



Young Combined Authority

Young Combined Authority (YCA) Board update, December 2022

Update

The YCA have had another busy couple of months! Their meeting in November was chaired by Hamaam and focused on the cost of living crisis and an update on the YCA stocktake. Simren chaired the YCA Board meeting in December, which included a session to plan the YCA's workshop with the Mayor in January and updates on the YCA's transport and Mental Health activity.

Cost of Living

In November, the YCA held a conversation about the cost of living crisis and how it is impacting young people across the region.

During the meeting, the YCA heard from John O'Shea, who is the WMCA's senior programme manager for Inclusive Growth, about their work to understand the cost of living crisis, how it is affecting the region and what the WMCA could do in response.

YCA members also developed their own ideas for how young people could be supported to get through and then get out of the crisis.

"Young people are thinking about the cost of living crisis..."

"People are not using the hob, not able to go out, unable to buy text books and train passes..."

"It's quite hard seeing how careful everyone has to be..."

YCA Stocktake

Liz Harding, the external expert who is doing a stocktake on the way the Young Combined Authority works, joined the YCA's meeting in November to share their findings. Liz thanked the YCA for their input (which was 'spot on!') and is going to give advice on how the YCA can have a bigger impact on WMCA decision making and better connect with other youth councils and groups.

Transport – National YCA

The West Midlands YCA has been busy working with the National Youth Combined Authority on a shared research project about young people's use of public and active travel.

More than 1000 responses to the survey were received nationally, with many calling for a more accessible, affordable and safe network for young people.

National YCA members are now working to review the data ahead of sharing it with Metro Mayors in the new year.



Mental Health

The YCA have continued to work with the WMCA Mental Health team to plan a youth engagement event for 2023. The aim of the event is to give under 25's a say on the Mental Health Commission's ideas.

A date has now been set: **Saturday 21 January 2023.**

Look out for more details and the Eventbrite link on the YCA's social media channels! @wmyoungboard

Coming up: meeting with the Mayor

The YCA agreed a set of key topics that they want to focus on during their meeting with the Mayor on Wednesday 4 January 2023. These are:

- Transport – including the findings of the National YCA survey
- Cost of Living – including immediate and longer term skills support
- Mental Health – in the run up to the youth event.

The group are looking forward to exploring these challenges with the Mayor and sharing their ideas about how the West Midlands can be improved for the young people who live here!

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