



# Young Combined Authority

## Round up of Young Combined Authority (YCA) activity, March 2021

### YCA Vision report is published!

One month on from the WMCA Board's endorsement of the document, the YCA Board published their 'Vision and Priorities' report on 15 February 2021.

The report sets out the YCA's asks and aspirations of and for the West Midlands. It identifies 7 key priority areas for helping the region's young population to recover from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

YCA members have started the next step of working with partners to secure support for their Vision. YCA reps Chris Burden and Kari Lawler presented the final report for discussion at the West Midlands Recovery Coordination Group on 18 February 2021, as well as to WMCA's Policy Working Group, to identify ways it can be made real.

### **Our West Midlands:**

Young Combined Authority Vision  
and Priorities for the Future

February 2021



 Young  
Combined Authority

The report is available at:  
[https://www.wmca.org.uk/  
media/4561/yca-vision-  
2021.pdf](https://www.wmca.org.uk/media/4561/yca-vision-2021.pdf)

### YCA Community has launched!

The Young Combined Authority Community officially launched on 2 March 2021 with a 'welcome webinar' for new and prospective members!

The event was led by YCA Board members Chris Burden, Olivia Agbe, Ibrahim Sohail, Lily Eaves and Kashmire Hawker – with guest panellist Councillor Brigid Jones, as WMCA Portfolio Lead Member for Inclusive Communities.

Watch the Welcome Webinar: <https://youtu.be/tHdw5eemHZE>

# Young people need to be involved in decisions around youth unemployment



**Julie Nugent and Gina Patel**

director of productivity and skills, West Midlands Combined Authority and productivity and skills lead, West Midlands Youth Combined Authority

## In the news...

Gina Patel, YCA Co-Lead for Digital and Skills, joined the WMCA's Director of Skills and Productivity Julie Nugent to write an opinion piece for FE Week. In their article, Gina and Julie highlighted the importance of engaging young people in the development of skills policy.

You can read the article here: <https://feweek.co.uk/2021/02/27/young-people-need-to-be-involved-in-decisions-around-youth-unemployment/>

## YCA Summit

Youth voice representatives from different Combined Authority areas convened for the first time on 18 February 2021.

The West Midlands was repped by YCA Board members Aisha Masood, Chris Burden, Lily Eaves and Kashmire Hawker. They were joined by reps from Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region and Sheffield City Region. We're excited to see where this goes!

## YCA at Scrutiny

During the course of this municipal year Aisha Masood & Michael Ayodeji have represented YCA on Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and Kashmire Hawker represented the YCA on Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

Both Aisha and Michael were able to engage & actively voice young people's views on scrutiny items which related to the recovery planning for the region, Grand Central Diagnostics Hub, Comprehensive Spending Review & a call-in relating to an item taken to the Housing & Land Delivery Board.

The YCA were also well represented and engaged in Q&A sessions with the Mayor, the Chair of Transport Delivery Committee and the Portfolio Lead for Transport.

## Stay up to date:

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