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## The Central Line

As colleagues head out for Christmas meals and prepare for some well-earned leave I find myself wondering where the last 12 months have gone and taking the chance to reflect on the last year. It has undoubtedly been another year of financial challenge which has been a catalyst for changing the way we work, pushing us to make the most of all opportunities in order to continue to deliver a diverse Youth Offer and essential Early Help services to the young people of Cambridgeshire.

This year saw the establishment of our Essential Skills for Life Social Mobility project across East Cambs and Fenland. This included the appointment of 10 new youth work and YPW colleagues to build capacity and better support us in meeting the ever increasing demand on services. An exciting partnership with 20Twenty Production CIC will help us move forward with our Youth Voice work in 2019 and a new bus for Fenland with the Connections Bus Project.

Our community offer continues to grow with many voluntary groups forming and be supported to create and deliver their own exciting youth projects. As we begin the re-tender process with NCS we can celebrate another fantastic year which included winning the National Children and Young People Now Award for NCS with our specialist SEND programme.

Also this year YSS collaborated with Early Help colleagues to produce another group work programme “Exploring Behaviours” and “Activate” the pre EET engagement programme. Some excellent outcome and significant learning that supports us all to move forward – a big thank you to the City team for their delivery of Activate. Times will

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The [YSS Portal](#) contains information, policies and procedures to help you in your work.

continue to be challenging but colleagues across our services continue to manage the task in hand and deliver excellent work with young people, something we should all be proud of.

Thank you to you all for your hard work and perseverance, I hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas and I look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Best wishes

*Liz*

County Youth and Community Manager

## Also in the local news – “pilot project launched in Huntingdon to help tackle poverty”

[An article in The Hunts Post](#) highlights a pilot project the Youth & Community Coordinator has been involved in providing essential items for people around Huntingdonshire struggling to make ends meet.

## Community ARC

### New Craft

The Community ARC have a new craft – dreamcatchers. Make your own decorative dreamcatcher or give as a gift. Further details can be found on the [Community ARC website](#).

Also new to the Huntingdon Community ARC is a professional karaoke which can also be used as a PA system: details available on the [website](#).

## NEET Performance and RPA

### NEET Data for November 2018

The NEET data for November 2018:

Measure	Result Nov 2018	Result Nov 2017
16-18 yr olds NEET	2.5%	2.4%
16-18 yr olds Not Known	0.5%	0.7%
16/18 yr olds NEET and Not Known	3.0%	3.1%
Year 12 In Learning	95.4%	96.2%
Year 13 In Learning	92.0%	91.7%

The above data is for November 2018, we judge against our annual targets with the December result as this is usually the most up to date figure and November figures give us a good indication of what December is likely to be. Our Annual target for NEET and Not Known was 3.0% which was always going to be a difficult target, however we are on course to either achieve that target or be very close to it. The Not Known figure is particularly impressive and we have also improved on our “Year 13 in Learning” Figures. Well done to everyone for the hard work that you are doing to achieve these results.

### Annual Activity Survey

The above data around Not Known is a testament to the great work that has been done around the Annual Activity Survey. Although I am still waiting to receive comparison data with statistical Neighbours and Eastern Region, I am

confident that our Not Known figure will be one of the best results in comparison with Eastern Region and Statistical Neighbours. The Year 11 Destinations Report will be completed in the next few weeks and will be sent to partners and senior managers for them to see what the Year 11's have gone on to do. Thank you to everyone that has supported this statutory work this year, we should all be proud of the results that we have managed to achieve.

## Capita IYSS Project

We are currently well under way with the project to transition our CCIS database from ASPIRE to Capita IYSS. The system is a module of the ONE system, however will be accessed separately to ONE in a way very similar to ASPIRE is accessed now. There will be closer data exchange between the two systems. We are still currently on course for the new system to be in place from middle of February 2019. There is a lot of really hard work going on in the background to prepare for this process and this is very much appreciated. More information about the system will be coming out to teams and professionals in the new year, so watch this space.

