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Voicing the Needs of YAV's Young People Sunderland

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Mapping the Needs of Young Members of Young Asian Voices (YAV) in Sunderland

Introduction

This research maps the needs of young BME people living in Sunderland who are all members of the Young Asian Voices (YAV) youth project. The research was funded by the University of Sunderland, Centre for Applied Social Sciences. The research project aimed to identify the racial realities impacting upon young people in the City of Sunderland which remain hidden from public view. It also aimed to develop a relationship with YAV in order to build an empirical research base to 'capture the perspectives of young people and youth workers' (Nolas, 2014: 28). In a recent critical review of the literature focused on youth work the perspectives of young people and youth workers was found to be an identifiable gap (Edinburgh Youth Work Consortium, 2015).

The researcher's aimed to understand:

- What are the key issues impacting on young BME people's lives in Sunderland?
- What are the key risks for BME young people in Sunderland?
- Who is particularly at risk?
- What youth services are currently being provided?
- What needs are unmet?

The research was carried out over a period of 12 months in 2016 and 2017 in Sunderland with the support of YAV.

This research report is structured into 8 sections. The first section places our report in the context of current debates on the subject. Section Two explains our methodology. Section Three gives an insight into those who took part in the research. Section Four discusses youth provision and delivery and the challenges of youth work. Section Five explores partnership working. Section Six discusses the findings around racism and Islamophobia. Section Seven discusses gendered cultural awareness and some safeguarding concerns. Section Eight concludes the report.

1. Background and Current Debates

Sunderland is a City located on the coast in the north east of England. The City of Sunderland Census data (Sunderland Census, 2017) identified its population to be 275,300 with 95.9% of people self- identifying as white. The BME population is thus small and slightly below the average for the region as a whole. How this plays out in everyday encounters is therefore likely to be an important factor when challenging mono-cultural norms within a City aspiring to become a vibrant intercultural hub (Sunderland, 2021).

The aspiration within the City for cultural City status in 2021 is an exciting possibility particularly given the precarious life chances of many young people due to the imposed austerity policies from National Government (Seddon, 2017). Austerity is a major backdrop to this report because it impacts directly on the services available to young people (Unison, 2016). These cuts have left youth work provision reliant on volunteers and the charitable sector for financial support. This is despite recognition about the importance of youth work in helping young people challenge fallacies they have come to believe about their own lives and the life-worlds of others (Cantle and Thomas, 2014; Bowler, 2006; 2013). Following the recent 2017 acts of violent murder in Manchester and London it has also been recognised that youth work has an important role to play in countering radicalisation (Puffett, 2017).

The other contextual concern facing YAV and the young people who it works with are the ongoing formations of racism within British society. As M G Khan (2013: 8) in his seminal work on Young Muslims, Pedagogy and Islam identifies:

'British young Muslims are subjected to a 'new racism' based on moral incompatibility, ethical differences and notions of Islam that have led to a reinvented modern form of racist discourse'

The backdrop of British anti-Muslim Racism alongside post Brexit xenophobic and racist behaviours towards migrants and asylum seekers has resulted in a significant rise in racial violence recorded through hate incidents (Burnett, 2016).

In all of these contextual realities reside dominant narratives about young people as dangerous - who are or look as if they might be Muslim - as if they embody risk, alienation and potential for radicalisation (Kundnani, 2015). As professor Paul Thomas has identified the threat of what has come to be termed Islamist extremism is *'by a small minority of young Muslims'* (Thomas, 2016: 171). Therefore the dominant racialised narratives run counter to a growing body of empirical work that identifies young British Asians as multicultural who are seeking to belong as modern British intercultural citizens (Hussain and Bagguley, 2005; 2013; Bowler, 2006; Hoque, 2015).

2. Methodology

The research team opted for a multi-method approach to ensure that a thorough mapping process and identification of need was completed. The research methods used included the use of a quantitative survey to collate the experiences and needs of young people, focus groups with young people and staff to explore some of the issues that emerged in the survey and an in-depth interview with the manager of YAV. Through this process we were able to understand the issues that impacts upon the lives of young members of YAV in Sunderland.

This process also helped the researchers establish a young person and youth worker view on some of the contemporary concerns for young people across the City.

An initial pilot survey was conducted to test the questions and themes that the project hoped to address. Feedback from YAV staff was crucial in helping to formulate the final survey design.

Two surveys were designed; one for the senior youth group participants and one for the junior group¹. A junior survey was necessary as some of the issues explored in the main survey were too sensitive for junior participants. The research team included information on where respondents could get help and support if they were affected by any of the issues raised in the survey.

