



Network Meeting

Wednesday 6th September 2022

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Welcome and check in:

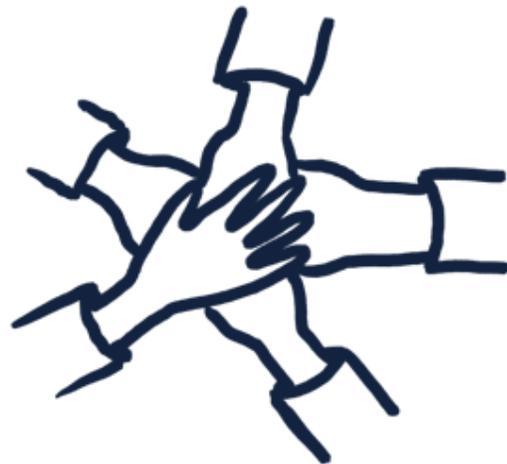
Summary of how people are feeling:

Frazzled, nervous, energetic and excited.

They're also tired but happy to come together in-person and talk. Some are feeling upset about the wider political context and finding it hard to remain positive.



York MCN activity updates



Together with Young People

Wayne Dawson

<https://twyp.org.uk/>

What's our story?

We've come together as a collective and our power lies in who we are.

The individuals involved are connected with various organisations across York and there's a power in the intersectional nature of us coming together.

We have three strands of work:

- Youth Led Events (*bringing young peoples voice to the forefront*)
- Networking Events
- Communications (*getting the word out there*)



You can listen to our podcast, here.

In this podcast, Rachael Maskell is in conversation with a politics student from York University.

Creative Action

Sian Balsom & Johnny Haycocks

www.yorkcreativeaction.com

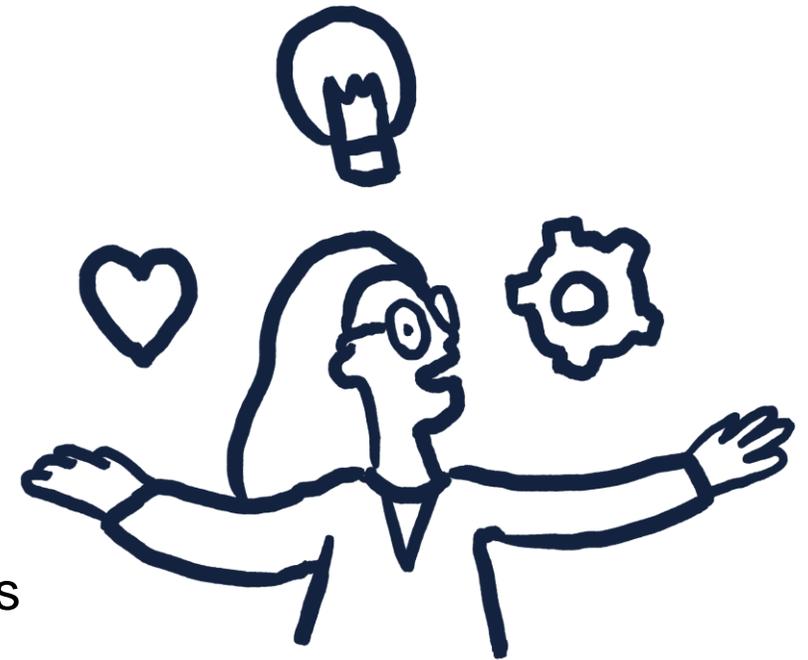
We're a group of enthusiastic people trying to create space, activities and environments in which people feel safe enough and comfortable to share their stories and experiences.

Our **Art Bank project** is now in it's second phase and we're moving it to become mobile. The art bank will pop up at local foodbanks, and the hope is that we feed the creative soul.

The **Mail Art project** hopes to bring together those who feel dislocated from the community and build friendships. We have 25 booklets out there in the world and we're waiting for feedback from these which will inform the next run we do.