## DTT Review Task and Finish Group

Just to provide some information to everyone, there is currently a task and finish group which is looking at the current DTT for YPW and DTT for Family Workers with a view to identifying consistent practice where possible. We are also looking to ensure that the tool that we use is fit for purpose and has clear consistent processes that can be reported upon. More information will come out about this in due course.

We want to take this opportunity to wish every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2019.

Mark Cowdell, County NEET Manager

## CYP Now Awards 2018

The 2018 CYP Now Awards were revealed in a night of celebration and pride for the sector.

TV presenter Zoe Salmon compered the evening while Alan Dediccoat, who is the "Voice of the Balls" on the National Lottery and voice of Strictly Come Dancing, was on announcing duties for all the finalists.

As well as the 23 category winners, 10 'High Commendations' were awarded.

### **NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE AWARD**

**Winner: Cambridgeshire County Council - NCS SEND Summer Programme**

See the [C&YP Now website](#) for details of the other winners.

## Policy and Information

### East of England Forensic Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (FCAMHS)

The East of England Forensic Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (FCAMHS) will accept referrals from all agencies across Cambridgeshire from 14th November 2018. This constitutes part of a phased roll out of the service across the East of England.

FCAMHS is a regional specialist service, hosted by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation NHS Trust, for children and young people aged 0 - 18 whereby:

- there is a concern about a young person's mental health (this may include neurodevelopmental disorder and/or learning disability)

- the young person presents with high risk of harm to others and about whom there is major family or professional concern
- the young person may be in contact with the criminal justice system or be likely to enter secure care.

The team's work often involves giving advice to or liaising with relevant professionals already working with the young person concerned. In some cases, a FCAMHS clinician may meet with a young person who has been referred to them. The clinician will then complete an assessment and consider the relevant next steps.

FCAMHS accepts referrals from any professional working with children and young people.

For further information on how to make a referral and to view a copy of the FCAMHS leaflets and privacy notice, please visit their [webpage](#).

## Active Families – Stakeholder Group Meeting

Active Families is a new programme funded by Sport England, National Lottery funding. The project is funded for 3 years, and started in September this year. The primary aim of the programme is to increase activity levels of families based in targeted areas within Fenland, Peterborough and Cambridge City to meet the CMO guidelines by providing inclusive and accessible family based opportunities. There are three main tiers of delivery:

- Events and Roadshows – will be promoted to existing and new family based opportunities, with the aim to raise awareness of the local offer whilst educating the importance of family based physical activity.

- Wildgoose Trails – a digital treasure hunt app where Sport England will set up regular and one off trails that families can take part in: <https://wearewildgoose.com/uk/>
- Facilitated activities – weekly activities that will run for up to 12 weeks which will provide family based sports/games.

A meeting is being arranged January/February 2019 with all stakeholders that Sport England would like to have involved in the programme. The aim of the meetings is for their partners to keep up to date on the project, whilst allowing them to also keep up to date on the projects, events and/or sessions that you are also delivering in order to seek ways to create a more holistic offer to the community, and to enhance one another's work and prevent duplication in locality areas.

A Facebook group will be set up whereby all stakeholders will be able to share events/sessions/case studies etc. to help signpost/promote to one another's services in an easy and accessible way.

If you can confirm that you would like to be involved in the group, you can complete the Doodle poll request [here](#) for the meeting in the New Year.

## Violence Against Women and Girls – Newsletter

The latest VAWG newsletter is available on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership [website](#).

## Funding

### BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme

BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials Programme supports children and young people who are facing exceptionally difficult circumstances, and is delivered by Family Fund Business Services. The programme provides items that meet a child's most basic needs such as:

- Electric cookers
- Essential household items
- Furniture and kitchen equipment
- Children's beds and bedding
- Washing machines
- Fridges and freezers
- Baby equipment
- Clothing in exceptional or emergency situations.

All applications must be made by a registered referrer who is part of an organisation that is supporting the family or young person and capable of assessing their needs.

[Find out more.](#)

### Funding for Youth Volunteering Projects

The Alec Dickson Trust offers grants up to £500 to support young people (under 30 years) who, through volunteering or community service, aim to enhance the lives of others, particularly those most marginalised by society.

