



# Young Combined Authority

Young Combined Authority (YCA) Board update, Summer - October 2022

## SUMMER 2022 ACTIVITY!

### 1. Levelling Up

Following their workshops in May and June, the YCA presented their video on Levelling Up to the WMCA Board's meeting in July. The video sets out the YCA's vision for what Levelling Up and a Trailblazer Devolution Deal should mean for young people living in the West Midlands. You can watch the video at: <https://youtu.be/V5-99zINVzw>

### 2. Board Training

The YCA used their meeting in July as a training session to learn more about how to effectively participate at board meetings.

They were joined by Claire Spencer (WMCA) and Chris Burden, who was previously co-chair of the YCA and is now Cabinet Member for Skills and Education at the City of Wolverhampton Council.

Top tips for maximising the YCA's impact at meetings included:

1. Understanding the different roles of the YCA, WMCA boards and the WMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
2. The importance of planned, punchy and polite presentations.
3. Collective responsibility: speaking with the voice of the full YCA.
4. Being a good critical friend.
5. Building positive relationships with decision makers.

### 3. GBSLEP

At their August meeting, the YCA were joined by Amrit Sandhu from Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP). Amrit introduced their 'reverse mentoring' project, which will connect young people from East Birmingham to local employers. The YCA shared their support and feedback, and look forward to seeing the project launch in January.

## Key Project: National YCA on Transport

The West Midlands YCA are collaborating with youth voice reps from other Mayoral Combined Authority areas through the National Youth Combined Authority forum (NYCA). Their aim is to work with Metro Mayors to deliver a better future for under 25's.

In their Summer meeting with the Mayors (Andy Street, Andy Burnham and Steve Rotherham), the NYCA was asked to undertake some research into young people's views on transport and getting around.

Members of the NYCA have since created and launched a survey, to give young people their say.

The survey is live until the end of October. Link:

<https://aspire4u.typeform.com/to/U4o9KODG?typeform-source=t.co>

**NATIONAL**  
YCA X

### **CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE!**

We are the National YCA, a group of young people from England campaigning for a better future for under 25s.

We're currently conducting a research project on young peoples' uses of public transport and active travel, and would really appreciate your time to fill out a 5 minute online survey.

The data collected will be presented to the Metro Mayors and used as evidence in discussions around, for example, better cycling infrastructure, road safety and cheaper public transport fares.

Link in bio to complete!

#### **Want to influence how you will get around Yorkshire and Humber in the future?**

As the region develops its vision for an integrated public transport system, we want to better understand young people's experiences of getting around the region.

If you travel frequently on buses, trams, trains and by foot or bike, or feel that you are put off by public transport and active travel, the regions Youth Combined Assemblies wants to hear from you.



#### **TAKE PART IN A SURVEY**

[click here](#)

Your views will help influence future policies designed to improve the lives of young people in Yorkshire and the Humber and beyond.

**COMPLETE THE SURVEY BEFORE 31 OCTOBER.**

## **GET YOUR VOICES HEARD**

- Is travel too expensive?
- Are your trains and buses unreliable?
- Do you want to see change?
- Then complete our survey!

**NATIONAL**  
YCA X

 **Young**  
Combined Authority

#### **Want to influence how you will get around Greater Manchester in the future?**



**YOUTH COMBINED AUTHORITY**  
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

**METROMAYOR'S**  
**YOUTH IMPACT**

### **Key Project: Mental Health Commission**

In August, the YCA also received an update from Jed Francique and Jenny Drew (WMCA) about how the Mental Health Commission has taken forward their recommendation to explore mental health in education settings.

The Commission have invited the YCA to review their recommendations or work together on an event to engage more young people about their priorities.

YCA members are catching up during the October half term to plan a youth engagement event to help 'test' the Mental Health Commission's ideas.

### **YCA Stocktake**

YCA members and the WMCA share an ambition to reset and recharge the way the Young Combined Authority works, so it can make a greater impact in the future.

In September, YCA members shared their ideas with Liz Harding, who is leading a stocktake of the project for the WMCA.

Key themes from the conversation included thinking about the purpose of the YCA, how YCA members can connect with other young people and the various types of leaders that YCA members should aspire and develop to be.

YCA members look forward to receiving updates on how their ideas will be taken forward and help to strengthen regional youth voice.

### **COMING UP...**

Focused on delivering more impact, the YCA have developed a forward plan of future activity. This is currently to:

- Continue engagement with the Mental Health Commission, National YCA Forum and stocktake of the YCA
- Respond to any opportunities that may arise from a **Trailblazer Devolution Deal**, to help maximise the benefit for young people.
- Plan their next **meeting with the Mayor** (booked for January 2023!)

Any questions, please email: [Lucy.Gosling@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Lucy.Gosling@wmca.org.uk)