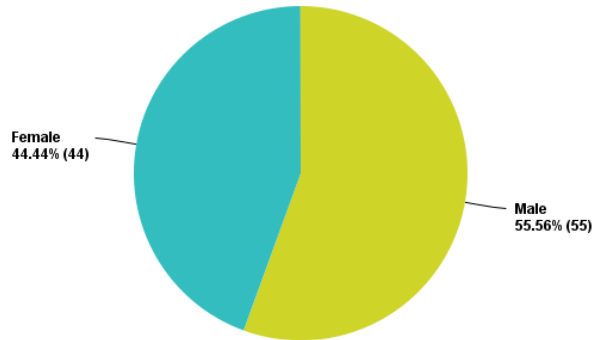
The research team agreed with YAV that they would distribute the survey and also provide support in survey completion especially for the junior participants. The survey was initially distributed as a link via social media by YAV. It was anticipated that young people would use their smartphones or the facilities at YAV to complete the survey. However, young people were found to be struggling to get access and a paper version of the survey was then distributed and collected by YAV over a period of 5 months. This data collection process may appear to have taken a long time but this was impacted by the month of Ramadan and the summer holidays. A total of 99 surveys were returned out of a potential 200.

A focus group was held with the members of the Volunteer Integration Project (VIP) young women's group to explore some of the issues raised in the survey findings; a total of 13 young women took part. A focus group with 8 YAV staff and volunteers also took place discussing the survey findings alongside current youth work provision and gaps in service provision. An in-depth interview was undertaken with the YAV manager exploring current challenges and successes in service provision. Attempts to arrange a focus group for young men were made but were unsuccessful.

¹ The junior group were aged 8 – 11 years old. The senior youth group were 12-16 and 17 – 25+

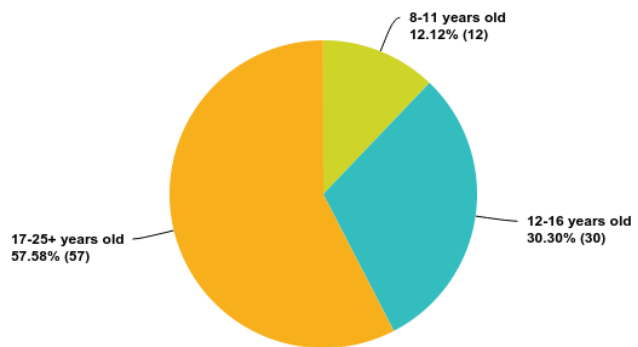
3. Research participants: Some demographics

The charts detail the gender and age breakdowns of the respondents.

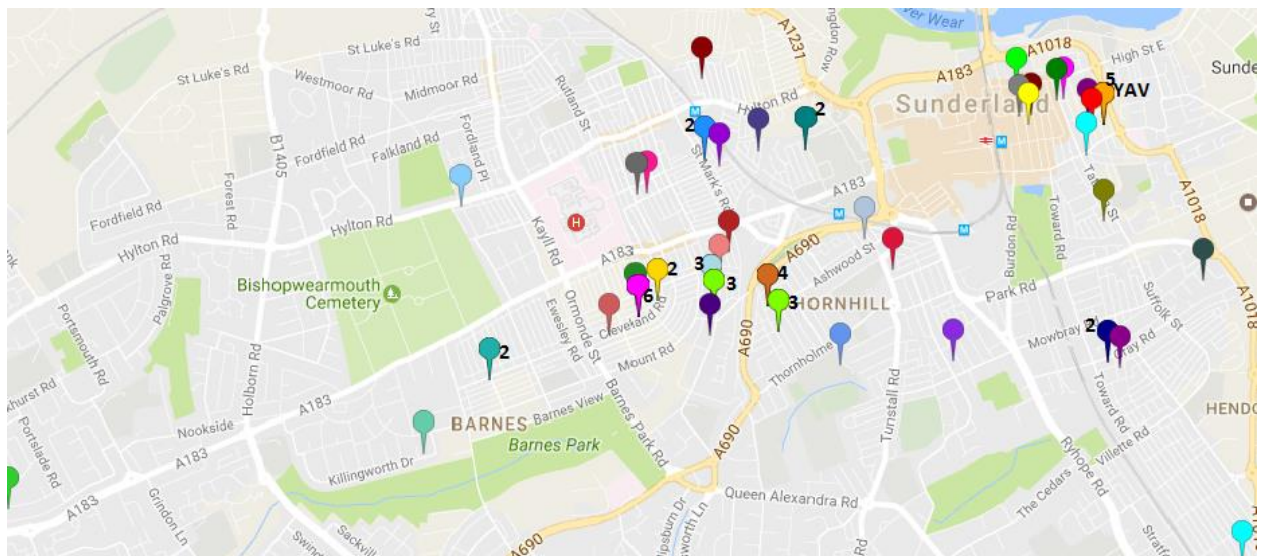


Over a half of the survey respondents were male.

Over a half of all survey respondents were aged 17-25+ and a small proportion of respondents were aged 8-11 years old.