Take a look at the [case studies](#) to get a feel for what the Trust likes to fund.

[Find out more.](#)

### YHA Educational Support Programme Re-Opens for Applications

The Youth Hostel Associations (YHA), which is a registered charity with a clear mission "To help all, especially young people of limited means, to a greater knowledge, love and care of the countryside" has announced that its Educational Breaks Programme has re-opened for applications.

Through the [Educational Breaks Programme](#) schools, registered charities, community and voluntary organizations can receive a 50% discount on residential breaks for up to 10 individuals where members of the group are eligible for pupil premium and where children and young people (aged 8-18) face additional social challenges.

The YHA is particularly keen to support groups of young people who have not undertaken a residential activity previously.

The closing date for applications is the 31st January 2019.

Useful Links: [Apply Online](#) / [Application Guidance Notes](#)

## Short Breaks for Struggling Families

The [Family Breaks](#) fund from the Youth Hostel Association offers a free two-night stay with meals in Youth Hostels in England and Wales to families struggling with financial hardship, disability, long-term illness, bereavement, homelessness or other challenging circumstances.

One break per year at a participating YHA Youth Hostel is available to families with up to two adults and children aged 2 – 18 years (0-2 years in crisis and emergency situations) where the family has an annual household income below £25,000 (gross) and where the break will make a significant difference to the child or young person's life. The following criteria apply:

- A child is disabled or has a life limiting or threatening condition (please refer to their disability guidance)
- The family has experienced homelessness or are living in temporary accommodation
- The family has witnessed or experienced domestic violence
- The family has experienced bereavement (either the loss of a parent or sibling)
- The family includes a young carer
- The family has lives in an area of deprivation

This application window closes on the 31st January 2019.

Useful Links: [Guidance Notes](#)

## Bags of Help for local projects

Bags of Help is Tesco's exciting local community grant scheme where the money raised by the sale of carrier bags is being used to fund thousands of local projects in communities right across the UK. Projects that bring benefit to their community will get the green light – these range from improving community buildings and outdoor spaces to buying new equipment, training coaches or volunteers and hosting community events.

Administration of the local funding is being managed by the community charity with a green heart, [Groundwork](#), which specialises in transforming communities and the local environment for the better.

## Training

Please note staff must check with their line manager before applying to go on a course, whether or not there is a charge.

## Learning and Development Team

LGSS Learning and Development courses, Children's Early Help, are now listed on [iLearn](#).

## LSCB Courses

Course descriptions and how to book onto LSCB courses can be found on the [LSCB website](#).

## Lived Experience of the child - LSCB Practice Guidance and Workshops

What a child sees, hears, thinks and experiences on a daily basis impacts on their personal development and welfare whether that be physically or emotionally.

As practitioners we need to actively hear what the child has to say or communicate, observe what they do in different contexts, hear what family members, significant adults/carers and professionals have said about the child, and to think about history and context. Ultimately we need to put ourselves in that child's shoes and think 'what is life like for this child right now?'

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Children Safeguarding Board has developed with partners the ['Lived Experience of the Child Practice Guidance'](#) to assist practitioner insight, to ensure that the voice of the child is actively heard and where necessary to support effective action to safeguard children and young people.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board will also be holding a number of workshops to assist practitioners with the use of the practice guidance and other available resources for engaging with children, young people and their families:

- 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 9.30 – 12.00, Doddington
- 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 9.30 – 12.00, Ely
- 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 9.30 – 12.00, Peterborough
- 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 9.30 – 12.00, Cambridge
- 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 9.30 – 12.00, Huntingdon

The practice guidance, resources and a link to the workshops can all be found on the Safeguarding Board's ['Lived Experience of the Child' page](#).

## Online Safety Live - free briefing session

As part of The UK Safer Internet Centre, the South West Grid for Learning are delivering a number of Online Safety Live sessions across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between the 15th and 17th May 2019. These sessions are aimed at teachers, police officers, social workers, adoption and foster professionals, youth work.

