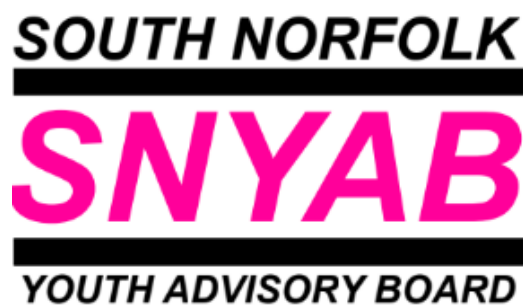


South Norfolk Youth Advisory Board **Action Plan**

2024 – 2025



Information regarding the needs of young people in South Norfolk, and how SNYAB is going to support them.

www.snyab.org

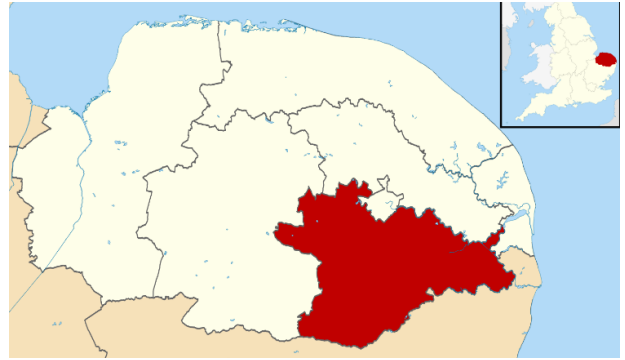


South Norfolk YAB

May 2024 V2

Introduction

South Norfolk Youth Advisory Board (SNYAB) is one of seven YABs in Norfolk. The purpose of YABs is to ensure that the voice of young people is central in the development and delivery of projects, services and facilities, as well as influencing other decision makers around topics that young people find important.



“Being a Young Commissioner has helped me gain social skills, friendships and actually have a say in something, that makes a difference”

YABs are led by young people, called Young Commissioners. These young people meet on a regular basis, getting together to discuss local and national issues, undertake consultation, meet local providers, and Quality Assure (QA) projects. This helps them to understand what is affecting other young people. Young Commissioners access training sessions to develop within their role, such as public speaking, developing

leadership skills, and giving presentations. ***“Being a Young Commissioner***

helps with my anxiety and making friends. It really helps me with my stress as well”.

Young Commissioners are supported by representatives from local organisations, such as schools, police, health, councils, Children’s Services, voluntary sector, and libraries. All of these people come together with Young Commissioners for a minimum of four Full Board meetings each year. Young Commissioners meet at least fortnightly for Focus Groups, training, participation events, inspection opportunities, and to carry out Action Plan tasks. ‘Adult Reps’ are very welcome to attend all of these too. Young Commissioners design their own agendas and programmes: ***“I have gained confidence in public speaking, and this has helped me chair a Focus Group meeting”.***

MTM Youth Services CIC is the organisation supporting SNYAB, and has done for the last 10 years. Three youth workers facilitate SNYAB activity: Julia coordinates the Young Commissioners, Sam works within the community, and Emma brings a new way of working this year, as she sets up Young Commissioner groups within schools. These will work with the same aims and agendas, but will allow different young people to take part, including those with other commitments, such as Young Carers. Harry also supports SNYAB delivery, and has a particular responsibility for the website.

SNYAB aims to support organisations in ways that are helpful to them. Acting as a conduit for information is a key task, and enabling the sharing of projects, consultation data, and training opportunities, has ensured that our Adult Reps engage with the Full Board meetings. Our Reps have also described that having access to our Young Commissioners, with their various life experiences, enables them to hear a more diverse range of opinions, as well as introduce

“It’s been useful to gain an understanding of what is important to young people in the district and just have a chat with them”

their workers to young people who may not usually access their services. ***“In a time where Norfolk youth services are ever-evolving, collaboration and working in partnership have proved to be crucial for information sharing and brainstorming ideas and by joining in at the YAB meetings this is exactly what has been able to happen.”*** Sometimes YABs work together too.

Young Commissioners work on behalf of other young people, by commissioning new projects, campaigning for change, and by lobbying decision makers. This is supported by a £20K Change Maker Fund, which enables Young Commissioners to take action. All commissioned work undergoes a QA visit, which ensures best practice.

Youth Provision in South Norfolk

Young people in South Norfolk can access a variety of activities and opportunities, provided by lots of different organisations. There are many voluntary sector providers, including some who are funded by the local communities and councils to deliver provision for young people. Other voluntary sector providers are joining together to expand local youth provision. SNYAB will support these initiatives, as well as delivering specific activities and opportunities that complement them.

