



Young Combined Authority

Young Combined Authority (YCA) Board update, December 2023

Update

Our current Young Combined Authority (YCA) members have been busy as we move into a transition period where current members will move into other WMCA-related opportunities and our new younger cohort of members are recruited.



Talha - *“During our education workshop, which was conducted under a trauma-informed lens, those faith leaders, YP and professionals in attendance advocated the importance and role of faith partnerships in the remedying and continued co-production of healthier community wellbeing.”*

Hamaam - *“Young people, who should be the vibrant engine of progress and innovation, are instead grappling with a crisis that threatens to undermine their potential and aspirations. It is a crisis that reaches into the pockets of students struggling to pay for education, into the homes of young adults striving to put a roof over their heads, and into the daily lives of those trying to make ends meet.”*

Mental Health Round table

Following the successful Mental Health Youth Summit in July, the YCA and Faith Strategic Partnership Group (FSPG) came together again to share proposed next steps with key stakeholders across the region.

Next steps:

- Include Mental Health Commitments in the Faith Covenant, this reflects the request from YCA members to have written commitment from WMCA and Faith leaders to continue collaborating in this space.
- To work with The Delicate Mind, Taraki and Mount Zion, to develop culturally sensitive Mental Health workshops and capacity building for Faith Settings.

Key Headlines

The roundtable highlighted the challenges our communities face when it comes to broaching the subject of Mental Health:

- Recurring issue of shame within communities around Mental Health
- Cultural stigma, no words in community languages, unable to translate mental health-related terms, making it less real in a sense and not normalised.
- Lack of comfortable and safe spaces/ mental health services as well as Patriarchal and misogynistic environment- lack of youth voice in some settings.

YCA Taster Day

Positive Youth Foundation have delivered two taster days for perspective members.

Members had the opportunity to meet current members of the YCA, find out about the work they have done this year and deepen their understanding of the WMCA.

The young people also did several activities to help to think about what policy areas they might want to prioritise and what areas they may want to influence.

We now have 20 members recruited with just 10 spaces remaining.

Finally, to finish the year on a high we hosted a Christmas meal for current YCA members to thank them for all their insights and hard work and continued support across this year. They look forward to passing the baton onto the new YCA Members in January.



Recent Activity:

Mental Health Working Group- Tuesday 19h December 2023- This meeting brings together current YCA and FSPG members, and mental professionals to explore the proposed next steps.

YCA Launch Day- Friday 5th January- The Launch Day is an opportunity for the New YCA members to come together with current YCA members and set the Young Combined Authority's priorities for 2024. New members will learn about some of our policy areas, Inclusive Growth, Environment and Transport to allow the members to begin to understand which policy areas they might want to work with and influence.

Once new YCA members have agreed priorities for 2024 they will come back to board in March to share their plans with WMCA Board

Any questions, please email: Miriam.Aslam@wmca.org.uk