These events are free to attend and will cover a broad range of online safety topics, including the latest legislation and research relating to online safety and safeguarding. The events are constantly adapted to reflect the current state of play and presented by two experienced consultants and will look at how the technology landscape has evolved and the potential future trends, potential risks and effects on behaviour, health, social and emotional wellbeing, privacy and data, gaming and virtual reality, pornography, sexting, extremism, radicalisation and child sexual exploitation. There will also be an overview to a European project called [SELMA](#) which aims to tackle the problem of online hate speech by promoting mutual awareness, tolerance, and respect.

These sessions will be held on the dates below – please click on the relevant date to register a place:

[Wednesday 15th May 2019 9:30 – 12:00pm](#)

Peterborough United Football Club, ABAX Stadium, London Rd, Peterborough PE2 8AL

[Wednesday 15th May 2019 2:30pm – 5:00pm](#)

Peterborough United Football Club, ABAX Stadium, London Rd, Peterborough PE2 8AL

## [Thursday 16th May 2019 9:30am – 12:00pm](#)

Hunts FA, Ambury House, Sovereign Ct, Huntingdon PE29 6XU

## [Thursday 16th May 2019 2:30pm – 5:00pm](#)

Internet Watch Foundation, Discovery House, Chivers Way, Vision Park, Histon, Cambridge, CB24 9ZR

## [Friday 17th May 2019 9:30am – 12:00pm](#)

Internet Watch Foundation, Discovery House, Chivers Way, Vision Park, Histon, Cambridge, CB24 9ZR

At the end of the event all delegates attending will receive access to an exclusive online resource area containing links to all the materials mentioned, signposting to sources of help and support as well as a live copy of the presentation itself.

## Other News and Information

### Government appoints Mims Davies as youth minister

Conservative MP for Eastleigh Mims Davies has been appointed as the new junior minister responsible for youth policy in the government.

Her appointment follows the resignation of Tracey Crouch. Davies will take on the full remit of Crouch, which in addition to youth policy, includes civil society and sport. It also includes the National Lottery and gambling.

### APPG Report

The National Youth Agency are pleased to release the summary findings and recommendations from the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Youth Affairs' inquiry into Youth Work. The report can be viewed on their [website](#). The full report is scheduled to be released by the end of the year.

### Framework of Outcomes for Young People 2.0

The Centre for Youth Impact have released the executive summary of their upcoming Framework of Outcomes 2.0. The full document will be released in the new year but the executive summary can be read on their [website](#).

### Child gamblers: How and why are children gambling?

A report has suggested 450,000 children are gambling in the UK - more than those who had drunk alcohol, smoked cigarettes or taken illegal drugs.

The [Gambling Commission study](#) found 14% of more than 2,800 11- to 16-year-olds it studied had gambled within the week before being surveyed - equating to 450,000 of the full 11-16 population in England, Scotland and Wales. The study found that 1.7% are considered to be "problem gamblers".

Read more on the [Children & Young People Now website](#).

## **Criminal exploitation and 'county lines': learn from past mistakes, report finds**

A report published on 14<sup>th</sup> November finds that local agencies must learn lessons from past sexual exploitation cases to respond to 'county lines' and other child criminal exploitation.

The thematic report, from inspectorates Ofsted, HMI Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and HMI Probation, also calls on agencies not to underestimate the risk of child criminal exploitation in their areas.

The in-depth inspections scrutinised practice in children's social care, education, health services, the police, youth offending services and probation services across 3 local authority areas.

Read more on the [Gov.uk website](#).

## **UK Youth Parliament to campaign for action on knife crime**

Members of the UK Youth Parliament have chosen to campaign on tackling knife crime and lowering the voting age to 16 in 2019.

The decision came following the UK Youth Parliament's 10<sup>th</sup> annual House of Commons debate chaired by the House of Commons Speaker John Bercow MP.

Speaking at the debate John Bercow praised the role of youth workers in supporting the UK Youth Parliament.

"To all of the youth workers, both for what they have done in the run up to today, and will do in the course of today, and for what they have done to nurture, encourage and facilitate your activities throughout the year - they are often unsung heroines and heroes - one thing we say too rarely and we ought to say more often, and costs nothing, is thank you," he said.

