

MAY 2024

IMPACT REPORT

leadinglink

 North East
Child Poverty Trust

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ABOUT Leading Link

Leading Link is an established youth provider, based in South East Northumberland and works in the community, and together with other like-minded pioneering partners they have extensive experience of delivering high quality activities across Northumberland.

Over the past years Leading Link has established sustainable relationships across the public, private and voluntary sector creating opportunities for young people to maximise their potential, grow, develop, engage and support them to make good choices for their future.

Leading Link is a strategic partner for Northumberland County Council and manages the HAF programme know as Northumberland Holiday Provision.

leadinglink

leadinglink
YOUNG LEADERS

leadinglink
future proof

WHO DOES LEADING LINK WORK WITH?

Leading Link has worked on and developed great relationships with businesses, community groups, residents associations and of course young people and their families right across Northumberland and the North of Tyne area.

Working closely with Northumberland County Council, Citizens Advice Northumberland, Thriving Together to work on key elements of strategy and development on projects across the area, Leading Link were thrilled to be working with the North East Child Poverty Trust over the last 3 years and they look forward to working with them again on other new, innovative and rewarding projects.



Young Leader Residential Activity

ABOUT

North East Child Poverty Trust



North East Child Poverty Trust (NECPT) is a registered charity, established in April 2015.

Their work is about child poverty in the region and, in particular, exists to promote solutions to child poverty through collaborative working.

The aims of NECPT are to mitigate and relieve child poverty in the North East of England by:

- Improving knowledge and understanding of the causes and consequences of, and solutions to, child poverty.
- Raising awareness of the issue of child poverty.
- Working collaboratively with public services, voluntary bodies, employers and young people to address child poverty.

Building bridges of hope and opportunity for a brighter tomorrow, NECPT is proud to partner with **Leading Link** and the other organisations such as...

North East Child Poverty Commission

North Tyneside Council

Northumberland County Council

Northumbria University

The new NECPT website can be viewed at www.nechildpovertytrust.org.uk

WHO DOES NECPT PARTNER WITH?



North Tyneside Council



Northumberland
County Council



Northumbria
University
NEWCASTLE

WHAT WAS THE FOCUS FOR THE PROJECT?

The Timeline



Young Leader Residential Activity

PILOT

- Establishing how organisations can work together, develop the plan for the project, evaluate the real needs and desires and see where the resources required can be best utilised. Estimating how Covid would effect plans and how changes would need to be implemented,

YEAR 2

- Whilst maintaining focus in Northumberland, moving in to schools in the North of Tyne area to gain engagement from schools and young people to become Young Leaders and work on their own projects and skills

YEAR 1

- Focussing on the initial Young Leader model but stretching boundaries and scope to engage with more young people in Northumberland, With additional schools and organisations "buying in" to drive up engagement in a year that was difficult for all post pandemic

YEAR 3

- Breaking the "border" between Northumberland and the North of Tyne Area for Young Leaders to network, develop and support each other to work on events, activities for themselves, their peers and other young children at their school.

RECRUITMENT

How do we engage with and recruit young people to become Young Leaders?

We engage with schools and organisations to begin conversations with young people - and allow them to decide their involvement and journey as a Young Leader. We speak to assemblies and specific targeted young people, as identified by the school as those who would benefit most from the programme.

We have recruited from schools across Northumberland, Wallsend and Walker and have engaged in conversations with many others.

Word of mouth is incredibly important and we have seen how influential the words and feelings of young people are to their peers

The Challenge:

Some of existing Young Leaders developed a promotional video demonstrating the impact on themselves and why others should join. They had to workshop and co-create a video working on the script, location and content of the video in teams and then merge their plans to formulate one combined promotional video to show to their peers.

The Outcome:

Our Young Leaders told us they were really proud of their video and learnt new skills whilst making it.

The video has been used during school assemblies to promote the programme and also used at various meetings, pop ups and workshops to showcase their young peoples commitment and development, together with their increased skillset.



Young Leaders at Summer Camp



Young Leaders at Summer Camp



Young Leaders at Summer Camp

"I overcame my fear of being in front of a camera', 'I learnt that it was best to do a script because if you adlib it tends to go off track".

LIFE AS A YOUNG LEADER



An important part of the strengthening of our community assets as is the Young Leaders Programme, a development initiated by Leading Link over 15 years ago.

