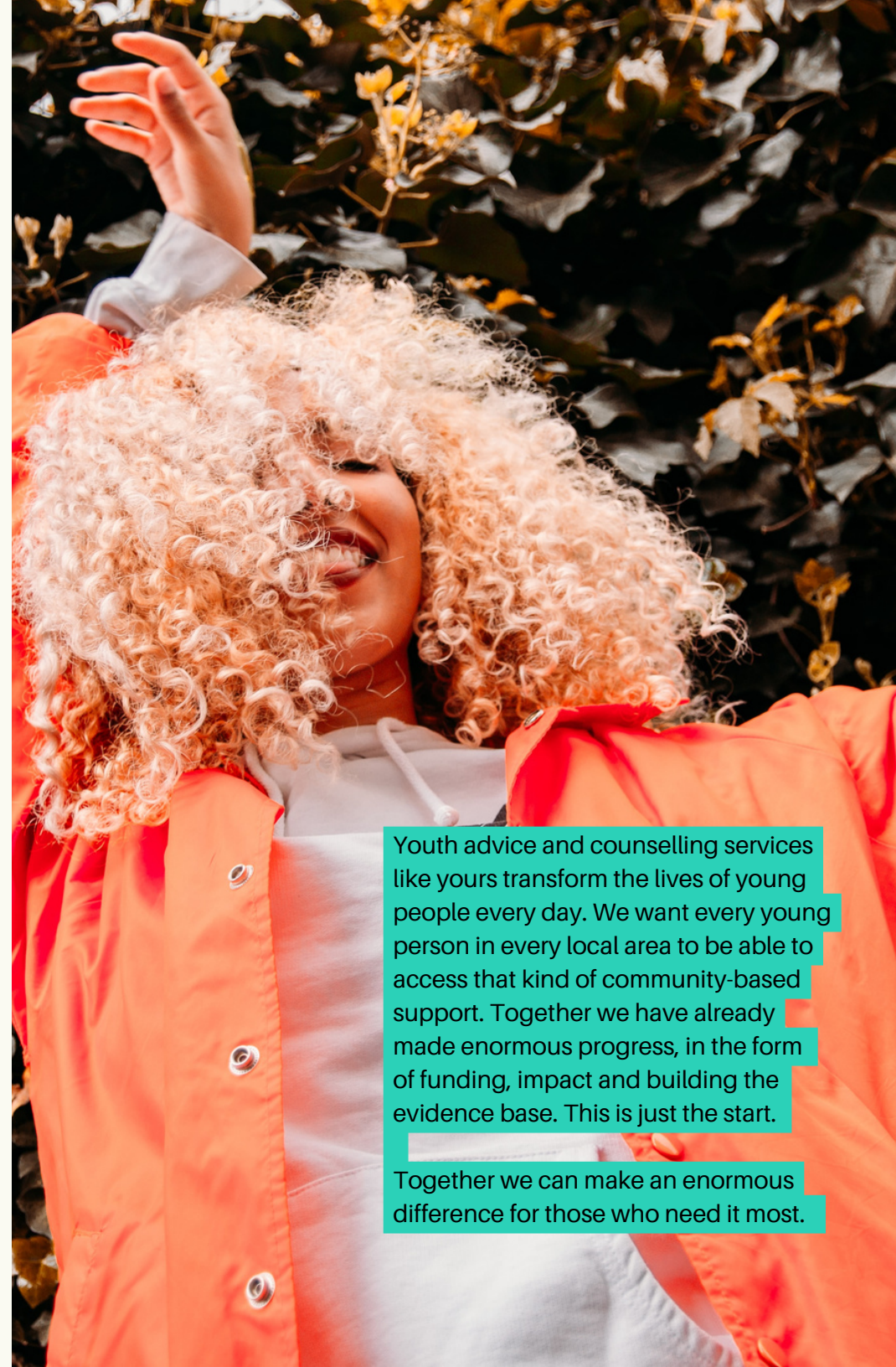
We bring together the voice of the youth advice and counselling sector to uniquely champion community-based 'whole life' support for young people and help secure much-needed investment in services.

