



Newcastle Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

One Minute Guide: Meeting held on 21st October 2025

1. Update on Improving School Attendance priority

At the previous meeting, partners spent time reflecting on the issues and developing some early solutions that could collectively contribute to improving children's school attendance. An update was shared at this meeting and an action plan will be created to progress next steps.

2. Safe priority – Healthy Relationships and Young People

In July 2025, the Partnership agreed that Healthy Relationships and Young people would be one of 3 focussed pieces of work over the next 12-18 months, under the Safe priority. An update was provided on the work that has been taking place to progress this, as outlined below.

The 2024 HRBQ identified a worrying trend in young people's acceptance of coercive and controlling behaviours in personal relationships. Following this, work was undertaken with young people and two Development Sessions were held with partners. This has led to 3 Healthy Relationships working groups, focussing on the following 3 work streams:

1. Develop a young-person centred support model to include healthy relationships work with children and young people who have experienced or are living with domestic abuse.
2. Develop a source of recommended healthy relationships resources for local schools and youth settings, including whether provision is in-person or online, free or paid-for.
3. Understand the local audience of boys and young men including their existing values, interests, and role models; and explore how to tailor messages about healthy relationships based on this.

Each chair provided an update on the work of their respective groups. It was agreed an update would be provided in 6-9 months.

“Over the last 4 years, the difference in what children and young people are seeing and hearing is worrying”

(Youth Justice Service)

3. Any other business

Evry Christmas Campaign 2025

An overview of the Evry Christmas Campaign 2025 was provided. This was very successful again, thanks to the support of partners, staff and residents. Highlights include:

- **Over 4,000 gifts were donated** by residents, partner organisations and Council staff. The total value of gifts bought via the Amazon wish list and gift vouchers via partners was over £6,000. An additional estimated 5,000 gifts were contributed via Cash4Kids.



- **867 children and young people received a gift.** This included care leavers, those working with social care, asylum-seeking and refugee families and those in temporary accommodation.
- **27 Evry Partners supported the campaign,** including NUTH, Eldon Square, Stagecoach, both Universities, Newcastle College and local businesses.
- **1,500 free tickets were distributed to festive events in the city, with a total value of £33,000.**
- **Over 150 volunteers** participated in gift wrapping sessions.

Newcastle Youth Council Elections 2026

In 2024, Newcastle's Youth Council elections saw an incredible **7,000 young people vote** to elect 16 representatives. Preparations are underway for the **2026 Youth Council Elections**, and we would love your setting to be involved in empowering young people to have their say. Organisations can get involved by:

- **Offering a space to be a Voting Centre:** To maximise participation, we are inviting settings to act as **official voting centres** on election day, **Thursday 12 March**. This involves providing a supervised space for young people to cast their vote during a session or at a project.

To sign up please use this link: [Voting Centre Registration 2026 – Fill in form](#). Further guidance and resources will be sent to participating projects.

- **Candidates:** Expressions of interest are now open for young people (aged 11-17) who wish to stand as candidates. At this stage, there is **no commitment** required. Individuals who sign up will be:
 - Invited to a **February Half Term briefing session**
 - Supported to write their manifesto
 - Invited to the **Election Announcement Event** on **Friday 13 March**

Please see video to share with young people

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/WH4JbGyUgaY>

If your organisation works directly with young people aged 11-17 in Newcastle, they can sign up here: [Newcastle Youth Parliament & Youth Council Elections Expression of Interest 2026 – Fill in form](#)

If you have any questions please email vicky.hartley@newcastle.gov.uk

For more information or to contact the Newcastle Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, please email: kate.williams@newcastle.gov.uk