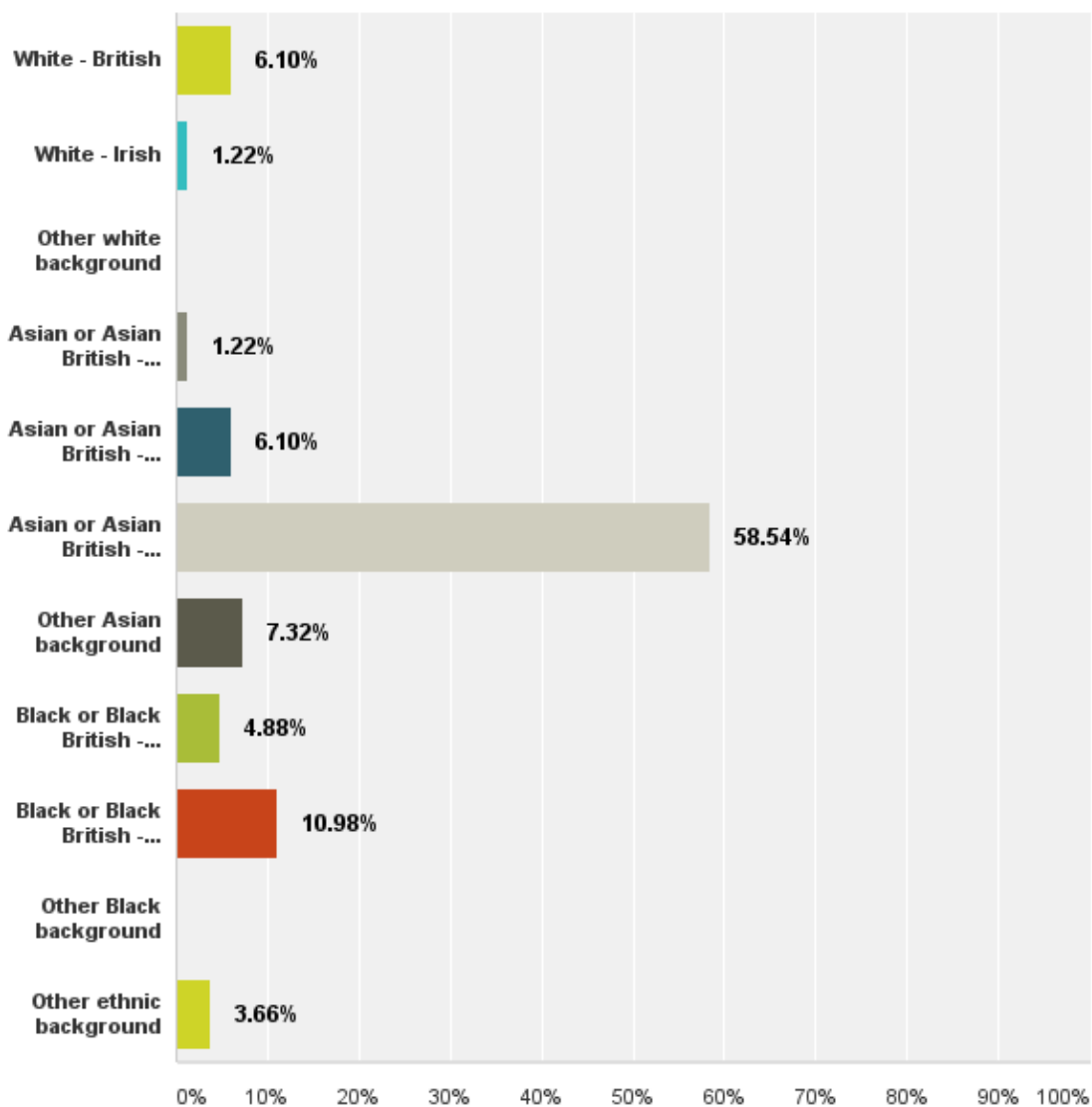


Those who responded to the survey were primarily from the Barnes areas of the city, Hendon and Millfield. Discussions with YAV indicate that regular attenders of the youth project are also from these areas.

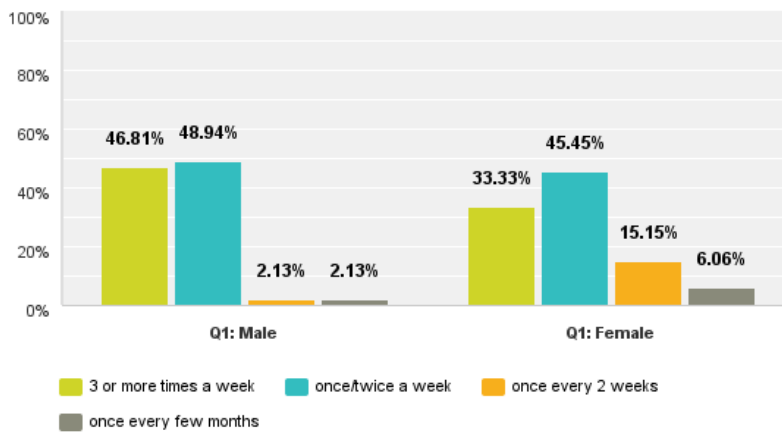


The majority of surveys, 58.5% (48) were received from those describing themselves as Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi. A small minority of other users include those describing

