



Young Combined Authority

Young Combined Authority (YCA) Board update, January 2022

Update

The new Year got off to a great start with YCA members meeting with the Mayor on Wednesday 4th January and with Mental Health Commission Focus groups planned for later in the month.

YCA and the Mayor

Transport

Simren and Hammam highlighted findings from the National Youth Survey regarding public transport. The survey found that young women didn't feel safe to travel on buses. Together with the Mayor they explored how the perception of crime on buses is very high but in reality, only in 1 in 60,000 bus journeys does crime occur.

They also discussed the affordability of travel in light of the cost-of-living crisis and noted the steps the CA have taken to cap travel at £4 a day. YCA members also explored South Yorkshire model Youth Zoom, where young people can travel across the region for 80p.

It was clear that promoting the affordability and safety of buses will be key to driving down the cost.

"Young women don't feel safe on buses"

"It's difficult to find out information about travel concessions"

"How can we get more young people using buses?"

"We would like subsidised travel for young people"



Mental Health

Richard advocated for improvements in mental health provision for young people as challenges post-pandemic only continue to rise, with child referrals for mental health care in England up 39% in a year. Richard highlighted the need for increased funding that could be distributed equally to meet the needs of young people, for early intervention, and regular mental health commission data to monitor year-on-year improvements.

Richard also explored the mental health challenges we face in the region with the Mayor and what levers the CA have to support change, such as the Thrive Into Work programme.



“We would like to co-produce a mental health curriculum for young people”

“We want to raise awareness of the support already available to young people.”

Coming up: Mental health Commission Focus Groups

On Saturday 21st January the YCA will be leading on a number of focus groups to explore key themes of the mental health commission, such as Education, BAME communities, and how the cost of living crisis affects residents mental health to ensure the Youth Voice is reflected in the commission’s final report.

Invites are expected to go out later this week.

Any questions, please email: Miriam.Aslam@wmca.org.uk