Members of the UK Youth Parliament are set to formally launch the campaigns during their "day of action" in January 2019.

## **New research will examine effect of gender norms on men and boys**

On 19th November, International Men's Day, the Government Equalities Office commissioned new research which will look how rigid gender stereotypes – including being dominant and competitive - affect men and boys, including a focus on developing ways to change negative attitudes towards women.

This new research will focus on understanding the best way to talk to men and boys about harmful stereotypes. The research will inform a new tool for groups who work directly with men and boys such as educators and community influencers.

Minister for Women and Equalities Penny Mordaunt said:

"On International Men's Day we should remember that equality is for everyone. In many areas men get a raw deal, and often issues affecting them such as domestic violence or health or child care aren't discussed.

"I want to challenge rigid stereotypes, champion flexible working practices and encourage shared parental leave.

“These harmful stereotypes can contribute to an environment within which violence and sexual harassment against women can take place. As part of the commitment to ending violence against women and girls this work will also focus on developing ways to change negative attitudes towards women.”

### Youth volunteering charity vInspired to close after exhausting its reserves

Youth volunteering charity vInspired is set to close with the loss of some 20 jobs, after struggling to cope with the loss of government funding.

vInspired was set up by the Labour government as a vehicle to support to volunteering programmes, but was forced to downsize in recent years after coalition and Conservative administrations significantly reduced funding.

It ran services that matched young people with volunteering opportunities, and also held a contract from the government to deliver the NCS in the North East of England; worth £8m a year to the charity out of its total annual income of £9.3m.

It had until now been using its reserves to cover the costs of its other activity. It has been running at a deficit since 2014.

See more on the Civil Society [website](#).

### Young inspectors set to evaluate national youth provision

Children will be recruited as young inspectors as part of a government initiative to give them a say over how national youth initiatives are run.

As part of a two-year pilot, the young inspectors will monitor and evaluate national programmes that affect young people, carry out local visits and make recommendations to government on how policy and initiatives can be improved.

A separate pilot will see the creation of a national youth steering group, which will help develop youth policy. This may be through designing campaigns to be presented to policymakers and consulting young people.

And a third pilot will focus on researching how digital technology can be used to improve links between young people and government. This will involve both the steering and young inspector groups. The government is keen to make digital engagement with young people the groups' first major policy project.

Young inspector schemes are already established in some parts of the country, assessing provision including social care, employment schemes and health.

The DCMS is looking for an organisation or partnership of groups to run the pilots and has set aside £170,000 funding to cover the cost. The deadline for applications is 13 December.

## Designate Domestic Abuse Commissioner

The Home Office has announced it is launching recruitment for a Designate Domestic Abuse Commissioner to help the government transform its response to domestic abuse.

The commissioner will be charged with standing up for victims and survivors, providing public leadership on domestic abuse concerns and driving the response to issues.

The candidate will give recommendations to the government and local bodies on how provisions could be improved and highlight where best practice is taking place. The Commissioner will also look at the needs of victims and survivors from minority or marginalised groups, and children affected by domestic abuse.

## My Life My Say and the APPG Better Brexit for Young People launch new report

The international youth-led charity, [‘My Life My Say’](#), have launched their new LSE Youth Brexit report published by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Better Brexit for Young People, which takes into account the views of young Europeans living in the UK. The report [“Building Bridges: A Youth Vision for a Common Future after Brexit”](#) reflects widespread and deepening discontent among young people over what they consider to be the prioritisation of older generations in the Brexit negotiations.

## Ofsted Chief Inspector launches her second Annual Report on state of education and children’s care in England

This year's annual report finds the overall quality of education and care in England is improving, but more action is needed to support the children being left behind.