themselves as white British, Pakistani, Black British African and Other Asian background. This demographic reflects YAV's history. In 1996 YAV emerged out of the Bangladeshi Youth Organisation and for much of its first 10 years the membership was drawn almost entirely from the Bengali Community. In recent years YAV has widened and diversified its approach to include 40% of members from other than the Bengali Community. These shifting intercultural realities on ethnicity are also happening around the issue of gender. The researchers are impressed with these trends because they appear to be driven by YAV's recognition of the desire from young people to work across ethnic, class and gendered constraints. The young women from the VIP group are a demonstration of the success of these shifting gendered and intercultural realities



Respondents were asked to cite their current status. Most were either in school, college, working full-time or part-time. A small minority described themselves as being unemployed.



Survey data finds that both male and female young people are regular attenders of YAV. However, more male young people attend more frequently than female members.

Common reasons cited for attending by both male and female respondents were ‘take part in activities’ and ‘meet up with friends’.

4. Youth Provision and Service Delivery

The key purpose of youth work is to:

“Enable young people to develop holistically, working with them to facilitate their personal, social and educational development, to enable them to develop their voice, influence and place in society and to reach their full potential.”

(National Occupational Standards for Youth Work, 2014:4)

Youth Services play a key role in communities; they provide vital support to young people, and have many broader benefits for society. Youth work can contribute to reducing unemployment, improving the take-up of education, reducing substance abuse and teenage pregnancy, cutting crime and anti-social behaviour, and improving community cohesion. Youth work is intrinsic in helping young people develop capabilities in confidence, resilience, creativity, managing feelings, planning and problem solving, communication and relationships (McNeil et al, 2012).

YAV works determinedly towards delivering many of these aims and helping young women and men to find a voice; they provide a setting where young people can:

- Feel comfortable, be safe and can have fun
- Build self-esteem and self-confidence
- Access learning opportunities and develop new skills
- Actively take part in their learning and development
- Partake in voluntary work

YAV actively opens up opportunities for young people that enrich their knowledge and experiences and increases young people's active citizenship and their ability to feel that they are making a positive contribution to society and their community:

YW13²: We get opportunities that most people don't get . for example . we met the leader of the green party and that was quite nice

...

YW13: I think we help a lot in the community and we're doing our part by being in YAV

YW7: yeh you get more involved

YW13: yeh you get more involved and that's really nice

YW1: yeh cos no one knew what the cultural bid [Sunderland City of Culture 2021] was before

Interviewer: so you took that information back to your communities?

YW13: and that Diwali event that happened we contributed quite a lot to that [...] it was quite fun [...] we shared some knowledge to people

However, YAV and its members recognise that there are gaps and constraints in what YAV are being able to deliver and achieve. The issues are challenging and complex and are set out below.

Participation: Inclusion/Exclusion

Sporting activities are a predominant part of YAV service delivery but these are not equally accessed; young men take part in the weekend sporting activities and the community sports and coaching projects but young women would also like to take part. Over a third of young women (36.3%, 12) said that they would like to take part in sports and exercise activities including:

- Swimming
- Dancing
- Zumba
- Basketball
- Tennis

² YW – VIP focus group participants

However, meeting the needs of young women is complex; opportunities for young women are funding driven but are also hampered by cultural and gendered specific norms as to how young women should behave:

“Girls do issue based work, out of centre activities, visits, volunteering, organising charity events, training. Boys are 90% sports related [. . .] if funding is available we will bring in an instructor or hire a venue where they [young women] will feel safe, [YAV] can’t take them to the local field as the community will hear about it, that the girls are outside, not in appropriate clothing [We] do free activities such as walks to the beach [. . .] the majority are happy to do training, volunteering” (YAV manager).

Restrictions around funding requirements, evaluation and monitoring also unfairly impacts upon what is offered to young girls; funders focus on visible outcomes and are blind to the gendered and cultural barriers that young women and YAV have to contend with:

Interviewer: Do the girls miss out on sports?

YAV Manager: Yes and No, they have swimming, Zumba, they decide what they want to do, due to barriers at home they don’t engage as much as the boys do [. . .] Funding is available for girls sports work but have to demonstrate and evidence the need, if can’t demonstrate that I have 20 girls then can’t apply for that funding, as have to provide monitoring and evaluation

Young girls are not able to equally access opportunities; there is critical need for funders to develop a gendered culturally sensitive approach to BME girl’s youth work shifting the focus from outcomes to creating opportunities for those young women who want to access sport, health and wellbeing opportunities that are currently not available to them.

