



What's been going on? January – March 2015



A message from the Vale Youth Forum Chair – Kathryn Tann ☺

It's been a really productive term for the Forum- we kicked it off on a positive note with our belated Christmas meal before getting straight back to work! We soon found that my recent appointment as a trustee has forged a beneficial link between the Forum and the Board of Trustees. And the meetings themselves have been packed full; from discussions over Local Government Reform to consultations with the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. I've really enjoyed settling in as the new Chair this term and am delighted to welcome all of our new members to VYF!

Belated Christmas Celebrations

On Monday 5th January VYF members started off the year with a belated Christmas celebration at Brewers Fayre in Barry. It was great to see VYF member's return after the Xmas break and ready to start 2015 with a bang!



Working with the National Assembly for Wales

Four VYF members have been working with the National Assembly for Wales and have been part of a Steering Group with members from Cardiff Youth Council to help organise a 'Youth Day' with the NAW Youth Engagement Officer. The event will be taking place at the National Assembly for Wales on July 15th 2015. Members helped develop ideas for the day which will mark a year since the launch of the Youth Engagement Charter by Dame Rosemary Butler, the Presiding Officer at the National Assembly. The event will launch the results of the Votes@16 consultation and will encourage young people to get involved in the Assembly's work. VYF members are looking forward to be involved in future development of the day.

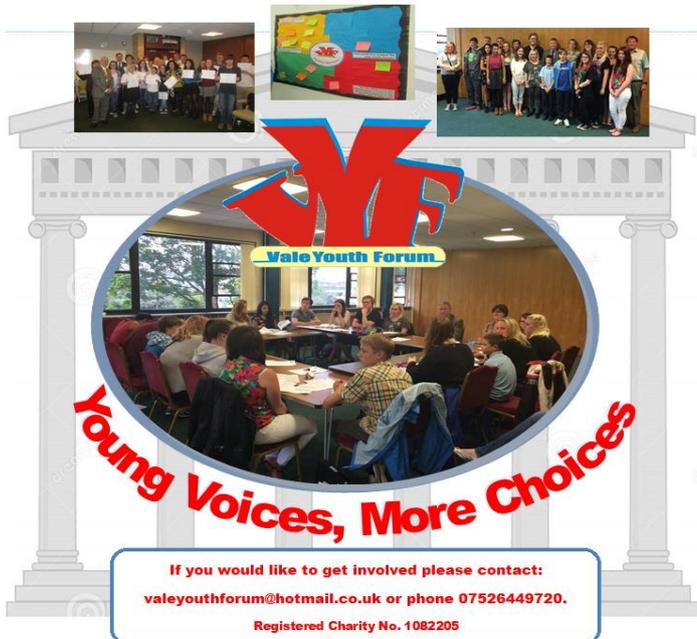
VYF on Health Services in the Vale

On the 23rd February Maria Battle, Chair of the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) attended a VYF meeting. She gave a presentation on the role of the UHB and the services they provide as well as an overview of the challenges they face. Maria wanted to know what young people's experiences of the UHB services are and what solutions young people could suggest to help face the challenging times ahead. VYF members then took part in discussions surrounding what prevents young people from being the healthiest they can be and exploring what could be done to be healthier. Members discussed both positive and negative experiences of the health services and suggested ways for improvement. A report of the members' views and ideas was compiled and shared with the UHB. This report will help to influence and improve health services for young people in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.



VYF Posters

VYF members have been busy designing and distributing their new posters. Members have been putting the posters up in their local area, youth clubs, youth organisations and schools hoping to raise awareness of the VYF and encourage young people to get involved. We've still got more to put up if you would like copies of these posters please get in touch.



The central graphic features the Vale Youth Forum logo, which consists of a large red 'VYF' with a blue outline. Below the logo is a circular inset photo showing a group of young people sitting around a table in a meeting room. The text 'Vale Youth Forum' is written in a blue banner across the logo. Below the circular photo, the slogan 'Young Voices, More Choices' is written in a red, curved font. At the top of the graphic are three smaller photos: one of a group of people standing together, one of a map of the Vale region, and one of a group of people standing in a line. Below the main graphic is a contact box with the text: 'If you would like to get involved please contact: valeyouthforum@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07526449720. Registered Charity No. 1082205'. To the right of the graphic is a box titled 'WHAT WE DO?' containing the following text: 'Discuss issues that affect young people in the Vale', 'Represent the voice of schools, youth clubs & youth organisations across the Vale', 'Attend meetings @ Barry Civic Offices', and 'Attend events, receive training & qualifications'. At the bottom right of this box is a small circular logo with the VYF acronym and the slogan 'Young Voices, More Choices'.

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Reforming Local Government

Local councils provide many services used by young people and proposals to reform Local Government will have a big effect on our members. We have already responded to Welsh Government proposals for reform but a further consultation document has been issued. The Forum has concerns about the way in which young people have been asked to respond to the latest proposals and are currently preparing a written response to the Local Government Reform White Paper.

RECRUIT! RECRUIT! RECRUIT!

The VYF aims to represent as many young people across the Vale as possible and so every year we want to recruit new members. Two Meet & Greet sessions have been run this term and 13 new members from Vale People First, Murchfield Youth Club, Beechwood College, Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, Cowbridge Comprehensive School and Stanwell High School as well as several independent representatives have been recruited. The sessions have been run by existing VYF members. During the meet & greets members carried out a presentation, that had been created by the Publicity & Fundraising subgroup and a range of activities and games to introduce young people to the VYF as well as getting to know one another. The Meet & Greet sessions were really successful and a lot of fun. It goes to show that with new members on board young people in the Vale really want to get their voice heard.



Interested in becoming a VYF Trustee?

As a registered charity the Vale Youth Forum has a Board of Trustees who are responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Forum and making sure things are done properly. They meet just 6 times a year and there are currently vacancies for trustees who believe that young people should have a voice. We would especially welcome those with skills in business, development and with a good knowledge of the community. Interested? Email valeyouthforum@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

For more detail please contact valeyouthforum@hotmail.co.uk