

CHATTERBOX Christmas 2020



Hello Everybody and welcome to the latest edition of Chatterbox and all our news...

Looking back at last year's edition brings it home to me just how much things have changed and what a challenging year this has been. It has had its moments but, I have to say, some of these have been very positive.

We have discovered different ways to support young people and have developed a new awareness of their needs and desires. Under Government guidelines, our clubs have continued to operate, with a maximum number of 15 young people plus leaders although this has now changed with the new lockdown - details on the next page.

We held our AGM online in October and you can read about it inside. There are also details of our work with young LGBT+ young people and our new Lottery funded project to support young leaders. Also, the UK Youth Fund is offering small grants to help your club with running costs (an opportunity not to be missed) and don't forget we can help you to 'Zoom'!

Our staff are mainly working from home with the November lockdown but meeting regularly online to share ideas and develop new strategies.

We don't know what Christmas is going to be like until the Government tells us! However, I hope you have a very peaceful and happy time.

Richard - CEO



LATEST GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES FOR COVID 19



- The rules change so quickly it is hard to keep up but we have taken advice from the National Youth Agency (NYA) and other key sources to try to simplify the guidelines. UK Youth has been lobbying with the NYA to enable youth work essential support to continue during lockdown and the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has advised on risk assessments and buildings. Extra concerns over safeguarding have also been considered. This is a brief summary of the official Government guidance:

The sector has now moved from amber to **RED ALERT** under which the following are permitted:

- Online and virtual youth sector delivery
- Detached and outreach (outdoor support) for vulnerable young people
- 1 to 1 support for high need young people indoors
- Delivery of support groups for high need young people (see below)
- Drop in 1 to 1 triage services to identify those in most need

- During sessions, face masks must be worn at all times by young people and leaders unless they have specific exemption

- **Not** permitted - Open access and drop-in sessions

Support groups or bubbles

- You need to create groups or bubbles, similar to how the schools are working, and to follow the guidance below:
 - Leaders are now part of the permitted maximum group of 15 – e.g. 12 young people and 3 leaders
 - Only one bubble or group can be in the premises at any one time regardless of the size of the venue. Other staff maybe on site for work purposes (e.g. office staff, cleaners) but it is wise to limit the number to the members and leaders.
 - Back to back sessions are allowed provided the same staff are present for all sessions and adequate cleaning is undertaken between sessions.
 - Community and public venues can be used for providing support group activities but personal homes cannot be used under any circumstances and home visits are not permitted.

This is just a brief summary of the information available but we strongly suggest that you look at the National Youth Agency website before making any decisions. Look for the 'Red Readiness Factsheet' which gives much more specific guidance.

<https://nya.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Red-Readiness-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

I hope that we shall soon be able to meet in large numbers, in our local halls and without face masks but, in the meantime, we will do our best to make sure vulnerable young people receive all the support we can offer them.

Read all about it! OUR AGM



We were delighted that so many attended our AGM on 16 October which we held online for the first time. Needless to say, we were a bit nervous about the technology but we needn't have worried, it all worked very well with our new voting system in place to make sure all the votes were counted.

We were especially pleased to welcome our Patron, the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Mrs Anna Turner JP, the Mayor of Telford & Wrekin, Cllr Amrik Jhawar, and the Deputy Mayor of Shrewsbury Cllr Gwen Burgess.

We re-appointed our Chair, Ian Cruise-Taylor and our Treasurer Dr Alan Herbert, we have a new Vice Chair, Donna Leeding and are pleased to welcome her to role with her extensive business experience. Other Trustees were re-appointed or agreed to continue and we greatly value their input.

This year's AGM saw us say goodbye to two of our most valuable and respected Trustees who have retired. Miles Kenny joined the Board when he was a Shropshire Councillor and supported us in our relationship with the Council. Miles will continue to support young people through his work with the County Scout Movement. Colin Heslop was an SYA youth worker many years ago. He has since been a lecturer in higher education but continued to work with SYA as a Trustee, providing valuable advice. We send our thanks and best wishes for the future to both of them.

The Annual Report was circulated, online, prior to the meeting and gave details of our financial position, the work undertaken during the past year and our plans for the future. I hope you enjoyed reading it but if you would like a printed copy of the Report, these are now available on request.

Finally, we are still looking for ways to hold our Annual Celebration Event and are hoping to do something in the new year as soon as restrictions are more relaxed. We really missed seeing the clubs and the young people having a great time and meeting each other. News that a vaccine maybe on the way is just the tonic we need and then we can really start to move forward...

XYZ GROUPS

SYA has two very active XYZ (LGBT+) groups, one in Shrewsbury and one in Telford with a membership of over 50 young people.

We were especially grateful to Hartshorne Motor Services Ltd this year who raised funds through an Auction for our work with these groups.