Survey data for the young men confirm young boy’s and men’s keen interest in football but the suggestion was that sporting activities should be more varied and include swimming, cricket, basketball, volleyball, snooker, and darts.

Young people are also keen to attend more sessions, go on trips, go abroad, and some would also like to take part in more community and charity work.

The main focus for YAV youth work is on those aged from 13 to 19; although there is a recognition that links to younger and older age groups are necessary. The staff are keen to develop a junior youth group session as they believe it to be a critical point at which they can intervene to help nurture and develop young people’s social, emotional and lifelong skills but with a lack of resources and staff this work is limited to arts and crafts activities which run alongside senior group sessions:

“Some of those attend the older girls group the over 11 one. Because they don’t want to miss out so they come and do arts and crafts. Some are related to staff and don’t want to exclude them so set up arts and crafts for them, a volunteer supervises them” (YAV manager)

Staff and young people suggested that inter-generational work should be included as part of YAVs remit such as taking part in activities together; this is crucial in breaking down barriers into the community to encourage more female participation and for the community to recognise the value of youth work:

“There are a number of young people who don’t come because their parents restrict them from participating in alternative educational programmes, or youth clubs or sports because each family has their own way of bringing up their child so they will never send to a youth club, YAV is seen to give a voice and empower young people so sometimes some of the parents don’t want that” (YAV manager)

YAV6³: when we had the Diwali event some of the girls mams and dads showed up . so they saw what we were doing and all the staff . they met everyone

YAV5: so if they were to do that again they can visualise what’s going on

YAV6: it builds that trust with us

Recommendation:

Use a social return on investment model to help evaluate the outcomes of youth work and YAV projects on young people’s lives.

Provide a more diverse set of experiences to help promote participation, broaden and further enrich young people’s experiences, encourage social commitment and help them become aware of the social space around them.

Consult on and explore the options of inter-generational work with the young people without compromising young people’s safe space.

YAV: Skills and development needs

Young people in Sunderland have poorer attainment levels compared to the rest of England (GOV.UK, 2016) with only 50% of children at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent level compared to 54% across England. A higher

³ Staff focus group participant

percentage of 16-18 year olds in Sunderland are not in education, employment training compared to the rest of England (Sunderland Gov.UK, 2017). In the City Council's strategic assessment of need they identified that attainment of young people needs to improve to stop children losing ground as they enter secondary education. Reducing attainment gaps is difficult and requires a strong foundation in language, literacy and numeracy. Our research finds that some YAV members have struggled with these key skills and a lack of support:

"No support from home" (senior youth group male 17+)

"Young people struggling with reading and writing. Sometimes not getting help from home" (senior youth group male 17+)

Intervention needs to start early in tackling underachievement, developing and raising young people's aspirations and help them to feel positive towards learning. YAV propose the delivery of homework support sessions as a positive step towards achieving these aims; junior sessions will also be key in nurturing young people's social and emotional skills, building their self-esteem and enabling them to make positive choices. YAV are currently exploring these options but funding and resources is critical to bringing their plans into fruition.

YAV also suggest a mentoring scheme to support development and help tackle young people's concerns around employability. A mentoring scheme would also help build young people's aspirations and help tackle underachievement:

"Too many young people are pushed to do training through job centres but not enough support for them" (senior youth group male 17+)

"Lack of paid job opportunities for people from BME groups" (senior youth group male 17+)

A recurring theme across the staff and VIP focus groups was the need to develop community learning initiatives. Suggestions included opening up YAV to the community through ESOL classes, basic maths and English classes. These were identified as key to supporting the development of young people through equipping parents and the community:

"drop in for parents where we would explain things about education . People can be very intimidated by education" (YAV8)

Recommendations:

YAV to make contact with City of Sunderland, Together for Children to explore the mutual aims of improving young people's attainment.

Identify local role models to become mentors for young people.

Consultation with the community to understand the views and need of YAV led community learning.

5. Partnership Working

From 2004 to 2017 Sunderland City Council funded voluntary sector youth organisations throughout the city through a robust commissioning model and YAV successfully accessed some of this funding. But in April 2017 this commissioning model ceased; the landscape of Youth Services completely changed with austerity forcing local authorities to cut services for young people. YAV is in a difficult position; keen to deliver more opportunities and services for young people but experiencing a multitude of challenges and issues in doing this, primarily the sustainability of YAV through secure funding. YAV interprets part of its struggles a direct impact of the political structure and the networks that dominate the allocation of funding: *“resources are allocated all of the time based on the network you know”* (YAV manager). Where funding is secured YAV are forced to comply with the expectations of funders and to shift away from critical issue based youth work. This approach is inflexible with funders setting the agenda and not responsive to young people’s needs.

