SPOTLIGHT ON CONFERENCE

Responses to Discussion Group Questions:

During the morning session there were a number of questions that came from the table discussions that we did not get the opportunity to ask on the day. Some of our panel members have taken the time to respond to some of these questions.

Education	
What is your view / perspective on the number of young people not in education and what are your suggestions [to address this]?	**Tony Gallagher OBE, National Youth Advisory Board** As a country we simply haven't responded to this issue in a suitably comprehensive manner. Far too many young people are not securely settled in work, education or employment or indeed volunteering or social action. In too many local areas there is simply not a wide or creative enough post 16 'offer' for young people. Those following apprenticeships and vocational routes are better served than in the past which is great but not those who are deemed NEET. More emphasis is needed on identification 'downstream' (pre – Neet and KS2).
Is youth work in school still youth work – or is it voluntary? Youth workers often make great contributions to young	**Tony Gallagher OBE, National Youth Advisory Board** people's learning in school settings. They often display a set of skills complementary to formal education. Schools are not voluntary, but the youth work is relational. In a few instances workers explain the voluntary ethos whereby young people could negotiate themselves 'out' of a session but schools would struggle with this organisationally. The 'voluntary' ethos should not be an impediment to youth work in schools.
How can we convince school leaders of the impact of youth work?	**Tony Gallagher OBE, National Youth Advisory Board** Leaders will be influenced by what they see on their own doorsteps. Youth workers need to 'show what they know' and many do. Leaders will give credit to work which is well planned and reflective of the school ethos. Having an SLT member to 'champion youth work helps

Health	
How do we better support [the] transition to adult services	**Dr Carol Ewing, YFNW Trustee** This is a very challenging time for young people when they have a physical or mental health condition. Understanding the importance of the impact of inequality on the health of a young person is key - youth workers can support alternative ways of tackling inequality too. Youth workers are in a very good position to support and prepare the young person on their journey into a different health experience in adult services. The young person will need to be preparing to take even more responsibility for their condition, be able to ask the right questions and be able to navigate through, sometimes, very complex services. Youth workers can be their advocate and provide links to areas of support according to the young person's needs. A suggestion is to develop youth worker health champions across the NW as an extra layer of support. It is a great step to have a NW network of health service youth workers who could share their experiences and skills, particularly around transition to adult services. Youth workers can also educate and inform adult health professionals of the added value their role can bring and how their services can be improved from a young person's perspective; also how to use the Lundy model to enhance the voice of young people, share evidence from #Beewell as to what young people are saying, and use information from YFNW co production project work such as Bee Counted proving information from the young people's inspection of health services.
Youth work works best in sharing resources. How does youth work in health look to build connections with local services (Local Authority & Voluntary Sector) because we struggle to connect the other way.	**Tony Gallagher OBE, National Youth Advisory Board** Good initiatives of this nature are very local in nature, which work commissioned locally. We need to help secure, promote, evaluate, commission and report on the impact of youth work in health settings. We need to seek not just to do the work but to have the right senior representation around the planning table Dr Carol Ewing, YFNW Trustee

	Youth workers in health services are in a very good position to strengthen cross sector links with VCSE, education and other LA services, again remembering to look through the lens of inequality and its impact on a young person's health and wellbeing. The youth worker being the coordinator, communicator and advocate for their young person is a great asset. Youth workers in health services can signpost young people to other youth services, VCSE and LA and health promotion services in their locality. It is important to identify where youth workers can bring and make the biggest impact within our regional integrated care systems - can we gather more evidence about this and also where the key people are to influence from a youth service perspective in the integrated care systems? In Greater Manchester, for example, CEO of YFNW sits on the GM Children's Board which is tasked to oversee the strategic direction and priorities for children and young people in GM – he has opportunities to influence the Children's Board on what added value youth services can bring.
Education	
What can formal education learn from youth work?	**Tony Gallagher OBE, National Youth Advisory Board** The relational practice which informs youth work can help the formal school sector in areas such as behaviour management, conflict resolution, group work, inclusion. In some instances alternative curriculum approaches.
Health	
How do we get medical professional to understand youth work?	**Dr Carol Ewing, YFNW Trustee** A lot of what I have suggested in my answer to how youth workers can support transition, also applies to this question. Youth workers are the experts and have a real opportunity to educate health professionals as to what youth workers can do to improve the care of the young people. Again, seeing a young person's health through the lens of inequality is really important.

	As in my thoughts on supporting young people through transition, the youth workers involved in health could get together and share their experiences and skills, run workshops with health professionals; include the Lundy model training, evidence from Beewell and Young Inspectors' Bee Counted etc and what impact measures they use in their services.
Not just young people getting access to health but also youth workers, how does that work in health?	**Dr Carol Ewing, YFNW Trustee** The most important issue here is for youth workers to understand the landscape, where they fit in and where they can add value to a young person's health journey. There are good examples of youth workers who are part of established teams and their job descriptions are accessible through nhs job recruitment sites e.g. at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT). The fantastic jobs that youth workers provide in health need to be shared on a wider footprint to show the beneficial impact they can have on a young person's health care and overall wellbeing - MFT youth services, for example, has a set of impact measures which could be shared with other youth workers in health to use. Youth workers need to understand where they fit within the landscape of the integrated Care system, within Integrated Care Boards which are specifically in place to deliver and improve health care, primary, hospital, community care and also public health remembering again the impact of inequality. Is this something that I and other health professionals can help with?

Youth Strategy	
How much youth work will be in the [youth] strategy and what else will fill the other parts of the strategy	**Tony Gallagher OBE, National Youth Advisory Board** The youth strategy will be broad and deep. Youth work will feature but it's not a youth work strategy. The challenge will be, nationally and locally to ensure that youth work permeates as much of the strategy as possible. Local organisations should actively use the consultation as a means to engage and influence local decision makers. Arrange events ?
There's a concern that young people don't know what a youth strategy is. How will young people be engaged in its creation and understanding once it is created?	**Tony Gallagher OBE, National Youth Advisory Board** This needs to be top down and bottom up. Regional Youth work units are playing a part in this. Local practitioners (who have the face to face contact with youth people) could helpfully animate this process. **Dr Carol Ewing, YFNW Trustee** YFNW can help to facilitate this using its methodologies to engage young people and also connect and work in partnership with other voluntary and public sector organisations to engage with young people.
How will youth work be included at the top table, recognised and underpinned in the strategy?	**Tony Gallagher OBE, National Youth Advisory Board** It is. The National Youth Sector Advisory Board is actively involved and connects across the sector . Whether we 'get what we want' is another question. Remember there are few, if any new resources **Dr Carol Ewing, YFNW Trustee** From a health perspective, this needs to be presented and supported both locally and regionally. Aiming for the top system wide leadership Boards within the respective NW Integrated Systems; can also be shared with the NHS England CYP Transformation Board. We need to develop system leaders who are Champions and advocates for young people

Youth Offer	
What are the key components of a Youth Offer Good strategic leadership which helps youth work	**Tony Gallagher OBE, National Youth Advisory Board** Good strategic leadership which helps youth work providers coalesce, genuine partnerships and recognising the strengths which different organisations bring. Ongoing CPD aimed at workers at all level. Far more critical attention to quality, highlighting and showcasing effective practice. The offer will, and should, look different in local areas. **Dr Carol Ewing, YFNW Trustee** Please include the health offer and where possible show what added value youth services can deliver to improve the health and wellbeing of young people.