South Norfolk does not have a large number of open access youth clubs, however, SNYAB aims to ensure that information is available of all the provision that is on offer, including sports clubs, uniform groups, and arts-based sessions. We also promote these offers through schools, social media, and email.

Our **Things To Do** document is regularly updated and lists different organisations, clubs and opportunities. This can be found on the SNYAB website at <https://snyab.org/things-to-do/>

SNYAB has a good relationship with many of these organisations, and works in partnership to develop provision in the community. We offer support and good practice, alongside Momentum Norfolk (infrastructure support organisation), and we can bring in the Young Commissioners as experts. If needed, we can also undertake specific consultation.

What Young People in South Norfolk said

In early 2024, all YABs across **Norfolk** undertook a consultation – aiming to reach 10% of young people aged 11-19 years. A total of **11,774 young people** took part in the survey in the six-week period from 29th January – 8th March. At the same time, young people were asked to elect their new Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs), as well as vote on topics that the MYPs would focus on, both locally and nationally. A total of **16,345 young people** voted in this, with Health and Wellbeing being the top issue, followed by Jobs, Economy and Benefits, and then Culture, Media and Sport.

In **South Norfolk**, nearly every school, college and 6th Form took part in the YAB survey, with **3024 young people** completing the questionnaire through their education establishment. As young people also gave the first part of their home postcode, we were able to identify that **4003 young people lived in South Norfolk**. This shows that not all young people who live in South Norfolk, are educated in South Norfolk, and vice versa. However, this overlap **gives a total of 4318 young people aged 11-25 years either living, or educated, or both, in South Norfolk**, and who took part in the consultation survey. **4281 of these were aged between 11 and 19 years**. Further information can be found in the **SNYAB Consultation Results** document at <https://snyab.org/snyab-consultation-data-2/>

32% of the 13370 11-19 population in South Norfolk took part in the survey

The YAB survey asked for young people to vote for their top three issues from a list of ten options, but did not ask them to rank them in priority order.

	Top three issues	South Norfolk	Norfolk
What would benefit you in your education?	Support with exams and learning strategies	59%	59%
	Careers support for the future	55%	53%
	Hands on learning options in school	45%	43%
What would you like to see improved in your community and leisure time?	Better maintained parks and outdoor spaces	46%	43%
	Transport Links	45%	45%
	More free or cheap clubs and activities	42%	42%

Crime rates in South Norfolk have generally been on the decline over the last 12 months, including a slight reduction in reported numbers of anti-social behaviour. In the YAB survey, 33% of South Norfolk young people chose 'Feeling safe in your community' as one of their top issues, making it the fourth most important topic for the community.

Although Health and Wellbeing was the top Norfolk issue for those voting on the Youth Parliament topics, 'Someone to talk to' in school, and 'Opportunities to improve wellbeing' in the community, came lower down in the priority listing for YABs, ranking 5th and 7th respectively. In exploring this with young people, it was clear that the term 'wellbeing' has become to mean something that might need a specialist response, rather than a more universal approach. Young people described things that affected their wellbeing e.g. bullying, and instead, wanted to look at that as a specific issue.

We followed up the survey with nine focus groups, so we could understand why young people had made their choices. We met with our Young Commissioners on five occasions to really draw out the detail, and we also went into four schools to speak with different groups: 22 young people at Framingham Earl, 11 young people at Diss High, 20 at Hobart and three at Wymondham High School. These discussions have proven to be informative and helpful, as they have helped us to identify a clear and common theme around **information**.

Young people have a lot of information. They access it themselves through social media, and they receive information via assemblies, talks, and TV, as well as from friends. However, young people are not given time to check their understanding of the information, nor to explore how it might affect them personally. Also, it might not be relevant at that time, and so the young person does not retain or remember it.

Analysing the consultation data and exploring the issues raised led to Young Commissioners identifying the following priorities for SNYAB:

1. Youth Having a Voice

Young Commissioners felt that this was an important priority, as there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that the voice of young people makes a difference.