In order to survive YAV are working in partnership with other organisations including Sans St Centre. YAV have also been very successful in establishing partnership working with Thornhill School, Sunderland University, and Sunderland College. These links will be intrinsic in thinking about and developing an approach to tackling low attainment levels and the vision to establish a homework hub.

However, discussions with YAV and the VIP group indicate that current partnerships and integration work is limited to already established, known to work links:

YW1: more regular events . yeh cos we should be sharing knowledge cos there is more people that unaware of what goes around and what’s the culture like .

YW13: not a lot of people know about YAV

...

YW13: go around more schools . they only focus on Thornhill why not go around more schools . hey yeh this is YAV (laughs)

YW1: sharing our knowledge of our culture . because I work at the hospital and none of them knew about me . and I'm the only Asian . so they ask me like a lot of questions . so they are so unaware of like Islam or about our culture just in general

Discussions with YAV manager also indicate that working in limited partnerships appears to be centred on protecting and keeping young people safe from racism:

"I don't want young people to face the barriers that I have faced [. ..] I don't want young people to be put off by negative experiences of learning so place them in areas where I think it is safe and use trusted partners" (YAV manager)

YAV are keen to establish more trusted partnerships with local agencies and other youth projects to provide an effective, broader youth service but YAV consider this to be hindered by the competition around resources:

"[...] experienced some negative partnership working; when it comes to money it's easy to stab organisations in the back [. ..] I would be reluctant to go back and work with them just because of the commissioning process and the partnership delivery [. ..] didn't give me any confidence to show me they are open to integration and partnership working" (YAV manager)

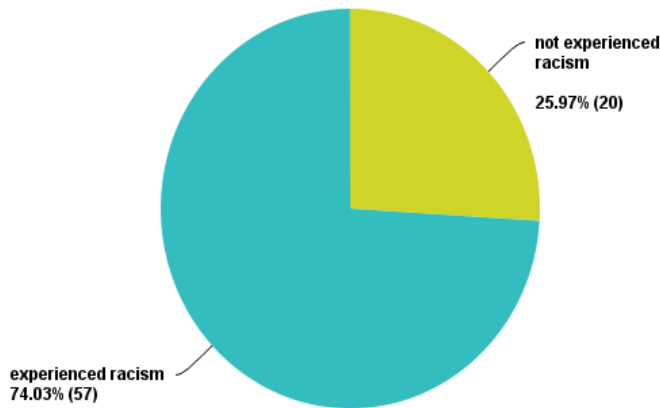
Recommendation:

Further expand YAV's working relationships and networks. This will open up new and diverse experiences to help make young people resilient to the challenges that they might face.

Expanding partnerships may also help YAV identify and access other funding opportunities.

6. Racism and Islamophobia

Youth work has an important role to play in addressing and tackling racism and discrimination. The young people who participated in our research were frequent victims of racism on the basis of their ethnicity, faith and dress.

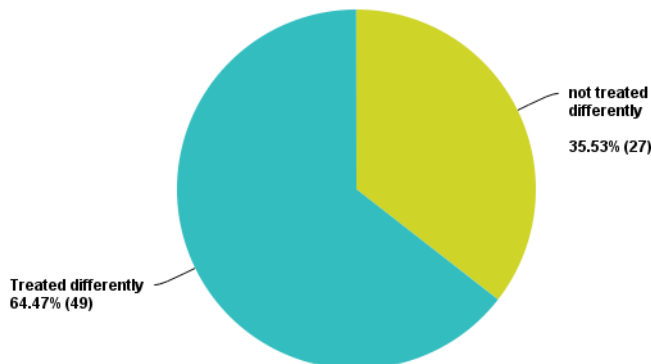


The majority of survey respondents feel that Sunderland is a safe place to live but almost three quarters of the sample (74.2%, 57) reported having experienced racism.

Over two-fifths (43.6%, 34) of young people reported bullying as an issue for young people; with some rooting their experiences in racism:

“Racism and bullying was something I suffered during my time at school and I hear kids being bullied on the streets on the way home from school” (Senior youth group female, aged 17+)

“A lot of bullying happens due to racism” (Senior youth group female, aged 17+)



Over two-thirds felt that they had been treated differently because of their religion. Discussions with YAV also confirmed that experiences of racism are rife and many of these were rooted in Islamophobia. Experiences cited

were common in school, college, on the street and in places of work.

The young people we spoke to are acutely aware of the religious hatred they have to contend with and have developed coping strategies such as fending off racist and religiously ignorant comments with humour, refusing to take offence or trying to educate the person. It is concerning that young people appear to dismiss their lived experiences as something that ‘just happens’:

YW13: [...] Yeh but you know he still tried to pull my scarf [...] I was like . Oh my god . (laughter from the group)

Interviewer: did you report that to anyone

YW13: no . I was like oh . Whatever . It's just happened . I don't care anymore . Let me just go home and go bed

...