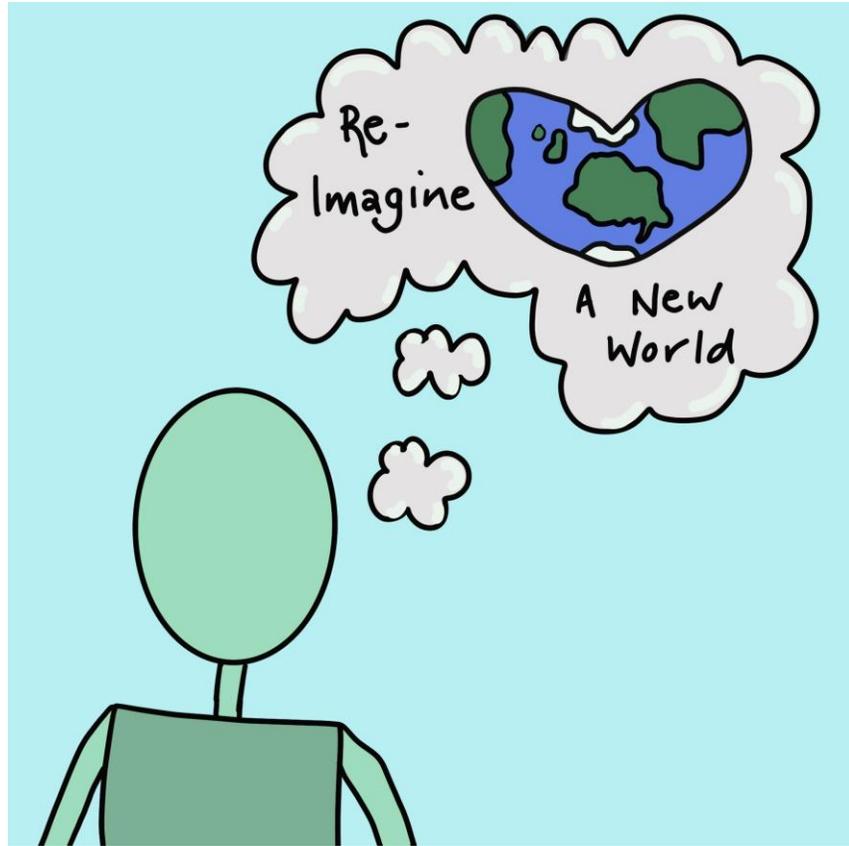
You can read more about this project and how it works, [here](#).

Creative Workshops – We are starting to look in to creative spaces across York and how we could use these to bring people together and hear more voices. So watch this space as we build on this idea!



Deciding Together – Participatory Funding

Jan Garrill



£218,000 has now been gifted to 20 groups across York. This wasn't for 'doing stuff', it was for thinking and learning.

What we've learnt so far...funding has:

- given us time and space to think about the future
- removed some of the many plates that were spinning before
- brought people together who maybe would never have spoken

Two Ridings firmly believes it's the best funding they've ever done, and challenging conversations with Trustees shows the status quo is being questioned and change is being made.

They are currently in the process of bringing in a new MCN associate who can continue on this journey.

Payment for Involvement

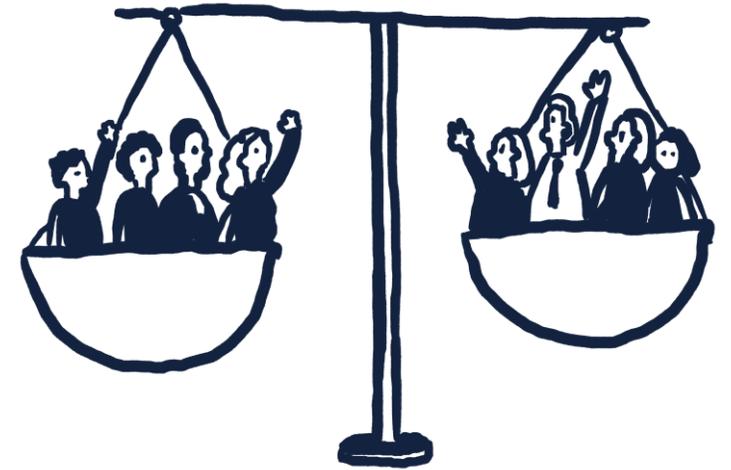
Catherine Scott

Recently, the York MCN Network has been battling with this question:

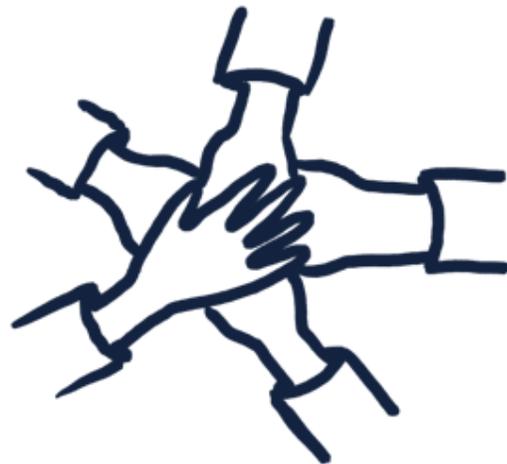
How do we appropriately pay people for their time?