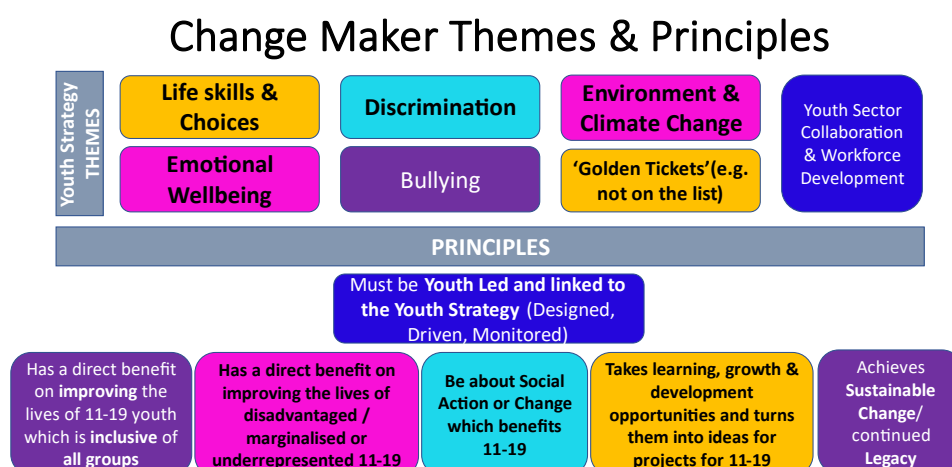
2. Futures, Life Learning and Wellbeing

Young people want to learn about the topics that prepare them for adult life, such as getting a job, living independently, and looking after themselves.

3. Accessible and Safe Communities

Young people want safe and affordable activities in their local area, and they want to know what to do if there is a problem.

These priorities clearly overlap with the Youth Strategy themes, developed in 2022, telling us that young people still find these issues important. For more information visit <https://snyab.org/norfolks-partnership-youth-strategy/>



Norfolk's Flourish Ambition



Young Commissioners created a Flourish Pledge in September 2022. Young Commissioners reviewed it in April 2024, and believe that it is still appropriate at this time:

SNYAB pledges to promote the voice of young people through an engaging, relevant, safe, and interesting programme of activities and services that:

- **increase confidence, self-esteem, knowledge and skills**
- **are supported by youth workers**
- **are accessible within their community**
- **treat young people with respect**

SNYAB will ensure that young people are supported in their personal, social and educational development, and that their view of the world is utilised in a meaningful way.

For more information about Norfolk County Council's Flourish Ambition, visit <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/39200/Flourish>

The Flourish Ambition



Family and friends
Access to **learning**
The **opportunity** to lead a good life
Being **understood**
Building **resilience**
Respect for their **individuality**
Feeling **safe**
Being **healthy**

South Norfolk Youth Advisory Board Action Plan Priorities

SNYAB Priority 1: Youth Having a Voice

Young people have said that they do not always have a voice. SNYAB will lead by example by empowering young people to share their ideas and opinions, promoting good practice and highlighting how this helps young people to feel valued and positive about their place in their communities. Everyone benefits from this approach as young people have ownership, and feel supported to make change, contributing to **improving the lives of 11-19 youth which is inclusive of all groups.**

Promotion - Ensure young people have a voice and meaningful influence in current and new areas. Promote good practice in youth participation.



- Publicise the work of the YABs, and how Young Commissioners can be involved.
- Encourage and support young people to have a voice in different forums, inspiring real change and developing confidence.
- Ensure that young people are involved at the early stages of project development, including Family Hubs, and other NCC initiatives.

Young people will:

- Share their views, ideas and opinions, and feel proud to see the impact of this.
- Feel motivated and determined to make change.

Change Maker Fund Allocation: **£1000** for Awareness Raising

Schools Links - SNYAB will develop closer links with schools to enable them to share good practice, focus on topics that young people have identified as important, and support young people to have voice.



- Set up a minimum of five new Young Commissioner groups in schools to enable more young people to engage with SNYAB, access training and wider participation opportunities, and help respond to identified need. ***“My anxiety is now less every time I come to a Young Commissioner meeting. I feel like people actually listen to me”.***
- SNYAB will support schools to develop their policies, procedures and delivery around topics identified in the consultation, including Anti-Bullying, Exam Support, and Career Options.
- SNYAB will contribute to the Annual YAB Anti-Bullying: Norfolk Youth Against Bullying (NYAB)
- SNYAB will identify external support resources for students within school, including specialist services, guest speakers, careers posters, and other information.

Young people will:



- Feel safe and confident to report issues and ask for help in school, as they will understand what happens next.
- Share experiences and good practice with others.
- Have a forum to discuss important topics within their school, as well as gain a better understanding of what may affect other young people's lives.

Change Maker Fund Allocation: **£2500** for Partnership work (not including Young Commissioners)

SNYAB Priority 2: Futures, Life Learning and Wellbeing

Young people have said that they are worried about adult life as they don't feel ready. SNYAB will offer young people the opportunity to learn different life skills, linked to real life, so that they feel confident, knowledgeable, and open to new possibilities. Young people will gain experience and qualifications supporting their **Life Skills and Choices** through **learning, growth, and development opportunities**.

Life Skills Programme – Young people want to be more prepared for their adult life.