Evidence based

We are led by evidence and lived experience. Working with our members and the young people they support, we are able to identify national trends and develop responsive proposals for positive change.

Connecting communities

We connect local grassroots youth advice and counselling services to share learning, emerging practices, unique opportunities and help services benefit from being a part of a wider community. Our spaces, opportunities and events for the community help make services stronger and more resilient for young people.



Youth advice and counselling services like yours transform the lives of young people every day. We want every young person in every local area to be able to access that kind of community-based support. Together we have already made enormous progress, in the form of funding, impact and building the evidence base. This is just the start.

Together we can make an enormous difference for those who need it most.



What we do

We want to see a world where every young person has access to the support they need, when and where they need it, to thrive on their journey into adulthood.

To achieve this we...

Advocate with and for our members and young people to influence national policy and funding decisions - we have unlocked millions in funding for local services.

Facilitate networking and collaboration between services to share challenges and learning.

Develop and disseminate evidence, training and guidance to help services develop and advocate for change locally.

Empower young people to campaign with our members for services and systems that meet their needs and fulfil their rights.

The road is not easy. We know that lots of our members face similar challenges. That's why we exist.

We're here to unite frontline youth advice and counselling services with a collective voice and fight boldly for the needs of young people. Like your young people, your service is unique and its story is worth telling.



Why we do *what we do*

We have a simple theory; if we provide 'whole-life' support for young people at the earliest opportunity in the most accessible way, young people will become self-reliant and ready for adult life, and we'll prevent problems getting bigger and lasting longer.



Yet these vital services continue to be neglected and struggle to patchwork together funding. And with the pandemic and cost-of living emergency coming on top of a system that was already struggling to meet young people's needs, this support is needed more than ever.

Youth Access provides a crucial national voice and support network for these local services and the young people they support. We advocate with and for our members and young people, to influence national policy and funding decisions, facilitate networking and collaboration across our network, enabling challenges and solutions to be shared, develop and disseminate evidence, training and guidance to support members to develop their services and advocate for change locally.

**- Dan Mobbs, Chair of the Trustee Board
& CEO of member organisation MAP**



Our community

Our members shape everything we do, meaning our membership is designed specifically for the youth advice and counselling community.

Members consistently tell us they value spaces to connect with other members so we set up a series of networks. Together the community enjoys an Advice Network, Counselling Network and CEO Network. These spaces allow attendees to meet informally and shape discussions with staff in similar roles across the UK.

The community also shapes our event offering. Alongside experts and guest speakers, some of our recent online events explored the Cost of Living Crisis, Strategic Influencing and Using Data Effectively. Meanwhile, our Member Meet event provides the community with a much-needed space to connect in person.

We share a catalogue of resources for the community online. Our Members Area offers toolkits, training videos, a forum and guides, and we're always adding more resources to help our members continue providing young people with the highest-quality support.

In these challenging times leadership of our charities can be a lonely business, so I jumped at the chance to join the CEO Network and 100% value the connection with peers, the sharing of highs & lows and the generosity of support from colleagues.

- Gordon Knott
CEO of Croydon Drop-In

Our community also benefits from funding opportunities!

We've helped our members access countless funding opportunities from the National Lottery, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport Tampon Tax Fund and the Department for Health and Social Care to name a few.



Our strategy

2022-2027

Our vision is that all young people can access free support on their journey into adulthood from community-based advice and counselling services that respect their rights and meet their individual needs.

Our strategic goals

Increase access

Youth Information, Advice and Counselling Services with sufficient capacity can be accessed by young people from all local authority areas.

Drive equity

Youth Information, Advice and Counselling Services engage with and support more young people from worst-served groups.

Improve experience

Youth Information, Advice and Counselling Services are designed and run effectively according to evidence, good practice and young people's voice



Why young people *love* YIACS

Our members come in all shapes and sizes as they grow in response to the needs of their community. This is one of many reasons young people love Youth Information, Advice and Counselling Services (YIACS).

