

There hasn't been a KKPC youth committee meeting in the last month.

I attended the VOYC youth conference. It was held at the SPACE youth café. I recommend a visit to this service (I shared some pics on WhatsApp to councillors) The youth café caters for older teenagers, and it is not shared with any other group- its their own space- hence the name.

### **Introduction to issues in Devon- VOYC conference**

Dan Barton CEO of SPACE reported that youth workers are seeing signs of behavioural development in young people that is about 2 years behind what it used to be pre-pandemic. So typically, young people at 18 are displaying behaviour that 16-year-olds might have done a few years back.

Home Education has increased and shows no sign of slowing down. This can present an issue for traditional youth work in so far as young people may not be as visible as they are in schools/easy to reach. Therefore, community education and youth workers need to do more to reach out. There is to be a new register of Home -Ed groups.

Volunteering has reduced since the pandemic. This impacts all voluntary youth services. Youth worker numbers have declined as other organisations recruit into their sector.

7 charities in Devon have folded in the last year. There has been a £1bn deficit in the youth budget which has resulted in cuts to the workforce. It is impossible to build a workforce with 6-9 months of funding. Funding must be 2 years to be able to produce quality youth work results.

Space youth services are trying to recruit into the sector, growing the number of youth workers by using apprenticeships and any project that can "grow its own" youth workers from young people can attract funding.

The message was very clear- we need to build up the sector again, get alongside young people and consistently build long-term relationships. Interestingly, we were told that district councils find it very difficult to engage with young people, something I may take back to DALC and TDC.

### **Networking**

As ever, I used this event to reach out to as many people as possible. I was able to network with the leader of the Lib Dems on DCC Caroline Leaver and lobby the Cabinet member for Childrens services and Schools Andrew Leadbetter in Devon, who told me he had found our chat very interesting and informative!

I met with Cllr Jacqui Hodgeson, and we discussed how to bring youth work to Kingskerswell. She has considerable expertise in Parish and Town youth clubs.

I met with Dan from SPACE and discussed how we could work together – I am arranging a follow up meeting with him in June to discuss how he could help with our Youth strategy in the Parish and also how we could model our approach to other Parishes and Towns.

## **Workshops**

I attended two workshops on the day, one for collaborative working and the other on social media and storytelling (marketing)

## **VOYC**

Tom reported that there is Mental health first aid training on the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2024 at a cost of £100 deposit. The training is free for VOYC members. Book via: Danielle Howlett.

VOYC could offer an apprenticeship package. There is an organisation called RIDE that could provide donated bikes to the children we identified in our detached youth work last year.

Tom reported on the Pro-active bystander course in Exeter and schools  
<https://www.devonschoolswellbeing.org.uk/mentors-in-violence-prevention-programme/>

I have completed the Safeguarding for managers and safeguarding leads training.

## **Grant funding news**

Grants are primarily focussed on Partnership working for example intergenerational work, Police and crime commissioner, safer communities.

<https://devoncf.com/grants/pcc-grants/>

VOYC can hold grant money for joint projects. Targeted youth work is more likely to attract funding.

## **National Youth work initiatives**

Youth work is incredibly valuable to young people's development & employability. Many years ago when I trained as a youth worker we were able to offer experiences outside of school and home and saw this for myself.

The NYA produce a national youth work guidance – which is a blueprint for running youth services, called **Raising the bar**,

[https://nya.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/NYA\\_Publications-2023\\_Youth-Work-Standards\\_DOWNLOAD\\_AW-FINAL-050623-1.pdf](https://nya.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/NYA_Publications-2023_Youth-Work-Standards_DOWNLOAD_AW-FINAL-050623-1.pdf)

**Young People's foundation Trust** produced a report on collaborative working. Find the executive summary here, <https://ypftrust.org.uk/images/downloads/trust/YPF-Funding-brochure-EXEC-SUMMARY.pdf> One of its recommendations is to embed youth voice in all levels of decision making.

## **DALC report**

**April 2024**

There has been no DALC board meeting since my last report however I did spend time talking to the leader of the lib dems, Caroline Leaver at Devon County Council about Devon's Devolution deal. I updated her on DALCs involvement and response which helped her understanding. I also recommended that she encourage her council to hold a district conference like we have in Teignbridge to bring parish and town councils together.

I have now completed the foundation stage of the councillor training.

I completed the **code of conduct** training and am booked on to the Responding to Planning course on 3<sup>rd</sup> of June

I am attending the **Being a good employer** course on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June

As a director, my DALC training is free. The next Board meeting is on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May. I am continuing to develop new initiatives to encourage working together, an engagement strategy and opportunities for councillors to feed into DALC directly. To this end I am visiting Broadhempston PC and Staverton PC next week.

Cllr Jo Rice