

AGENDA 9, Enc ix) YOUTH SERVICES COLLABORATION MEETING

Monday 15th June 2026 2:00 PM, Northumberland YMCA, North View

Chair: Councillor Caroline Ball

Present:

Michelle Brannigan, Full Circle Food Project
Cllr Louis Brown, ATC
Kirsty Bush, Ashington Family Hub
Rob Cox, YMCA
Wayne Daniels, Neighbourhood Policing Team
Cllr Lynne Grimshaw, ATC
Dave Johnson, Beyond Youth
Paul Kirkpatrick, Off-the-Grid
Samantha Kukk, Northumberland College
Jane McGee, Wansbeck Community Links
Sharon Parmley, ATC
Keir Tattersdill, Active Through Football

1. Welcome and Introductions

Councillor Caroline Ball was nominated as Chair and accepted the role by unanimous vote. Attendees introduced themselves and the meeting commenced.

2. Partner Updates

The following partners provided updates on their current activities and recent developments:

YMCA Northumberland

- The weekly programme is continuing Monday to Thursday in Ashington and Friday in Bedlington.

Off The Grid

- Managing the holiday food programme for young people aged 11–16 in the Dukes catchment area. Targeting 60 places through the school, with Katie Black coordinating the programme.

Wansbeck Community Links

- Raised the question of whether there is a gap in provision for counselling for children aged 8 and over, delivered through play and craft sessions.
- **Group response:** The group agreed that there is a definite need for counselling provision for the 8+ age group.
- **Action:** Jane McGee to coordinate with service providers regarding this provision.

Active Through Football

- Family cricket sessions are about to launch at the Playzone on Mondays, for children aged 10–12, in partnership with Ashington Cricket Club.
- A Street Games course is progressing well, with 7 young people currently participating. The final session will take a Dragon's Den format, where participants will pitch their ideas for the Playzone and surrounding area.

Neighbourhood Policing

- Currently working to tighten up information sharing processes.

AGENDA 9, Enc ix) YOUTH SERVICES COLLABORATION MEETING

- Implementing approaches to direct children who have suffered from child exploitation to appropriate services.
- Antisocial behaviour (ASB) continues to be an issue around parks in Ashington. Work is ongoing to link with schools to raise awareness of ASB and its consequences, and to share information on available activities in and around Ashington.
- Increased police visibility is being planned for the summer holiday period.

Mortal Fools

- Mortal Fools Youth Theatre presents Roots
- Join us for a weekend of free creative activities and performances for young people, families and the community in the heart of Ashington.
- Saturday 27th June and Sunday 28th June, Duke's Secondary School, Ashington - Various timeslots, to find out more and book a slot click [here](#)

3. Ashington Town Council Update

The next round of ATC Small Grant Fund is open for applications Wednesday 15th July 2026, closing date Wednesday 29th July

ATC Summer Event Funding (Rob Cox) were addressed as part of the partner updates and opportunities sections respectively.

The Sound Futures Festival was highlighted as a key summer initiative.

4. Sound Futures Festival

- **Date/time/venue:** Saturday, 22nd August 2026, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM, People's Park, Ashington.
- **Planned features:** Live music from young people; main stage and open mic stage; Silent Disco with Pulse; Youth Zone; Sports Zone; Information Zone; and market stalls.
- Rob Cox requested that all partners continue sharing the event poster.
- Rob is accepting donations of soft toys for a tombola and donations for raffle prizes.

5. Opportunities

Full Circle Food Project / Hirst Welfare

- Plans are progressing to provide breakfast and packed lunch boxes for 30 children at Hirst Welfare and Hirst Park during the summer holidays.

Ashington Junior Parkrun

- Cllr Caroline Ball presented a proposal for the establishment of a junior parkrun in Ashington. Junior parkrun is a free, weekly, volunteer-led 2km run for children aged 4–14.
- The total start-up cost is £4,800 (parkrun UK's standard one-off national fee), covering equipment, signage, IT systems, insurance, training, a defibrillator, and ongoing central support, with no recurring charge thereafter.
- Ashington Town Council has already committed £500, leaving £4,300 still to be secured. The organising group is prepared to undertake its own fundraising and has strong support from the local running community.
- A summer launch is preferred, subject to funding being secured in full, which is required by parkrun HQ before the start date can be confirmed.

AGENDA 9, Enc ix) YOUTH SERVICES COLLABORATION MEETING

- **Decision:** It was agreed to support this, and welcomed that Junior Parkrun proposal would be considered on the next Town Council meeting.

6. Actions and Next Steps

The following actions were agreed:

- **Jane McGee** — Coordinate with service providers regarding 8+ counselling provision.
- **All partners** — Continue sharing the Sound Futures Festival poster ahead of the 22nd August event.
- **All partners** – Share Mortals Fools Youth Theatre Presentation “Roots”
- **Cllr Caroline Ball / Youth Advisory Committee** — Take the Junior Parkrun funding proposal to Town Council for agreement.