



Young Combined Authority

Young Combined Authority (YCA) update, November 2021

Welcome to our new YCA members!

This month is focused on welcoming new members of our Young Combined Authority Board and Community!

YCA Board induction meetings took place on Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 November – with initial conversations about why the WMCA needs the YCA to help shape its plans for the future, and how the YCA works to make positive change.

Discussions included:

- A welcome from Laura Shoaf, interim Chief Executive of the WMCA.
- Talking with Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands.
- Early conversations about people's motivations and priorities as YCA members.
- Introduction to the WMCA's Corporate Strategy – including how it's been shaped by the YCA so far and how the YCA may want to use it going forward.
- Learning more about the YCA from existing members, the WMCA team and our partners, Aspire4U/ Lyfeproof.



Next steps

Over the next few weeks, we will continue to welcome our YCA Board and Community members and discussions around what their collective aims are as a group and how they want to work going forwards.

What motivated you to join the YCA Board, and what do you think the biggest priority is for the future of the West Midlands?

'One of the biggest issues I fight for is **equality** – whether that's gender equality, sexual equality, race equality, class equality - trying to make sure that everyone is treated equally. Making sure everyone is treated like humans, treated the same.'

'I believe the main issue for the West Midlands is with **child poverty** and deprivation as a lot of children in the West Midlands... I believe we as community need to help those who are need of our help the most.'

'There's a lot of **disunity** and that's mostly due to the lack of integration. There's a lack of **opportunity** for young people from certain areas and a clear disparity between the opportunities offered to men and women. There's not enough being done about feminist-based issues.'

'There's **disunity** in lots of ways, UK wide, but it's especially evident in the WM. For such a diverse area, there's so many disjoints in the community no matter where you look, whether its race, whether its class. That's something I want to fix.'

'**Growth** at the moment is really important, we have HS2 coming and the Commonwealth Games, all eyes are on Birmingham. So this is a really good opportunity for the City and the Region to be an example for the rest of the country to look towards.'

'I joined the YCA was because I believe that **young people's voices have always been overlooked** and young people are always seen as trouble makers and anti-social. I know so many bright young people that are actually so bright and I believe that young people need the chance to speak and to be heard! Thanks to the WMCA for giving us this opportunity.'

Stay up to date with the YCA!

Follow us on social media: [@wmyoungboard](https://www.instagram.com/wmyoungboard)

For any questions, please email: Lucy.Gosling@wmca.org.uk