

About the Northstowe Youth Partnership

There is an identifiable need to give the young people of Northstowe a voice, and to work with them to help shape Northstowe to benefit them and future generations of young people.

The Northstowe Youth Partnership will draw on Asset Based Community Development Principles to link young people, local residents, and key community and professional organizations in such a way as to provide strategic oversight to how youth provision develops, shaped with and for the young people of this area.

The Northstowe Youth Partnership is initially being supported by professionals who are part of the Northstowe Youth “task and finish” group of the Northstowe Support Partnership.

Trustee recruitment, Support, accountability, and reporting

The Northstowe Youth Partnership will be made up of a board of trustees, drawn from the local community, working closely with representative young people.

Trustees will be appointed on the basis of their skills and experience, balancing these with others on the board to avoid any gaps. Trustees must be eligible (according to Charity commission regulation), and not have [serious conflicts of interest](#). They must be interested in the charity’s work and be willing to give their time to help run it.

The board will establish as an independent charitable organization (constitution to be discussed). Board members will be accountable to each other, and the young people that we serve, to fulfil the aims and objectives. In due course, they will register with the charities commission.

The Northstowe Youth Partnership will be supported by appropriate professionals from the “task and finish” group delegated by the Northstowe Support Partnership.

The board will be kept relatively small to ensure it is agile and effective. Good partnerships and communication with other organizations will be a priority. In particular, the Northstowe Youth Partnership will ensure good communication with the Northstowe Support Partnership and Town Council, while remaining autonomous,

One of the first tasks of the board will be to work together to put in grant proposals, with a view to engaging the right professional support for strategic youthwork, coupled with use of suitable trained and supported local volunteers. The Youth Consultation will provide key evidence to shape these applications.

Mission and Values

The mission and values will be formally determined through consultation with the young people and the forming of the Partnership.

Initial guiding principles include

- Build on Asset Based Community Development Principles
- Driven by the needs (and voices) of young people: doing “with” not “to”.
- Focussing on the needs of this new community, while recognising the fluidity of young people moving between this and the adjacent villages.

- Committed to diversity; encouraging multicultural and interfaith respect, conversation, and partnership.
- To hold a strategic overview of youth provision across Northstowe, aware of what else is happening in nearby villages.
- To hold a broad view across planning, buildings, youthwork delivery, empowering young people etc
- To work on a partnership principle – collaborating with other groups widely rather than expecting to run everything in house
- To apply for grants in order to bring in the right professional expertise and appropriate training, recruitment, and support of volunteers

What is already happening?

Already, a Youth consultation, headed up by a 17 year old resident, is being planned. This will launch in the local secondary school in July, and continue at various youth-focused events through the summer. Safeguarding policies and checks are being provided through Pathfinder Church Northstowe until the Partnership is in a position to take over this responsibility.

The consultation will both gather information from young people, but, perhaps more importantly, invites other young people to get involved in shaping youth provision.

The nature of the youth panel and its relation to the board of trustees will emerge through the consultation, and with guidance from the professionals in the Northstowe Youth “task and finish” group.

Request for Town Council

We would like the Council to put forward a person to be the main link with the Town Council.

We would like this person to explore, with the other potential trustees, whether they are a good fit as a trustee. If so, they will be invited to get involved in setting up the new charity.

CONTACT: Revd Beth Cope beth.cope@northstowe.church