We're therefore hoping to create a **Payment for Involvement policy**. Yet, we're aware the need for this type of policy goes far beyond the work of the Network, and the hope is that eventually it will be duplicated and used by others nationally.

Individuals and organisations have now put themselves forwards to hold different parts of the co-design of this policy, and as this moved forwards they'll call on experts to build something which works for everyone.



Other projects in York updates



The Island

Nigel Poulton

www.theislandyork.org

The Island is a children's charity in York started 15 years ago. Children are matched with them and the idea behind the work is to **build confidence and self esteem**.

Recently the charity has been fortunate enough to purchase 8 acres of land in York and they're hoping to build a **children's activity centre** here.

They've had workshops around what this will look like and one hope is to break generational cycles of unemployment, working with young mothers.

They are now waiting for a sustainability application to be approved before work begins!

What will be at the centre?

- public café
- farm shop
- activities like arts and crafts
- climbing wall
- 121 tutoring
- Counselling
- IT business suite
- Centre for alternative education
- Much, much more!



Mock up image – plan for The Island's new children's centre



Site map – plan for The Island's new children's centre



SITE KEY

- 1 CAR PARK
- 2 PUBLIC PARK
- 3 ENTRANCE COURTYARD
- 4 FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GARDEN
- 5 PERFORMANCE COURTYARD
- 6 LAWN
- 7 MUGA
- 8 POND
- 9 WOODLAND WALK
- 10 WILDFLOWER MEADOW
- 11 ACTIVE ZONE (BIKE + SKATE PARK)

Resume Foundation

CJ Allison

www.resumefoundation.org.uk

The Resume Foundation works on a **121 basis** with adults out of work who have additional needs. It aims to **help people who are marginalised**, such as ex-offenders, those with mental health issues, a history of substance misuse or older people.

The foundation is currently working with lots of people who are younger, and many who are over 50. They **don't exclude anyone**, and are as broad as they can be.

At any time each Resume Foundation staff member can be working with up to 30 people. Person and they have a **60+ % success** rate for people getting back in to work.

They are based in the DWP 1 day a week and 1 day in the Ryedale centre.

There's a lot of practical support offered such as CV writing, but the Foundation also offered emotional support and confidence building and walk with people in to interviews.



Resume
Foundation

Mental Health Grant Partnership

Ruth Ralph

The VCSE sector has an important role in community mental health and the Mental Health Grant Partnership is hoping to deliver a grant scheme of up to **£250,000 over a 2 year period**.

There are lots of decisions to be made and a survey has already been sent out to gather feedback on how people would prefer this to run. For instance: should there be a grant every year, or should it be distributed as one lump sum?

The team working on this have already been able to find some trends, and have got **Expressions Of Interest** from people wanting to be a part of this panel.

They asked meeting attendants the following questions...

What VCS support works?

What could there be more of ?

What would make it easier?

If you'd like to put across your view on this, please just email Ruth: ruth.ralph@yorkcvs.org.uk



Any Other Buisness

Cultural Values – There's now a community of practice comes together regularly to answer the question “**How does it feel to live the values you believe in?**”.

They use the new Meetings that Matter toolkit and try out different roles within meetings to learn together.

Governance – The Governance group continues to look at how roles within the Network can be shared out. There is currently a process in place to increase the Enabling Team capacity.

Joint Commissioning – This group is paused over the summer and there'll be a re-think in September. They're just looking at what they've done so far.

Training and skills development – We continue to put on Deep Democracy Training (leadership, facilitation and conflict resolution training). There is another round of this coming early next year.

Overall feedback/ checkout – The energy in the room of people trying to make change has made everyone feel better.

Key Dates

Click on the dates below to register via Eventbrite

Creative Action

- [13th October, 1pm, online](#)
- [8th November, 1pm, online](#)
- [6th December, 1pm, online](#)

Community of Practice (Cultural Values)

- [3rd November, 10am, online](#)
- [8th February 2023, 2pm, online](#)
- [20th April 2023, 10am, online](#)
- [27th June 2023, 10am, online](#)

Network Meetings

- [18th January 2023, 1pm, in-person](#)
- [30th March 2023, 10am, in-person](#)
- [14th June 2023, 1pm, in-person](#)
- [7th September 2023, 10am – 12.15pm, in-person](#)
- [14th November 2023, 1pm, in-person](#)