YW13: its never gonna stop [racist abuse]. are they going to say sorry to me?

...

YW7: the first thing they say . I'm not trying to be racist . that puts you on a guard . you'd be like [...] what you going to say?

YW13: do you sleep with it [hijab] on? (laughter)

YW4: do you shower with it?

...

YW13: [Some white people say] my friends aunties uncles cousins friend uncles nieces [are] actually brown so I'm not racist (all laugh)

Coping strategies are learnt and then ingrained into young women's lives in the way in which they use tactical travel and avoidance of unfamiliar social spaces to limit unwanted interactions:

YW2: sometimes when you're in groups it makes you feel better . You're not alone . When you're alone you actually physically feel scared

YW4: for example when I'm in my Asian areas I feel safer . When I'm walking in the dark on my own . Random lone white area .if I'm in my area I'd rather walk in the dark in that area than walk in the dark somewhere else

This constant threat of racism and Islamophobia are barriers for young women in attending YAV sessions. Struggles over resources often means that the minibus is unavailable to help facilitate young women's attendance at sessions:

YAV7: we say to them we've got a taxi for you but they will be like 'no we can't do it we can't do it' they don't feel safe

Anti-Muslim hate crime has surged after the Manchester and London Bridge attacks (Guardian, 20 June 2017); young women that we spoke to also confirm that racist and hate incidents spike after such events, however, with austerity eliminating ARCH, the reporting systems for hate incidents are now less accessible (Clayton et al, 2016). YAV is able to offer support and encourages reporting of incidents to them but there are no resources for processing each of these incidents. Resources need to be directed to help support young

people and deliver preventative work especially with agencies where young people are experiencing racism and Islamophobia:

“talk to the organisation where senior officers or employees have made comments towards young people or a group, its deemed to be discriminatory or racist, inappropriate, young women mainly didn’t want to report it due to their education status, they might get kicked out or treated differently, we want to address those issues in a positive manner, we want to meet with orgs and talk through incidents and if need be talk to perpetrators and victims” (YAV manager)

YAV have successfully developed the Volunteer Integration Project which encourages young women’s integration and positive outcomes are clear including young women’s confidence and self-esteem. YAV’s young men have also taken a keen interest in being part of a similar project but further resources are needed to expand and build upon this model.

Recommendations:

A dialogue with funders about the rise of racism and Islamophobia and the need for resources to help support young people and help them to develop resilience.

Engage more young people to partake in integration projects with a view to promote cultural awareness and understanding to help combat racism and Islamophobia.

The VIP model developed within YAV has produced a progressive voice for the City. This now requires a more sustainable future with additional youth work funding.

7. Gender, culture and awareness

Research data indicates concerns around key safeguarding issues. These include forced marriages, domestic violence and attitudes towards relationships. YAV operates in a difficult and challenging environment as there are no resources or funding to enable a thorough safeguarding strategy and delivery. This difficult and challenging environment also places YAV in a contentious position if they try to tackle these issues within the community:

“We want to offer the support to young people to men and women but at the same time we don’t want to break the trust in the community and work against the funders and local authority agenda” (YAV manager)

The trusted relationship that YAV have built over the years with the community is key to female participation and anything that jeopardises the YAV/community relationship could potentially be the culmination of girl’s group participation. :

YW10: now I can say . Mum I’m going to go YAV and she won’t say anything

YW5: it makes my mum a lot more comfortable knowing Nilima is here . Obviously my mum known her mum for years and stuff . It makes her comfortable , its someone I can trust . I know

YW13: my mums like only ok with it . Afsana is there . Nilima is there . Shazanas there . You know . That’s what I’m trying to say innit

YW10: and it’s a girls group as well .

YW5: It’s not mixed with boys

Forced marriages

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (GOV.UK, 2014) makes it a criminal offence to force someone to marry. A forced marriage is one in which one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage and violence, threats, or any other form of coercion is involved. Coercion may include emotional force, physical force or the threat of physical force, and, financial pressure. In an arranged marriage, both parties have consented to the marriage but can still refuse to marry if they choose to.

In 2016, the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) gave advice or support related to a possible forced marriage in 1,428 cases. Of the cases that FMU provided support to: 371 cases (26%) involved victims below 18 years of age; and 497 cases (34%) involved victims aged 18-25. In 2016, the majority of cases 1,145 (80%) involved women victims, while 283 cases (20%) involved male victims (FMU, 2017). Youth services are in a position to most likely to come into contact with victims of forced marriage, or become aware that a forced marriage may be about to take place. In our survey 20% (15) of young people were worried about the issue of forced marriage; they viewed forced marriages as an abuse of human rights:

“Lack of awareness from parents of what’s right and what’s wrong” (Senior youth group male 17+)

“Parents lack of understanding” (Senior youth group male 17+)

“I have heard few people have gone to their home country to get married as their parents told them to do” (Senior youth group male 17+)

Discussions with young women also highlighted forced marriage as an issue and that women experience the pressure to marry disproportionately to young men:

YW13: yes marriage . we should have a conversations that you should never force your daughters . Your sons into marriage

Interviewer: is that . education for the community?

