

AGENDA 13, Enc viii) YOUTH COLLABORATION MEETING REPORT MONDAY 20TH APRIL 2026

Updates from Member Organisations

Mortal Fools

- Planning a summer event centred on the theme of 'Influence and Heritage', with a range of activities available to the public on 27 and 28 June.
- **FREE Feel the Sound Workshop** – led by Mortal Fools' Youth Leadership Team, for young people aged 10–15, on Sunday 17 May at Hirst Welfare Centre, Ashington, 10am–2:30pm.

Beyond Youth

- Present in Hirst Park most Friday nights, engaging with young people in the community.
- Sessions in North Seaton Community Centre also.

Active Through Football

- Delivering a Street Games Course, with the aim of creating a sustainable, youth-led session at the Play Zone in Hirst Park.
- Contact Keir.Tattersdill@northumberland.gov.uk for enquiries or to refer young people.

NECA – Gambling Harm Prevention & Education Programme

Nathan Devlin was invited to present the [Gambling Harm Prevention & Education Programme](#).

- Free interactive awareness workshops available for young people aged 10–25.
- Groups interested in arranging workshops should contact nathan.devlin@neca.co.uk.

Ashington Family Hub

The Family Hub continues to offer a wide range of weekly sessions:

- SEND Family Chill Out – Mondays 3:30pm–4:30pm (age 4+)
- Feeding Friends – Mondays 10am–11:30am
- Baby Stay & Play – Mondays 1pm–2pm (0–12 months)
- Pop In Monday Drop In – 1:30pm–2:30pm
- Kangaroo Club Cardio Exercises – Tuesdays 10am–11am
- Stay & Play – Wednesdays 10am–11:30am (0–5 years)
- Calm Stay & Play – Thursdays 1pm–2pm (0–5 years, children with additional needs or disability)
- Bump and Buggy Walk – Thursdays 1pm

Northumberland College

- Currently preparing students for GCSE examinations.

YMCA Northumberland

The YMCA continues to provide a varied weekly programme for young people:

- Mondays – Quest Night, Dungeons and Dragons (in collaboration with Northern Pulse) and DJ Sessions, 13–18 years, 4pm–8pm
- Tuesdays – Y-Music: explore, learn and practise in a fully equipped music studio, 13–18 years, 4pm–8pm
- Wednesdays – Youth Café, 10–13 years, 4pm–7pm
- Thursdays – Y Creative: youth-led creative workshops, 13–18 years, 4pm–8pm
- Fridays – East Bedlington Community Centre, 8–13 years, 4pm–6pm
- An upcoming event is being planned to celebrate **150 years of the YMCA**.

Community Policing Team

- Easter holidays saw a notable rise in anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the town centre, primarily involving e-bikes.
- A successful drone operation resulted in the capture of 4 or 5 e-bikes. Confiscated bikes are crushed; many parents remain unaware that these vehicles are illegal.
- ASB has also increased in Hirst Park, including criminal damage and assaults on members of the public by youths.
- Chris will arrange a meeting with NCC to explore extending anti-climb paint to further areas of the pavilion.
- A plain-clothes police operation in Hirst Park resulted in one further e-bike being confiscated.
- The team acknowledged a lack of education around e-bikes and e-scooters and confirmed plans to visit schools to speak with young people.

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Hirst Welfare

- Reported a successful Easter break, with between 60 and 80 under-18s currently engaged at the centre.

Pride Action North

- Provided an update on recent staffing changes.
- Reported that One NE in Peelow is progressing well.
- The 18+ group in Blyth is gradually growing in numbers.
- Schools have been approaching the organisation for guidance on setting up their own LGBTQ+ clubs.

ATC Youth Fund – Summer Breakfast & Packed Lunch Club

Michelle from Full Circle Food Project presented a proposal for a Summer Breakfast & Packed Lunch Club, a partnership initiative between Hirst Welfare and Full Circle Food Project.

Following the removal of free food vouchers for children eligible for free school meals by Northumberland County Council, many families are expected to face increased financial pressure and potential food insecurity over the summer period. This may also place additional strain on food banks and contribute to a rise in anti-social behaviour.

