



# Young Combined Authority

## Round up of Young Combined Authority (YCA) activity, March – June 2020

The coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis has impacted all of our lives, and the YCA is no exception.

Lockdown meant the suspension of face-to-face meetings but also (due to the postponement of the 2020 elections for Mayor of the West Midlands) a break in the YCA's project to develop a manifesto for young people that would be used to engage mayoral candidates.

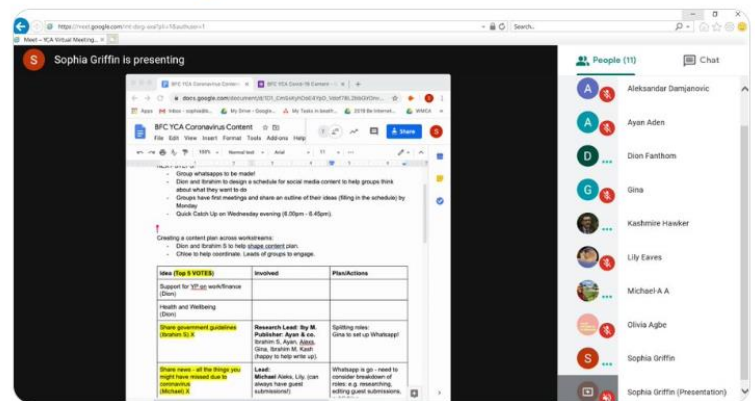
The YCA has adapted to this challenging context and held regular virtual meetings since 1 April. Their new focus has been to connect with young people during the crisis and help to shape the region's recovery.



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We had our first virtual meeting this evening! It was great to check-in, keep positive and make new plans for the future. ☀️ Stay safe and watch this space x

#Covid19 #StayHomeSaveLives



8:50 PM · Apr 1, 2020 · Twitter for Android

## Impact of the Covid-19 crisis on young people

Research shows that young people will be one of the hardest hit groups by Covid-19. Even in the short term, the YCA membership includes people who have experienced the challenges and scenarios below:

- Directly suffered from Covid-19
- A Levels cancelled
- Sat university exams remotely
- Beginning their careers / job hunting
- Are or have family who are key workers
- Recently self-employed (ineligible for support)
- Taking care of themselves, friends or family
- Are from BAME communities.

## The YCA have noted key reports about the impact on young people:

[Research by the IFS](#) found that the under 25's will be disproportionately hit by the crisis in the labour market. This was supported by the Princes Trust whose [research](#) found almost 1/3 young people say their future prospects have been damaged.

Beatfreeks' [Take the Temperature report](#) shined the light on the wider challenges experienced by young people during the pandemic, from increased pressures on mental wellbeing to disruptions in education.

## YCA Response to Covid-19: round up of social media activity

The YCA's initial focus has been on developing ways to use their social media channels to engage young people during the lockdown. This has included:

- Updates from Government Guidelines: *raising awareness of Covid-19 guidelines*
- #YCAPositiveNews – *a Friday feature to share good news from the region and beyond*
- #HowAreYouCoping? – *encouraging people to talk about their mental wellbeing*
- #YCANewsYouMightHaveMissed: *news updates that were eclipsed by Covid-19.*



### COVID-19 Young People Update!

**More specific info, on the Lockdown changes were revealed in a 60 page document**

**From Wednesday, you can do unlimited exercise, with sport being allowed, but only with family**

**People who are working at home, are being advised to carry on doing so**

**Everyone should wear face-masks, whilst in public spaces**

**People coming into the UK, must self-isolate for 14 days (expect people from France and Ireland)**

**Some sports, could restart behind closed doors after June 1st: IF conditions are met**



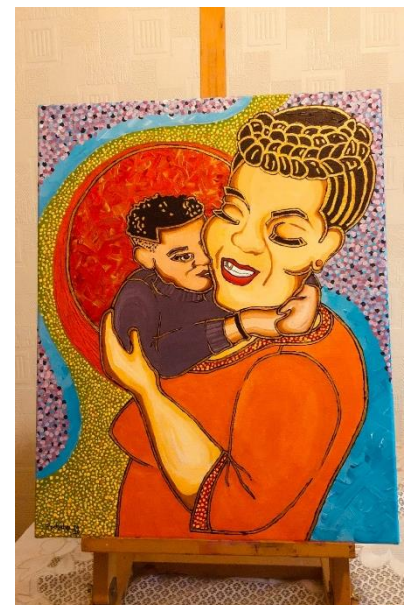
## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 18-24 MAY 2020

The YCA also ran an ambitious campaign for Mental Health Awareness Week. This included asking people to share their artwork through #QuarantineCreates (as featured on BBC WM!) and the YCA's first podcast.

