



HY5!

**YOUNG PEOPLE
INSPIRING CHANGE**

HY5! Annual Report

2023



CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

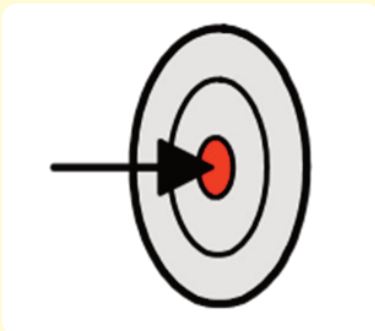
Who we are



HY5! is a group of young people aged 11-25 who live in Wolverhampton.

We know what it's like to have additional needs and disabilities.

What we do



We talk about things that are important to us and share our thoughts and ideas with others that can help.

We work together to make changes where it matters most, making better futures for young people.

Meetings and members

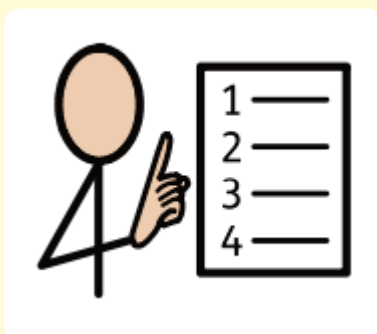


We meet every two weeks on Tuesday's 5-7pm at The Oasis Co-production Hub.

We have 10 members, our youngest member is 13 years old and our oldest is 23.

We try to represent a wide range of young people of different ages and with different individual needs.

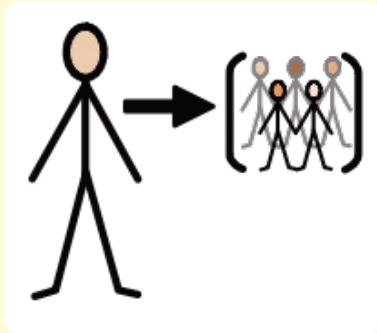
Ground rules



Members and guests agree to...

- **Respect** each other's views
- Be **kind**
- **Help** each other
- Get everyone **involved**
- **Listen** to each other
- Give people **time** to communicate
- **Share** thoughts and ideas
- Make sure everyone **understands**

How young people are involved



We will ask other young people to get involved.

We have created a leaflet and made a video.

[View the leaflet here.](#)

[View the video here.](#)

We will find ways and use different tools to help people take part like Widget, feelings and emotion cards, scale of happiness.

We believe all young people have the right to be heard!

Guests



We invite people to meetings to help with our work.

People often ask to meet with us to get involved in other plans and projects.

We organise our time to make sure we don't get too busy and overwhelmed with things. We want time to do the things that we think are most important.

Support



The Co-production and Youth Engagement Team help at HY5! meetings.

Participation Officers make sure important information is shared with us and how it might affect us.

They help the Chair and Vice Chair of HY5! to plan and organise our time.

We keep the values and principles of Co-production at the heart of everything we do.

HY5!'s Achievements 2023



SEND Inspection and Written Statement of Action



We have continued to work the SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board on areas of improvement.

Our response on the Written Statement of Action was presented to the SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board and people from the Department for Education when they came to meet with HY5! In January 2023.

HY5! hope to build better links and communication with the SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board this year.

Inspiring Change Training



HY5! delivered its first training session to the SEND & Inclusion Partnership Board.

The training aims to:

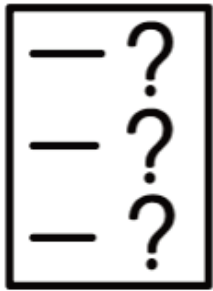
- Raise awareness
- Breakdown barriers
- Build relationships
- Allow young people to share their journey
- Allow young people to be heard and understood
- Inspire change

The training can be booked through the Councils Learning Hub.

As part of the training HY5! produced some 'top tips' for working with children and young people with additional needs and disabilities.

[View the 'Top Tips' here.](#)

Children and Young Peoples Survey

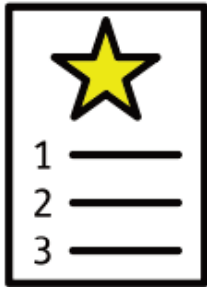


HY5! worked with the SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board to co-produce a children and young people survey.

The survey was used to find out what children and young people think about services and support and what needs to be improved in the future.

HY5! want to be more involved in the survey next year to make sure as many young people as possible get to have their voices heard.

SEND & Inclusion Strategy



We worked with the SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board to agree the most important things that should be included in the SEND and Inclusion Strategy.

The Strategy is a plan that says what the council and its partners will to do to improve things for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities and their families. HY5! will work with the SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board to make sure that the priorities in the plan are achieved.

Local Offer



HY5! has been working with the SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board to improve the SEND Local Offer.

Young people want up to date and easy to find information about what help and support is available to them and their families.

HY5! will be checking any feedback left on the Local Offer to make sure that action is taken to keep improving things.

We will make sure that the SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board is taking action on the feedback that is left to make sure the Local Offer is working for young people.

HY5! On the Move



HY5! has been on the move visiting places and spaces to see how inclusive and accessible they are.

We've been saying what we like and where we think things could be better. We share what we think with Managers and will agree on a plan of action.

We hope this inspires change where it's needed and helps young people with additional needs and disabilities feel more confident about using places in our city.

These are some of the places we have visited or hope to visit in the future:

- WV Active Leisure Centres
- Strengthening Family Hubs
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Libraries
- Art Gallery
- Hospitals

Parks and Open Spaces



HY5! say that having places to go and spend time is important.