YW5: the men . The older men

Interviewer: the older men . what do you mean?

YW6: the ones that have daughters to tell them that its wrong . To force your daughters into marriages

Young women grow up in a mindful consciousness that they may be subjected to this kind of marriage. Cultural control mechanisms of shame and honour shape and influence how young people are expected to conform and behave and persuade them that they should marry according to their parents' wishes:

Some girls are worried that this could happen to them when they reach the age of 18” (Senior youth group male 17+)

YW5: like my dad . He might be like . I want you to get married but I want you to . get married to this person from this village . because . or else my honour goes . Like that . They don't really like give you a choice . You know like guilt trip someone . Like that

The staff believe the risks of forced marriage are small but young women are more at risk:

YAV6: but things have changed though . its not like that anymore . obviously some families you will find that . they're backward . I think a lot has changed . its not forced marriage . well . not as common as it used to be

YAV7: let's face it these days we are having a lot of love marriages

YAV6: but in the community . in the culture . it's not like as bad as it used to be

YAV5: there's still some restrictions though isn't there

YAV6: but some girls are ok with arranged marriages it's not an issue

YAV5: I think forced marriage as well . some girls want to be educated . but parents are like no . this age you'll get married

YAV is in a unique position to be able to support young people who may be victims of forced marriage or who may be at risk of one. YAV do ad hoc work around forced marriages as an issue but they have been unable to draw on resources to deliver sustained issue based youth work; this inability to deliver may be putting young people at risk:

"We are slightly behind in times in Sunderland when it comes to forced marriage but that's as YAV we should be doing a lot more . the BME community . the city should be doing more to address these issues but again it comes to resources . I know Police Crime Commissioners they have budgets yet Sunderland has limited money"
(YAV manager)

Domestic Violence

15% (12) young people reported in the survey that they were concerned about violence in the home: *"have seen it"* (Senior youth group male 17+) with shame and honour again controlling and demanding conformity:

"Within our community parents hide their home problems and never gets solved"
(Senior youth group male 17+)

Discussions with the young women also confirm that there is concern about domestic violence; they felt that YAV had a key role to play in being a safe haven where women can report these issues. The young women also thought it was key to educate women about domestic abuse.

Staff also indicated that young people needed to be supported around issues that they might have at home. Further in-depth research is needed to explore the extent of concern and the role YAV can play in supporting young people and the wider community.

Attitudes towards relationships

Discussions with staff brought to fore concerns about young men's attitudes to relationships and in particular towards white young women. Some young men's behaviour is interpreted as exploitative with no real commitment to the relationships that they enter. Targeted and

sustained youth work is required to educate young men on issues about respect, consent and non-violence in relationships.

“my daughters friend . white . was going out with an Asian lad . she was serious about him . like him . cared for him . and . but he was time pass kind of thing . just using her . his intentions weren't the same . it's that culture thing [...] they wouldn't do that with an Asian girl cos they know the consequences of what would happen . or they know the family . so close knit community . it's not right but this is how they work” .

Recommendations

Targeted youth work around the issues of forced marriage and domestic violence

Targeted youth work around relationships and issues of respect and consent.

8. Conclusion

The researchers make a number of recommendations throughout the report.

The researchers also suggest that funding gaps have led to a lack of a comprehensive data base on YAV's growing and diverse membership. YAV should seek external help to create a comprehensive data base on all existing and new members. The research team have the expertise to create such a system. This requires support from funders but would enable YAV to be able to build upon this first phase research to develop a more focused targeting for resources.

The researchers also identified from YAVs critique about the context - from which its activities are supported - that it is easier to meet funder targets with sport activities for young men. This external context critically limits what is offered to young women. The researchers believe external funders may not be aware of the discriminatory outcome from their specific focus on targets and sport related activities. The findings in this phase 1 research project should enable YAV to engage with policy makers and funders to address the barriers created for young women. The added complexity in their pathways makes the task of ensuring equal access to everyday activities for girls and young women a specific priority for policy makers and funders. On the concerns about gender, culture and relationships it is also essential that issue based youth work with young men is funded.

Furthermore the researchers suggest that YAV needs to adopt an evaluation approach better able to identify a social return on funder investment. Through using a social return on investment evaluation model, YAV will be in a position to comprehensively measure and map the social impact of their activities. This evaluative approach to mapping the social impact from youth work practice will also enable YAV to more accurately assess how its youth work activities contribute to the local economy. The approach suggested by the researchers would enable YAV to report on the significant difference made by its participative and young people led intercultural youth work approach to the City as a whole.

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