



Introduction



Welcome to Pelton Youth Project's April 2024 update. This update will reflect on the month of March 24 and early April 24, including our Easter Programme 2024. It will discuss our recent Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions and day walks, our attendance of Durham Youth Network Conference, youth workers qualifications, and provide an update on our youth centre garden project. More standard information relating to funding and attendance can be found towards the end of the document. Our updates are written to keep our trustees, funders, partners, parents, and young people informed of Pelton Youth Project's progress. Should there be any questions relating to the content of this report, then please contact me (Tom), Youth Project Manager at tom_pelton@yahoo.co.uk.

Easter Programme 2024

In each of the school holiday periods, Pelton Youth Project aims to provide a school holiday programme of onsite and offsite visits. This is to offer ongoing support to local young people when they're not in school, and often includes food support. This Easter was no different, and the youth work team provided a programme consisting of two onsite junior sessions, three offsite juniors' sessions, two offsite senior sessions, a DofE silver expedition, and two bronze day walks. Our programme was a great success, attended by well over one hundred young people in total. It was particularly pleasing to take our junior youth club members offsite, where there was not a single no-show in any of those offsite visits, which is fantastic.



DofE Silver Practice Expedition – Group One



This Easter holidays, our DofE group kickstarted our expedition season with the first of two silver expeditions. On Saturday 06th & Sunday 07th April 24, six young women completed their silver practice expedition, navigating a route in the Durham area, and camping at Moorhouse Activity Centre. The practice expedition is all about training for the qualifying expedition. This training includes developing skills in organising equipment, navigation, setting up camp, meal preparation, cookery, and working as part of a team. These young ladies were praised by our DofE leader Davey Hardy, who said they were *"a great group of young people, who were committed to helping each other and are a credit to their families"*.

DofE Bronze Day Walks

In addition to our first expedition of 2024, our DofE team also delivered our first two-day walks of the year. Now, our day walks are all about giving our new bronze members experience of the outdoors, in preparation for their bronze qualifying expeditions. These six-hour days involve practicing the same skills mentioned above, for many young people, often for the first time. It is important our young people are competent in map reading, navigations, communication, and teamwork, before they're allowed to go it alone during qualifying expeditions and put their skills to the test.





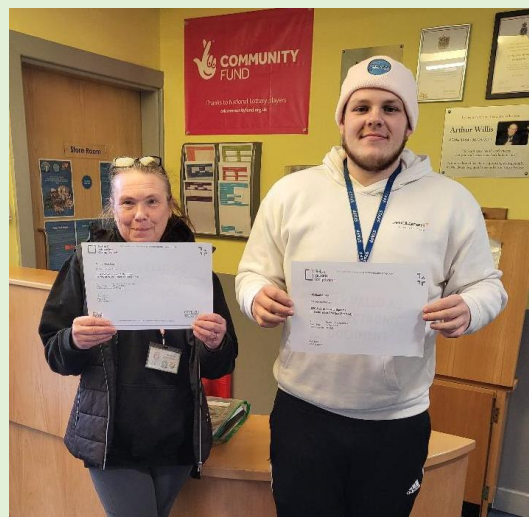
Durham Youth Network Conference – Youth Print Durham



On Wednesday 27th March 2024, the youth work team and young people at Pelton Youth Project attended the Durham Youth Network Conference. The conference was themed around youth work in County Durham being allied, authentic, and ambitious. This was with reference to the development of Youth Print Durham, a local youth partnership across County Durham, of which Pelton Youth Project are an anchor for the North Durham area. Alongside our team's attendance, our young people, along with others from across the County, led table discussions, and our Youth Project Manager presented an update on YPD alongside colleague Emily Burns from Durham Area Youth. The event was a great success, with over one hundred and thirty individuals representing organisations from across County Durham, coming to together to celebrate our youth work.

Level Three Youth Workers Qualify

It gives me great pleasure to report that two members of our youth work team Michael Gibson and Tracy Neasham, are now qualified youth workers. Michael and Tracy have been working hard over the past twelve months to complete their level three diplomas in Youth Work, and we are so proud to announce that they have passed. This means our team of six youth workers at Pelton Youth Project, now has five qualified youth workers, with a minimum level three qualification. This allows us to share the role of lead worker more equally, in the delivery of both onsite and offsite sessions. I'm excited to see Michael and Tracy put their knowledge to the test, delivering more informal education programmes, youth social action, and project with groups of young people during our sessions.