Proposed Project Overview

- Hirst Welfare Centre to provide a healthy breakfast; Full Circle Food Project to provide a nutritious packed lunch.
- Available on 2 days per week (provisionally Tuesdays and Fridays) over the 6-week school summer holiday.
- Target group: children and young people in Ashington, particularly those previously eligible for free school meals.
- Estimated attendance: 25 children per session.
- Estimated cost: £100–£200 per day, depending on attendance.

Expected Outcomes

- Alleviate holiday hunger for children in need.
- Provide a safe and welcoming space for children during the summer.
- Support families facing financial hardship.
- Strengthen local partnership working between the council and community organisations.

Funding from Ashington Town Council is being sought to support this initiative. The group welcomed the proposal and indicated willingness to discuss further.

Alternative to HAF Funding

Carla Thompson advised that funding has been made available to develop a summer programme for families who fall just above the threshold for HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) funding eligibility and that she had written to groups regarding this. Key points:

- Hirst Park will serve as the base for this initiative.
- Several youth groups are hoped to collaborate in delivering activities and food for families.
- Planned frequency: one day per week throughout the school holidays.

It was discussed that the funding available here and the proposal put forward by Full Circle Food Project and Hirst Welfare Centre could all be combined to deliver a greater availability of food throughout the summer. The difficulties with who and how were covered in brief and it was agreed that this should be picked up again once groups had replied to Carla with what they could deliver and the costs. It was conceivable that the Town Council could make additional funding available towards this so delivery could be across two days a week, as opposed to the expected one day.

Sarah reiterated that any funding proposal would need to be brought to Council as the Youth Advisory Committee did not have delegated spending powers – ideally sooner rather than later.

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Summer Event

In March 2026, Ashington Town Council wrote to Youth Advisory Committee members and youth group leaders outlining an opportunity related to this year's summer Fair Day:

- With staff responsibilities changing and uncertainty around recruitment of a new Deputy Town Clerk, the Council considered a different approach to delivering the event.
- Rather than scale back, the Council proposed making a budget of £13,000 available for the Youth Advisory Committee and its member groups to take creative lead in planning and shaping an event for the whole community of Ashington.
- This meeting marks the next step in that planning process.

It was agreed that those groups interested in delivering this would convene a separate meeting. This was arranged for Wednesday 29th April.

ATC Annual Grant Fund

Members were reminded that the Annual Grant Scheme is now open, with a closing date of **22 May**.

Actions

Ref	Action	Owner
1	Street Games Course – all members to contact Keir Tattersdill if they have young people interested in attending.	All Members
2	NECA – all members to contact Nathan Devlin if they wish to arrange free gambling harm awareness workshops for their staff or young people.	All Members
3	Carla to liaise with Town Council regarding alternative to HAF Funding. Budget available and potential interest with a view to funding decision being brought to Council for additional day/week	Carla
4	Summer Event – Sharon to book a date for the first working group meeting.	Sharon
5	To invite Gordon Stewart, Community Safety Team to the next meeting	Sharon

Next meeting date Monday 15th June 2pm - Venue to be confirmed. Break-out meeting regarding summer fair agreed 29th April.

Summer Food Programme: Youth Advisory Committee – Delegated Budget

Members are asked to note the attached Youth Advisory Committee meeting report, in particular the proposal from Full Circle Food Project and Hirst Welfare Centre for a Summer Breakfast and Packed Lunch Club, and discussions regarding a wider combined programme in partnership with NCC's alternative-to-HAF funding.

As noted at the YAC meeting, any funding commitment requires a formal decision by Council. Northumberland County Council's position on the level of funding available for the associated programme is not yet confirmed but is anticipated prior to this meeting. A further update will be circulated to members in advance.

Members are asked to consider agreeing to delegate authority to the Executive Officer, in consultation with the Youth Advisory Committee, to commit funding in support of the summer food programme, up to a maximum of **£[X]**, subject to satisfactory confirmation of NCC's contribution and the final programme proposal, with the Executive Officer reporting back to the next appropriate committee meeting on expenditure incurred.