Lockdown presented its own problems with young people feeling isolated and more vulnerable. We worked on line and then it was great to welcome them back into buildings during the summer when restrictions were more relaxed.



We do loads of great activities like 'cook-a-longs' and quizzes, not forgetting the more serious information and well-being sessions. This photo was taken after a session exploring what young people can achieve though working together.

Under Government rules, we can still meet as a support group, in groups of up to 15, including leaders, taking every precaution to keep young people safe with social distancing, hand washing/gel and cleaning a priority.

If you know a young person who might like to talk to someone about the XYZ groups, please contact

Vanessa on 07710095796 or email vanessa@sya.org.uk

FREE EQUIPMENT – POOL TABLE

Do you have room for a proper pub-style pool table? If so we have been offered one for free. It has a slate bed so is very heavy to move but it does break down into pieces for transport. The money mechanism is missing but the baize is in good condition and it is perfectly playable.

Please let us know if you are interested and we will pass on Your contact details to the current owner.



NEWS ABOUT TOMORROW'S LEADERS

(Our National Lottery Project)

UK YOUTH FUTURE PROOF CHALLENGE AWARD

The Challenge Award is an easy and fun way of gaining an externally accredited award by doing something of interest that you enjoy.

During October half-term a group of young people from across SYA clubs came together to take part in the Challenge Award. Over the two-day workshop young people spent day one exploring 'Identity' and 'Decision Making' using a range of exercises and activities. Day two was spent planning for their 'Challenge'. This is based around anything of interest or a hobby that a young person wants to learn more about and share with others.



Some of the young people taking part in the Challenge Award – observing social distancing and with all the windows open!

Between half-term and Christmas young people will undertake planning for their challenge and a final workshop in the Christmas holidays is planned to finalise their portfolio to gain their Challenge Award.

If your club members want to learn more about or take part in future opportunities please email alastair@sya.org.uk 07710095797 or jess@sya.org.uk 07710095793.

We look forward to hearing from you!

FREE EQUIPMENT - TABLE TENNIS TABLES

We have been offered two free table tennis tables. They are on wheels and fold up. One has slight damage in the middle, under the net, but this doesn't affect play.

Please contact us if you can give one or both a new home and we will put you in touch with the leader donating them.



During the first lockdown over 40 youth clubs a week in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin went out on Zoom, we have loads of ideas from:

- Cook along ideas (Some don't even need a cooker)
- Scavenger hunts
- Competitions
- Fitness sessions
- Craft sessions
- Online games
- And many more

Have you tried



zoom

It's great for running virtual Youth Clubs and it's free!



Can help you give it a go. We will train the club leaders (or young people) and we can also co-host your first sessions if you would like.

Drop us a line on info@sya.org.uk or phone

Kerry on 07710095802

Or Vanessa on

07710095796

If you are tempted.

UK YOUTH

The UK Youth Fund – Covid Relief has been created to support youth organisations who have not had access to the crisis funding they require to survive the Covid pandemic. Youth organisations with an income of under £250,000, that are based in, and deliver their work in England are eligible to apply for up to £50,000.

Even if you are not eligible to be considered for this funding, please still complete this questionnaire.

The information you give us will enable us to build a comprehensive picture of the pressure youth organisations are under and the state of youth services today due to Covid. We will use this information to unlock more funding to support your work.

Before beginning the questionnaire please read our “Questions & Guidance Notes” so you can gather all the information you will need.

Follow the link:

<https://funding.ukyouth.org/>



All the clubs that affiliate to SYA are automatically members of UKYouth. We have been working with them to ensure that funding will go to the smallest organisation to help at this time, so even if it's just £150.00 to pay for your insurance, go for it, it only takes about 30 minutes to fill it out

‘MAKE YOUR MARK’

We have recently sent a Chatterbox Extra about ‘Make Your Mark’ which SYA is supporting. Make Your Mark is an opportunity for 11-18-year olds across the UK to have their say and begin their democratic journey. The issues young people vote, as the most important, will be debated by Members of Youth Parliament. They will campaign to influence the UK Parliament and their local representatives, ensuring that the views of young people are listened to by decision makers. This is young people’s opportunity to influence decision makers who can make a real difference on the issues that matter to them. Once the vote is completed, we will share the results with you...

Young people have until 30 NOVEMBER to cast a vote! Please go to:

<https://www.ukparliamentweek.org/en/make-your-mark>

Please contact us:

Facebook: Shropshire Youth Association for the latest news and updates.

Twitter: @SYAclubs

Phone: 01743 730005*

Email: info@sya.org.uk

Write: SYA, The New Lodge, Upton Lane, Monkmoor, Shrewsbury, SY2 5RR

***We are mainly working from home at the moment so please leave a message if we don’t answer the phone. We are checking our messages regularly.**