# #QuarantineCreates

WE WILL ALL LOOK BACK ON THIS AND REMEMBER HOW WE FELT IN ISOLATION.

By Yumna Hussien



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As part of #MentalHealthAwarenessWeek, YCA members @MissE81633558 @Emerson\_jh02 @PatelGinaS @AgbeOlivia take part in a #mentalhealth 🧠 podcast. Link is below if you would like to tune in! #KindnessMatters



Emerson Hanslip @Emerson\_jh02 · May 23

Today we publish the first episode of the @wmyoungboard"podcast! In this episode, me, Gina, Olivia and Eman discuss #MentalHealthAwarenessWeek2020 and explore the concept of a "positive mindset".

Listen here: [buzzsprout.com/1111391/387975...](https://buzzsprout.com/1111391/387975...)

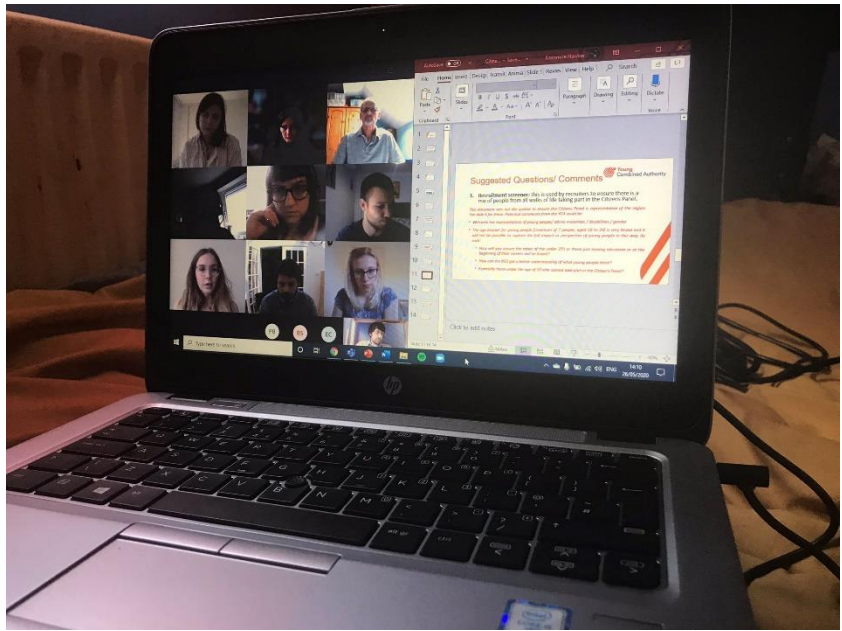
9:45 AM · May 23, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

Listen the YCA's debut podcast on mental health:  
[https://twitter.com/Emerson\\_jh02/status/1264074860986339328](https://twitter.com/Emerson_jh02/status/1264074860986339328)

## Shaping the Region's Recovery from Covid-19

The YCA is increasingly turning its focus to how it could help shape the region's recovery from Covid-19.

The plan is to 'work smart' – connecting with WMCA activity and infrastructure to use the YCA platform to advocate for young people. By influencing what is already in train, the aim is to have a bigger influence on the future of our region.



*Supporting positive mental health – the region is entering a recovery phase, but so are people...*

*Proactively addressing youth unemployment!*

*Digital! Staying ahead of the curve... and making sure communities are connected.*

*Public transport! Reopening schools means catching the bus...*

YCA members have talked about key challenges and impacts of Covid-19 facing the region, and discussed which areas they think could matter most...

*The wider impacts of domestic violence...*

*Helping the homeless. We need to make sure that a return-to-normal does not mean a return to rough sleeping.*

*How can this be an opportunity for universities and employers to work together – so students are attracted to study and know there will be good employment opportunities?*

Stay up to date...

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