Places and spaces that are accessible and inclusive can make us feel happy, stay healthy, make memories and make new friends.

HY5! has been working with the Council and Planners to share our ideas about what our ideal park and play space would be like.

Our ideas have been included in the city's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. They have also been shared with the people who work to develop parks and open spaces in Wolverhampton.

Moving Into Adulthood



HY5! met with Jazmine Walker to share ideas for a co-production event.

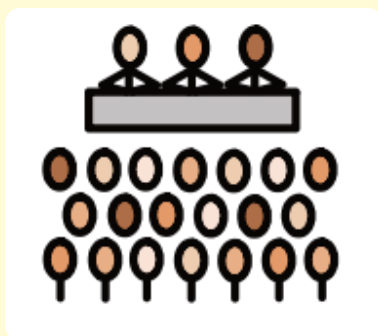
The aim of the day was for young people, parents, carers and professionals to work together to improve experiences of young people as they move into adulthood.

We shared ideas about what support we think young people need and how to support positive change.

We came up with the idea for a game that could be used to help young people think about planning for their future.

We hope the SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board will follow up these ideas and update HY5! on how we can continue this work together.

SEND & Inclusion Conference



HY5! has attended two SEND & Inclusion Conferences.

We joined young people from our other youth voice groups to talk about the importance of Inclusion and what it means to us.

We ran a workshop and taster session of our Inspiring Change training.

This year we created a video to share updates and recruit new members for HY5!

Our work with Wolverhampton Youth Voice Groups



Children and Young Peoples Panel



HY5! has worked with the Children In Care and Care Leavers forums to interview people for different jobs in Childrens Services.

The young people on the panel write the questions and activities for the interviewees and answers they are looking for.

The children and young people's panel decide if the interviewee has scored well enough to go on and be interviewed by an adult panel.

This makes sure that young people are involved in what staff the council employs to work with children, young people, and families.

Yo! Wolves Newsletter



HY5! let other people know about the work they do and how to get involved by social media and the Yo! Wolves newsletter.

All of the different youth forums help to write the termly newsletter about all of the great work we do!

Take Over Day – Youth Voice Full Council



Members of HY5! joined other young people to debate on going to the dentist, Oral Health and getting free meals for everyone in schools.

We got to experience the Council Chamber and how a full council meeting works.

Business Week



Members of HY5! were invited to attend the launch of a video made by the Youth Council to show off the city and plans for developing it.

The video was shown in a 360-degree Igloo Cinema at the Brownfields Institute. We also got to meet Spot the robotic dog who is used to carry out dangerous tasks on building sites.

Young Inspectors



Members of HY5! joined the #YES Board in the school holidays to go out and meet young people taking part in holiday activities.

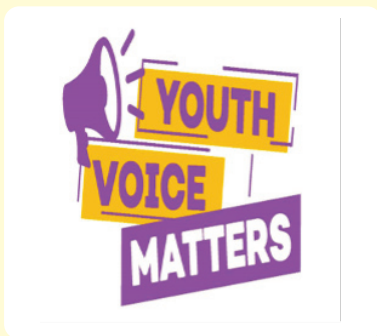
We asked what the young people like about the activities and what could be better.

This work helps to make sure holiday activities are enjoyable and are what young people want.

Our work with young people across the country



Youth Voice Matters Annual Conference



6 members of HY5! went to the Youth Voice Matters 2024 conference in Birmingham in February.

We joined over 100 young people to learn and share ideas.

The conference helps us develop the skills we need to have our voices heard and to get involved in decisions that affect children and young people with additional needs and disabilities.

SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper



HY5! took part in a big consultation that looked at how children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities are supported.

The government wrote a Green Paper about the changes that they want to make in England.

We joined other young people across the country to give our feedback about the changes the government want to make as we felt it was important our voices are heard.

West Midlands Police Youth Summit



In March last year members of HY5! went to the West Midlands Police Youth Summit in Birmingham.

We had the chance to talk to Police Officers that work in the community about how crime, violence, and travelling affects us.

We heard about what the police are doing to make people feel safer and shared ideas about how to make this happen.

The Police Summit is something we look forward to attending every year with other young people from Wolverhampton and neighbouring areas.

Awards



HY5! Members Megan and Harman were **successful finalists at the Young Citizen of the Year** awards in 2022 and 2023.

The award recognised the work they are doing to help and inspire others in their community.

Megan was also presented with the **High Sherref** Award in 2023 for going above and beyond to help children and young people with additional needs and disabilities in Wolverhampton.

Youth Voice Residential August 2023

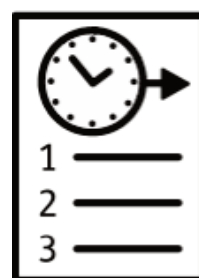


HY5! had a fantastic time at Condoover Hall last Summer.

We had the chance to take part in different activities over three days including abseiling, archery, kayaking and zip wire.

This is a great opportunity for all youth voice groups to come together and celebrate their achievements and all the amazing work we do.

What's Next for HY5! in 2024/2025



Our Priorities



Our priorities this year will be:

- More young people get to have their voices heard and be involved in things that affect them
- Build stronger links with the SEND and Inclusion Partnership Board
- Deliver our 'Inspiring Change' training to more professionals to make sure they know what it's like for people with additional needs and disabilities and what they can do to help
- Visit more spaces and buildings as part of our HY5! On The Move project to make sure they are accessible and inclusive
- Make sure young people get the help and support they need as they grow up including,
 - Having good options and choices after school
 - Moving from children to adult health services is a good experience
 - Young people feel safe and part of their community



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