Open access

Early intervention is the most effective form of support. That's why a YIACS will never turn a young person away because they are "not sick enough".

Effective

YIACS have comparable clinical outcomes to CAMHS and school-based counselling.

Wider reach

YIACS have better reach to young people from worst-served backgrounds who may otherwise slip through the cracks of statutory services and school settings.

Bridging the gap

YIACS support young people up to age 25, bridging the gap between child and adult care and, crucially, supporting young people on their journey into adulthood.

What young people want

Young people have complex and intersecting needs. The whole-life support they receive from our members is not only vital but what young people tell us they want.

We work with our members to help them offer the full YIACS model and campaign and build the evidence base so that young people from all local authority areas can access YIACS with sufficient capacity.



Why members *love* Youth Access

The Young Person's Advisory Service (YPAS) in Liverpool has been a dedicated member of Youth Access for over a decade, contributing to the national recognition of the YIACS model. Their CEO, Monique Collier, shares why they love being a Youth Access member.

“Youth Access passionately advocates for multi-disciplined early intervention and prevention services, as evidenced by their extensive research, publications, and policy development efforts.

Youth Access stands as a driving force on a national scale for early support hubs, one-stop-shops, accessible provision and seamless pathways whilst championing the voices of community hubs, championing for the voices of young people. Their invaluable support has bolstered the confidence of voluntary sector services, fostering closer collaboration with the statutory sector.

As a proactive member of Youth Access, YPAS ensures ongoing active involvement and we recognise that while Youth Access can't single-handedly steer the course, they play a crucial role in guiding the way and reshaping the narrative and painting a different picture beyond government recognition. A picture painted with crossroads, opened doors, multiple routes, and vibrant colours, symbolising the YIACS model with a range of services across multiple venues and seamless connection points led by a team of multi-disciplined practitioners.

YPAS's influence extends locally, which for many years now has benefited from increased investment from both NHS (ICB) and Local Authority. With newfound attention from the government via the DHSC pilot, there's confidence that the collective national membership will demonstrate the value of the YIACS model. This, in turn, will influence the national spending review concerning children and young people's mental health.



For providers contemplating joining this national collective of YIAC services, the benefits are substantial; organisational kudos, elevated organisational visibility, access to a national collective of YIACS for shared learning, regular strategy and policy updates, access to essential publications and opportunities for involvement and engagement in current campaigns and consultations.

- **Monique Collier,**
CEO of member organisation YPAS



Join us

We work to bring together the voices and experiences of youth advice and counselling services nationwide. The insights we collect from our members are a crucial resource that empowers us to advocate for services and the young people you support nationally.

As a community, we have already achieved so much. Working with our members, we can put frontline practitioners and young people at the heart of decision-making and policy influencing.

We firmly believe that young people should be able to access help and support when they need it, free from barriers and stigma, and the Youth Access UK membership gives us the voice and platform to shine a light on this.

We are delighted to be part of Youth Access and believe that our work is very much linked to the values, ethos and models that are seen across the rest of the country.

- Chris Paul
CEO of member organisation Man On

The way we campaign collectively with members and young people works. We have already secured millions in funding for local services and built our influence in national policy spaces. And this is just the start. Together we will continue on our mission to ensure all young people can access free support on their journey into adulthood.

Join the
community

Become a member



We are

YOUTH ACCESS



The What? Centre Ltd

Youthline



youth legal 42 & resource centre

Streetwise

The Market Place

Yellow Door

Off The Record Twickenham

ND STREET

the



YOUNG DEVON

map



Service Six

SHINE

RASASC

OpenDoor counselling for young people

CHILYPEP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMPowerMENT PROJECT



YOUTH WORKS



STEP FORWARD

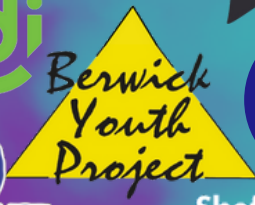
relate Standing up for kids JUST FOR KIDS

Clued-up info

NO LIMITS Futures



Sheffield



YPAS



OFF THE RECORD

VISYON