On 4<sup>th</sup> December Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman launched her second Annual Report saying that, thanks to the hard work of teachers, lecturers, childminders, social workers and many others, the quality of education and care in England is good and improving:

- 95% of early years providers are judged good or outstanding
- 76% of further education (FE) colleges and 86% of schools are at least good
- 82% of children’s homes are good or better
- the number of local authorities (LAs) judged good or outstanding for children’s services continues to rise

This paints a positive picture for much of the country. However, the Ofsted Annual Report finds that some young people still have the deck stacked against them. It calls for policy makers and practitioners to redouble their efforts to tackle these challenges and drive up standards in the years ahead.

Areas of concern highlighted in the Annual Report included:

- Between 2016 and 2017, 19,000 pupils dropped off school rolls between Years 10 and 11 and around half did not reappear on the roll of another state-funded school.

- In the FE sector, there is potential for a dilution in the quality of apprenticeships. There are common issues around poor governance, low-quality teaching and not enough off-the-job training. Ofsted is also concerned about access to apprenticeships for students who leave school without a full level 2 qualification.

Further information can be read in the [Press Release](#) and in the [Second Annual Report](#).

## Fifth of UK population in poverty, reports UN human rights specialist

Professor Philip Alston, United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, has issued a statement following a research visit to the UK, in which he confirms that 14 million people, a fifth of the population, live in poverty.

Four million of these are more than 50% below the poverty line, and 1.5 million are destitute, unable to afford basic essentials.

The report explores the impact of Brexit, Universal Credit and the government's 'digital transformation' in depth. It is heavily critical of the government for remaining "determinedly in a state of denial" about the dramatic decline in the fortunes of the least well off in the country.

[You can find the full statement and its recommendations here](#)

## Connections Bus Press Release



### PRESS RELEASE – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018

The Connections Bus Project is reaching up to 250 young people a week across 14 communities!

More and more young people are relying on the youth services of The Connections Bus Project. Attending weekly youth clubs aboard our double decker buses, building based projects and our courses. At a time when government resources are low – young people are enabling us to expand! Here's how:

Securing funding from local Parish Councils and funding applications we are able to offer:

- Visits to Eversden, Oakington, Sutton, Haslingfield, Cottenham and Warboys on our double decker youth bus
- Open-access Youth Clubs in Histon, Milton, Sawtry, Willingham and Caldecote
- A 10-week babysitting course
- A 10-week Generation Game Project – which is taking place in 9 East Cambs and Fenland villages and currently includes Bottisham, Burwell and Soham

Our recent survey of young people attending our projects drew up the following results:

- 98% of young people enjoy our youth activities
- 95% of young people said our youth workers are easy to talk to
- 97% of young people said they feel safe in our venues
- 62% of young people said our clubs were the only youth activity they attend

Due to the success of our projects, we need to expand our Staff Team. We have a number of vacancies available including:

- Youth Workers
- Volunteer Drivers
- Trustees

Person specification to be a part of The Connections Bus Project team

- A passion for supporting young people to achieve their potential
- A desire to help young people to get the most out of life
- The willingness to listen and not judge

## **Sessional Youth Workers**

We require a number of committed individuals who have the skills to engage positively with young people during youth work sessions on our youth bus or youth club settings. Sessions can start at 4pm or 7pm across Cambridgeshire.

Application deadline: open ended

## **Volunteer Drivers**

Fancy joining the team to drive one of our buses?

We have a range of opportunities for those who hold a full-driving licence (category B – car) for at least 2 years and be aged over 21. Having a valid HGV or PCV license would be a bonus. We will provide appropriate driver training for the vehicle.

## **Trustee vacancies on our Management Committee**

We are looking for two new Trustees to join the Management Committee, which meets formally about four times a year. Matters arising between these formal meetings are dealt with by the committee using mainly email. Trustees also have the opportunity to get involved with specific issues as they arise.

Trustees need to be over the age of 18, have enthusiasm, sound and independent judgement and strategic vision, can work effectively as part of a team, and can devote the necessary time to the charity's work. They must not be disqualified by law from acting as a charity trustee or nominee.

To find out more or apply for any of these vacancies please visit our website: [www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk](http://www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk) and submit an application or contact Alan Webb [admin@connectionsbusproject.org.uk](mailto:admin@connectionsbusproject.org.uk).

If you would like this information in an alternative format please contact  
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