Teen Hygiene Packs



The youth work team here at Pelton Youth Project, alongside our colleagues at Pelton Community Centre, have been worked tirelessly January 2024 to March 2024 to deliver the various elements of our Care in Crisis project, funded by the National Lottery, and designed to support our community around the cost-of-living crisis. The youth team organned teen hygiene packs and Easter hampers. The Easter Hampers have been distributed to 119 people, benefitting an estimated 482 people in households. Our teen hygiene packs were distributed to two hundred people in total, one hundred young men and one hundred young women. It has been a great privilege to provide this additional support, thanks to the cost-of-living funding from the National Lottery.



Youth Centre Garden Update

In March 2024, work on our much-anticipated Youth Centre Garden project officially commenced. This transformative space is going to provide our young people with the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors during their youth sessions within a secure environment. Key features will include a youth shelter, outdoor seating, a BBQ area, storage facilities, and basketball hoops, enhancing the overall experience of attending a youth session at Room 14. This expansion is poised to empower our youth work team, enabling them to craft a more diverse and engaging programme, utilising the additional space. This is likely to include our DofE training, food support, and small-scale games and sports. Massive thanks to Durham County Council S106, The John Horseman Charitable Trust, The Bernard Sunley Foundation, and the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust for their financial support for this project. We expect the project to be complete by June 2024, and look forward to sharing the finished space in our future reports.



Buckingham Palace Invitation

You may remember last year, in May 2023, that myself Youth Project Manager (Tom) and our DofE Leader Davey Hardy were invited down to Buckingham Palace to the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Celebration. This celebratory event is an annual opportunity for young people across the UK, to come together, and mark the completion of their gold level awards. Last year, four members of our DofE group collected their gold awards. This year, three members of our youth work team have been invited to Buckingham Palace, and we have ten young people picking up their gold awards in the capital. This is of fifteen young people having completed their golds with us, as another five will collect theirs in June 24 at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh. We are excited to join Hannah Peters, Victoria Fairless, Madeleine Bell, Feya Duffy, Annabel Towse, Anna Dowey, Emily Tucker, Lara Duffy, Sonny Laws, and Airlia Appleby on Monday 13th May 2024. Then all the best to Joshua Lindoe, Freya Talbot, Lola Rose Tones, Emma Mc Mahon, Dominic Bevan, and Mia Underwood for June 24 in Edinburgh.





Fundraising Update

In March 2024, Pelton Youth Project received grant funding from four different funders totalling £10,000.00. These grants were £1,000 from Tesco Community Grants and £1,000 from DofE Resilience Fund for our DofE group, £5,000 from the Bernard Sunley Foundation towards the youth centre garden, and a further £3,000 from NE Youth, for our role as North Durham anchor organisation. April 2024 has also begun well in terms of grant funding with over £60,000.00 in grant income secured, but we will provide more details on this in our May 24 update.

Attendance Final 2023-2024

As at the end of 2023-2024, we are thrilled to report that we exceeded our target of supporting one thousand young people, for only the second time, having reached 1005 young people. This impressive figure included 725 young people who were involved in our One Youth Chester-Le-Street project, the highest number in three grant years delivering that project. The youth work team are thrilled with our performance and hope to support a similar number of young people in 2024-2025.

Total 2023-2024 Attendance	1005
One Youth Chester-Le-Street	725
R14 Senior Youth Clubs	317
R14 Junior Youth Clubs	312
R14 Sports & Activity Sessions	205
R14 Duke of Edinburgh's Award	83
School Holiday Programmes	209
Grange Villa Youth Clubs	124
Fencehouses & Bournmoor Sessions	113
South Pelaw Youth Club	69

Closing Comment



To close our March 2024 update, I would like to say I'm thrilled with the progress Pelton Youth Project is making. Another fun-filled school holiday programme has been delivered for local young people. It is also great to see our expeditions 2024 get underway, for our amazing DofE participants. It was a pleasure for youth workers to attend the recent Durham Youth Network Conference, and to continue in our role as Youth Print Durham anchor for the North Durham area. I'm proud of youth workers Tracy and Michael for completing their level three qualifications in youth work and look forward to their continued professional development. I look forward to the completion of the

youth centre garden and the additional opportunities that will bring for young people. Our team are excited to visit the capital and see our DofE members hard work pay off when they celebrate their gold achievements. Finally, exceeding the one thousand young people supported in one year was a significant milestone this year, achieved for only the second time in Pelton Youth Project history.