



Introduction

This report provides an update on the key developments, achievements, and activities taking place across Pelton Youth Project. In this edition, you'll find information on the delivery of our Summer Programme 2026, our Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) expeditions, and our upcoming detached youth work plans. As with previous reports, we also include updates on attendance and funding towards the end of the document, providing an overview of the project's ongoing growth and sustainability. These reports are designed to keep our trustees, funders, partners, parents, carers, and young people informed about the continued progress and impact of Pelton Youth Project. We hope you find this update informative and appreciate your continued support. If you have any questions or would like further information about any aspect of this report, please contact our Youth Project Manager, Tom, at tom_pelton@yahoo.co.uk.



Summer Programme 2026

Pelton Youth Project have once again delivered a fantastic summer programme for young people attending our junior, senior and DofE sessions. Thanks to generous financial support from Durham Fun & Food (HAF), The National Lottery and several small grant funders, we have been able to provide a varied programme of fun, engaging and positive opportunities both onsite and offsite.



Our junior and senior young people each took part in eight onsite sessions during the first four weeks of the school summer holidays. Activities included multi-sports and games, wellbeing activities and nature walks, arts and crafts, baking and cookery, alongside visits from external providers including Mini Chocnotears, Creative Youth Opportunities, Refuse Café and ALD Hairdressing. Food and refreshments were also provided every day, ensuring young people could enjoy the programme in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Alongside our onsite programme, junior and senior young people were able to take part in three exciting offsite visits to Inflate Space, Infinite Air and Moorhouse Activity Centre. These trips gave young people the opportunity to try new experiences, including trampolining, the Cave Bus, zip lining and high ropes. Keeping young people active was a key focus of the programme, and these activities provided a fun and engaging way to promote physical activity while also building confidence and encouraging young people to try something new.



Young people attending our DofE group also took part in two offsite activities during the summer holidays as a reward for their continued commitment to the group. They enjoyed a canoeing and paddleboarding day with Tees Outdoors, followed by a trip Ice Skating at Whitley Bay Ice Rink.



Overall, our summer programme provided young people with opportunities to be active, creative, socialise with friends, develop new skills and experience activities that they may not otherwise have had the opportunity to access. Most importantly, it provided a safe, positive and enjoyable environment for young people throughout the summer holidays.



DofE Expeditions Summer 2026

This summer concluded the bulk of the expedition season for Room 14 DofE group, with seven expeditions delivered for our Silver and Gold-level groups. The Expedition section of the DofE Award is all about helping young people develop teamwork, independence, resilience and initiative. The DofE describes its purpose as inspiring young people to develop initiative and a spirit of adventure and discovery by planning, training for and completing an adventurous, self-sufficient journey as part of a team. That is exactly what our young people have achieved this summer.

The second Silver qualifying expedition of the year saw another group head to Northumberland to complete a challenging walking expedition along the Hadrian's Wall route. The group had to contend with extreme heat, meaning routes and plans needed to be adjusted due to the high temperatures. This made an already demanding expedition even more challenging, with hydration, sun protection and careful planning becoming particularly important. Our DofE leader, staff and assessor were incredibly proud of the young people who took part, as they demonstrated considerable resilience, teamwork and determination to ultimately complete the challenge.



Our Gold qualifying expedition took place on the Welsh border, with the group completing a four-day canoeing challenge along the picturesque River Wye. The ten young people taking part again had to contend with high temperatures throughout their expedition. As part of the challenge, they were required to cook their own meals, carry all the equipment they needed, set up camps and remain entirely self-sufficient throughout the four days. The DofE leader, staff and adventurous activity provider were extremely complimentary about the group and the way they approached the challenge. The young people demonstrated excellent teamwork,

independence and resilience, successfully completing a demanding expedition while managing the practical challenges that came with a four-day water-based adventure.

These expeditions are a fantastic example of the impact of the DofE programme at Room 14. Young people are given the opportunity to step outside their comfort zones, experience challenging environments and develop skills that will benefit them well beyond their time with the DofE group.

BBC Children in Need Detached Sessions



We are delighted to report that our two new weekly detached youth work sessions are now getting underway, following our successful BBC Children in Need grant of just under £45,000 over three years. Our youth workers have been busy preparing for the launch, including planning locations, completing training and safeguarding preparations, and working with local partners. The sessions will begin this month across Pelton and the surrounding communities, allowing us to engage with young people where they spend their free time. This will help us build new relationships, respond to emerging needs and reach young people who may not currently access our centre-based provision.



Rotary Club of Consett Charity Golf Day



It was an honour for members of the Pelton Youth Project team to be invited by NE Youth to join their team at the Rotary Club of Consett Charity Golf Day. The event provided a fantastic opportunity to represent Pelton Youth Project, strengthen our relationship with NE Youth and meet others involved in supporting communities across the North East. It was also a great opportunity to showcase the work we do with young people in Pelton and the surrounding communities, while supporting a charity event that raises valuable funds for local causes. We are grateful to NE Youth for including us and look forward to continuing to build on this positive partnership.

Fundraising Update

During August and September 2026, we were delighted to receive £16,504 in grant funding and donations to support our youth services. This included the first £14,804 instalment of our three-year grant from BBC Children in Need, supporting the delivery of detached youth work across our local communities. We were also extremely grateful to Big Kids Club, who organised a fundraiser for our Duke of Edinburgh's Award group, raising a fantastic £700 contribution towards our DofE activities and expeditions. The William Webster Charitable Trust also provided funding towards small equipment for the youth project. We would like to sincerely thank all the organisations, trusts and community groups that continue to invest in our work. Your generosity makes a direct difference, enabling us to provide positive opportunities and high-quality youth services for children and young people in our communities. We simply could not do what we do without your continued support.

Attendance 2026-2027

As of mid-September 2026, halfway through the financial year, we have supported 448 young people through youth services. This includes 189 through One Youth CLS, 192 through our senior sessions and 142 through our junior. Our reach through school holiday programmes (190) and events (80) has also increased following a successful summer, providing further opportunities for young people to get involved. We look forward to continuing to engage and support as many young people as possible throughout 2026–27. Our target remains to exceed 1,000 young people supported.

Total 2025-2026 Attendance	448
One Youth Chester-Le-Street	189
R14 Senior Youth Clubs	192
R14 Junior Youth Clubs	142
R14 Sports & Activity Sessions	133
R14 Duke of Edinburgh's Award	47
School Holiday Programmes	190
Grange Villa Youth Clubs	117
Events	80

Closing Comments



The first half of 2026–27 has been another positive and productive period for Pelton Youth Project. From a successful summer programme and a busy DofE expedition season to the launch of our new detached youth work, we continue to provide young people with opportunities to develop, achieve and thrive. With strong attendance, new funding secured and further opportunities planned for the months ahead, we remain committed to reaching and supporting as many young people as possible across our communities. We would like to thank our trustees, funders, partners, volunteers, parents, carers and, most importantly, our young people for their continued support and contribution to the project. We look forward to building on this progress throughout the remainder of 2026–27.