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- Provide a Training Programme of 30 Life Skill sessions, that is supported by opportunities to use the skills in a real situation. E.g. Food Hygiene Certificate Course followed by a Cooking Session followed by the opportunity to cook for the Intergenerational Lunch. ***“The Change Maker Food Hygiene Course helped me through my theory exams (Cooking) during my learning for my GCSE’s”. “It also has helped me keep safe in the kitchen and have knowledge to prepare food safely when cooking at the Intergenerational luncheons”***. Life Skill sessions to include money, taxes, managing a house, resilience, CV writing, road safety, personal safety, and personal health, and be open to a minimum of 100 young people.
 - Explore and collate volunteering and work experience opportunities where skills such as First Aid could be used, including local environmental opportunities. ***“Change Maker projects help me clear my mind and have a day to enjoy and learn from”***.

Young people will:

- Feel more confident around issues identified in the consultation.
- Be more prepared for the workplace as they will have relevant experience.


Change Maker Fund Allocation: **£12000** for Commissioning (specialists, venues, transport, support workers and resources)

Four Food Hygiene and three First Aid Courses funded through SNC Employability Grant **£6280**

SNYAB Priority 3: Accessible and Safe Communities

Young people have said that they would like more things to do, and that they want to feel safe doing them. SNYAB will ensure that young people can access high quality activities, services and spaces, that meet local need by supporting communities to provide them, as well as promoting them. Young people will engage with organisations through accessing opportunities, as well as influencing the development of further projects. This will embed a **sustainable change and a continued legacy**.

Things To Do and Places To Go – Collaborate with other organisations to ensure young people can access a range of high quality and accessible activities, clubs, facilities and opportunities.

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- Work with town, district and county councils to ensure that facilities (e.g. bins, streetlights, equipment) are fit for purpose. Explore issues of road safety, and where pedestrians and cars share spaces.
 - Offer Community Development Support enabling young people to set up clubs that they want to access, as well as helping communities to provide quality opportunities for local young people. Facilitate partnerships that bring people together e.g. SNC Leisure Team and community providers using parks, MUGAs, etc for tasters, training, and fun sessions.
 - Work in partnership with West Norfolk YAB to promote the ‘Right To Play’ Disability Awareness Campaign, ensuring that providers and decision makers take into account the needs of the whole community.



- Work with the police to ensure that young people understand how to report incidents, as well as know what happens next.
- Publicise organisations and their services. Ensure that links to good quality information and services are available on the SNYAB website, enabling young people to find what they need, when they need it. Promote local opportunities, providing taster / give it a go type activities and events, celebrating the local offer. ***“I really loved going to Whitlingham because it really helped with my mental health and anxiety”.***
- Promote and support the First Nature Campaign encouraging young people to access nature and outdoor spaces.

Young people will:



- Have access to improved parks and outdoor spaces.
- Know what and who is available to them, and how to find that information.
- Have options in how to spend their leisure time in a positive way, improving health.
- Influence the youth offer in their area, and have the opportunity to try new experiences.
- Feel safe, and know how to report issues.
- Have more opportunities to make new friends.

Change Maker Fund Allocation: **£4500** for Partnerships / Commissioning / Campaigning

Transport – Gather evidence around specific issues as described in consultation.

- Undertake a survey in October to collect evidence in relation to bus lateness, mismatched timings, unreliable App information, etc. and present it to the relevant bus companies.

Young people will:

- Share their experiences of current public transport and influence change for improvements.

Change Maker Fund Allocation: £0 for Lobbying (no costs, just time allocation)

South Norfolk Youth Advisory Board Young Commissioners

SNYAB Young Commissioners meet on a regular basis, in community venues, central to the district. They work through agendas based on the needs at the time, as well as access training relevant to their role. Young people can become a Young Commissioner at any time, and they will have the choice of joining a school group or the district wide group.

There are costs to ensuring that Young Commissioners can come together, and the money allocated, separate from the Change Maker Fund, ensures that this can happen. The budget is based on the previous six months of spend, and will enable Young Commissioners to meet for their district work; take part in county events; get involved with youth voice projects; and access training and other opportunities. Transport is the biggest barrier for these young people, and therefore is where most of the funding is allocated. We work with all young people to identify where and when they need transport, as well as ensuring that bus passes and railcards are used where possible.

Venues for meeting / training / events	£2000
Transport – this includes campaign and inspection activity	£6000
Celebration Event(s) for all Young Commissioner Groups	£500
Resources: promotional materials, website, specialists, etc	£1000
Refreshments	£500
Total Budget	£10,000

SNYAB’s offer is open to all young people who live or are educated in South Norfolk. It aims to give new opportunities for young people in the district, as well as highlight those that are already available. SNYAB will support the organisations who work with young people with information, practical help, and the voice of young people. SNYAB will enable Young Commissioners to develop and expand their role, as well as learn and grow as individuals.

