

ASHINGTON YOUTH COLLABORATION MEETING

Meeting Report

Date: Monday, 1st December 2025

Time: 2:00 PM

Venue: YMCA, South View, Ashington

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting convened at 2:00 PM at the YMCA South View, bringing together key partners working with young people across Ashington to share updates, coordinate activities, and explore collaborative opportunities.

2. PARTNER UPDATES

Partners provided updates on current activities, recent developments, and ongoing initiatives:

Community Safety Team

- **Hirst Park Anti-Social Behaviour:** The issue of anti-social behaviour involving fireworks in Hirst Park has now ceased following targeted intervention work.
- **Improved Lighting:** Lighting at the Hirst Park pavilion has been addressed, creating a brighter, safer environment around the facility.
- **Town Centre ASB:** Anti-social behaviour around Asda, Ashington Leisure Centre, and Station Road has been addressed. Young people involved have been identified and their contact information has been passed to social services for appropriate support and intervention.

YMCA Northumberland

- **Jamming in Jammies Event Success:** The overnight event, which ran from 7pm to 8am and featured a silent disco and various activities, was highly successful with 17 young people attending.
- **Increased Attendance:** The YMCA continues to see new young people attending almost daily, likely attributed to the introduction of new music sessions which have proven popular.
- **Upcoming Programme:** Ultimate Pulse sessions are scheduled to begin in the new year, providing additional youth engagement opportunities.

Beyond Youth

- **Ashington Nativity - Follow the Star:** An all-age interactive Christmas celebration planned for Saturday 20th December, 3:00pm-6:00pm. The event will include:

- Crafts, stories, carols and lights starting at St Andrew's Church (3:00pm)
- A Walk Through Ashington with carols and children's activities
- Nativity performance at Holy Sepulchre Church (5:15pm)
- Refreshments provided

Northumberland College

- **Community Engagement Goals:** The college is actively seeking to increase community engagement and strengthen links with other organisations and services.
- **Youth Collaboration Participation:** Attendance at meetings such as the Youth Collaboration Meeting represents part of their networking strategy.
- **Police Liaison:** Jen Baxter will coordinate with police regarding the relationship between law enforcement and young people in Ashington.
- **Safeguarding Session:** A police officer will visit the college to deliver a safeguarding presentation to students.

Ashington Neighbourhood Policing Team

- **School Communications Network:** Currently establishing improved communication channels with local schools through a dedicated network.
- **Public Perception Work:** Ongoing efforts to improve public perceptions of policing in the community.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour Trends:** ASB incidents remain at low levels following the spike during the Guy Fawkes period, indicating successful intervention strategies.

3. ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

Councillor Ball provided an overview of the **Community Chest Fund**

- **New Panel Established:** A newly constituted panel is now in place to assess applications.
- **Pre-Christmas Decisions:** All outstanding funding applications will be decided before the Christmas break.
- **January Application Window:** The next funding application window will open in January 2026.
- **Match Funding:** The panel will also consider match funding arrangements to maximize the impact of grants awarded.

4. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Several funding opportunities were highlighted for groups and organizations delivering youth services, programmes, or activities:

Bernicia Foundation

Two grant programmes currently open for applications:

- **Inclusion Grant:** Supporting economic and social inclusion initiatives
- **Inspiration Grant:** Supporting projects that inspire and engage young people

Police and Crime Commissioner Fund

- Currently open for applications supporting community safety projects and initiatives

5. ACTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The following actions were agreed and will be followed up before the next meeting:

| Action | Responsible | Deadline |
|--|----------------|---------------------|
| Chase updates on Ashington Leisure Partnership progress | Sharon Parmley | Before next meeting |
| Invite funders to present at next meeting to share application guidance and funding opportunities | Sharon Parmley | Next meeting |
| Add agenda item: Discuss alternative uses for Wansbeck Square space following cancellation of new Meeting Chair building plans | | Next meeting |
| Share dates for upcoming Roadshows and Opportunities Fair at Hirst Welfare | Caz | Before next meeting |

6. KEY OUTCOMES

The meeting successfully achieved the following outcomes:

1. **Information Sharing:** Partners gained visibility of activities across different organisations, reducing duplication and identifying collaboration opportunities.
2. **Community Safety Progress:** Confirmation that recent anti-social behaviour issues have been effectively addressed through multi-agency working.
3. **Youth Engagement Growth:** Positive trends in youth attendance at YMCA and other venues, indicating successful programming.
4. **Funding Awareness:** Partners were made aware of multiple funding streams to support youth work.

5. **Improved Coordination:** Strengthened relationships between police, educational institutions, and youth services.
6. **Forward Planning:** Clear actions identified to enhance partnership working and address emerging needs.

7. ATTENDANCE

Representatives attended from:

- Ashington Town Council
- Northumberland Communities Together
- Community Safety Team (Northumberland County Council)
- YMCA Northumberland
- Beyond Youth
- Northumberland College
- Ashington Neighbourhood Policing Team

8. NEXT MEETING

Details for the next Youth Collaboration Meeting will be circulated in due course. Partners are encouraged to share the agreed actions within their organisations and prepare updates for the next session.

Report Prepared By: Sharon Parmley, Engagement and Events Officer, Ashington Town Council

Date: December 2025