

More Space to Hang Out



Date	Monday 19 May 2025	Time	1 - 2.30
Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Holli & Jodie (Windmill Centre) ● Paul Scott (Fuel Youth) ● Maria Goodwin (YMCA South Devon) ● Niel Eades (Acorn Centre) ● Katie Chivers (Trustee for Torbay Communities & YMCA South Devon, IT Youth Council) ● Lisa Money & Jo Morrell (Imagine This Partnership Coordinators) ● Rebekah Daws (Partnership Administrator & Youth Council) 		

Agenda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General catch up ● Developing a youth work offer for Torbay – next steps with a Reaching Communities bid ● Food for Thought project in community centres ● Reminder of whole partnership gathering
Summary

The group did introductions and a quick round-robin to check in on how everyone is doing. Several partners shared updates, including

- Johanna's news about the birth of her new granddaughter (exciting!)
- Jo & Maria highlighted the connections between YMCA's Nightstop/Daystop and One Space
- Paul shared that Fuel Youth have been approved to start up a youth offer in Brixham, leading youth club at Acorn on Mondays, Paul & Holly have restarted their detached youth work on a Friday night around Paignton. He noted young people's requests for a cafe space, and that they are seeing yp they haven't seen for a year.
- Niel shared that Acorn have a new youth club on Mondays, they are currently looking for youth workers - they've had nearly 20 applications. Acorn's 60th is coming up. They are always looking for people to use their spaces - including an unused cafe. Lisa reminded Niel to reach out to his Community Builder, and to rely on the partnership and network.
- Windmill are running youth sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays including cooking, crafts and food. Holli & Jodie are planning possibly summer activities out and about. They plan to meet there, or meet at specific locations and use public transport.
- Rebekah & Katie shared that their recent LocalMotion learning visit to Lincoln was insightful and interesting, and has definitely provided lots to think about ahead of Torbay's learning visit

in September. They mentioned a converted space they visited for a 'Raising Young Voices' workshop, which is available for people to hire for free.

Developing a youth offer in Torbay

- Ongoing need for a comprehensive youth offer and provision across Torbay.
- Existing good practices in some areas, but significant gaps in safe spaces and programming.
- Link between food poverty and the need for safe spaces for young people.
- Discussions around how to create and maintain these spaces effectively.
- (As raised in the Reduce Stress & Anxiety meeting earlier this day) we have recently learnt about Torbay Council's Children's Overview & Scrutiny Board agenda items for the upcoming year. Including a play and youth work offer, and 'supporting VCSE to support young people & families on CAMHS waiting list'. Tanny Stobart & Mike Cook currently representing the VCSE sector but IT partnership not currently involved in the conversation. Committee chaired by Cordelia Law.
- Emma and the team at the Windmill have a good relationship with her as a local councillor, effective feedback loop on local issues to Hele.
- Lisa noted the need to consider councillors in ongoing mapping work.

Youth work pathways for young people

- Lisa initiated a discussion on enhancing youth work pathways by encouraging volunteering, especially following programs like Sound Communities' Sound Futures.
- The goal is to leverage gained skills and confidence in young people by providing meaningful follow-up opportunities — including volunteering and future employment.
- Windmill: Older young people (e.g. Danny, sixth form) volunteer with younger groups.
- 5 young people completed a Sound Communities leadership AQA programme—seen as future leaders.
- Acorn: Many opportunities, but no current youth volunteering offer in place.
- Paul emphasised the importance of having the right, trusted leaders with clear motives.
- Proposed a structured volunteer training programme for young leaders.
- Important to place young volunteers in positions of trust with appropriate support.
- Consideration of safeguarding responsibilities for staff, volunteers, and the organisation.
- Need for support and management of young volunteers during sessions.
- Lisa noted the complexity and the need to bridge gaps in youth leadership.
- Paul suggested learning from gymnastics clubs that train older youth to coach younger ones.
- Jo had experienced negative examples of this but highlighted Katie's journey from volunteer to youth work leader as a positive example.

Food for Thought

- Jo introduced a new initiative called "Food for Thought". LocalMotion is at a point of bringing more of our communities into the conversation.
- Through trusted relationships, food at community centres and resourcing the people with those relationships to do what they already do - engage young people, gather their input, and elevate their voices.
- Community centres/groups to be involved: Windmill, Acorn, Fuel Youth in Brixham, People's Parkfield, One Space, Crafy Fox, Great Parks. This work is already happening in pockets, a

need to weave voices together and gather collectively.

- Paul mentioned an idea they had to do HAF differently, outreach work with a food truck!
- Niel was concerned around their ability to participate due to low number of yp attending their youth club. Lisa highlighted the importance of still gathering those few voices.
- Paul mentioned using Apricot to share case studies and ongoing issues. The group discussed ways of capturing information to come out of sessions in a way that can lead to action. Mentions of a universal feedback form.

Upcoming partnership gathering

The group was reminded about the upcoming Imagine This partnership gathering on June 3rd, which will provide an opportunity for the broader network to connect, share updates, and explore funding opportunities.

Actions	Owner
Get in touch w/ Jo with any thoughts re: Overview & Scrutiny Board	Anyone
Map councillors by area + youth issue involvement. Share w/ partners	Lisa, Jo, Rebekah
F/u w/ Jed re Food for Thought project scale/scope	Jo
Explore Apricot for youth feedback data collection	Paul & Niel