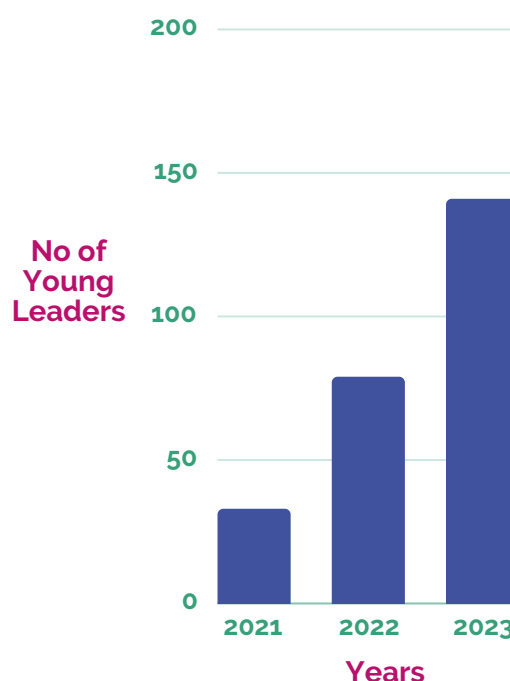
A development programme for Young Leaders was initiated to deepen their experience and achievement and the children's aspirations to become a young leader increased. During initial camps, some time ago, children taking part said they were inspired to become a Young Leader in the future around 40% - this has risen to 87% during the summer of 2023

Over the summer of **2021 33** Young Leaders were engaged in the programme growing to **79 in 2022** and **141 in 2023**.

All the Young Leaders interviewed felt they had benefitted from volunteering and could see how their efforts were benefiting themselves, their peers and the children attending the camps.

Our Young Leaders will put their hands to anything and are willing to try whatever we put in their direction. They are committed from the start and do all they do with a great sense of humour and get the most out of it they can - sometimes it can take a little persuasion, but we usually get there!

- HAF Camps
- Community Days
- Blyth Carnival
- Term Time events
- Training Courses
- After School Clubs
- Art Projects
- Social Enterprise
- Residentials
- Celebration Events
- Show Tour Support



Young Leaders supporting a Community Event

THE RIGHT SKILLS

Utilising the National Youth Agency Curriculum we ensure that our young people can identify and develop in the key fundamental areas that are most important to them in all of the activities they take part in.



BASIC TRAINING

Our Young Leaders all embark on training as a key part of their experience with us.



Young Leaders First Aid Training

First Aid

All Young Leaders take part in First-Aid Training carried out by Timestep Activity Centre and Training based in Blyth. The training covers all areas such as burns, cuts and grazes and CPR, along with learning how to properly apply a bandage and dressing.

This training gave them all a **certificate in Emergency First Aid at Work** valid for three years with a verified certificate number.

A lot of our Young Leaders have now used this training in their jobs going forward and have managed to **secure positions** over others due to having this additional training.

This training was also offered out to our providers and community groups, and so far, has certified over **90 people** in Emergency First Aid at work, which supports their ongoing work in the community with extra piece of mind in having their own first-aid trained staff and volunteers.



Young Leaders First Aid



Young Leaders First Aid

Food Hygiene

All Young Leaders take part in an online training 10 part module to gain a **Food Hygiene Level 2** certificate. Often Young Leader will be handling food at events and residential so it is really important they have the basic skills to do this in a safe way.

This training was also offered out to providers and community groups and in total over **135 certificates** have been awarded.



RESIDENTIALS...

Ensuring our young people can co-create, engage, inspire and develop their skills in a safe enjoyable environment, whilst making memories for a lifetime



Young Leader Residential Activity



Young Leader Residential Activity



Young Leader Residential Activity



Young Leader Residential Activity

Residentials are a key part of the Young Leader journey and we have **facilitated 7** such events, all of which were either 4 or 5 day events.

Each residential has different themes to focus on, but they all align with 8 key elements, whether this be **team building, planning, social enterprise, food & cooking, physical health, mental health, self development, training & coaching**

Powburn Scout Centre, Powburn **x 1**
Whithaugh Park, Rock UK, Newcastleton **x 3**
Broomley Grange, Stocksfield **x 2**
Seahouses Retreat **x 1**

168 young people have taken part in residential trips totalling **756 days** or **10584 hours** of incredible character building activities supporting them to make good choices for their future, backed by the right skillset.



A group of our Young Leaders who spent the day working at an off the grid farm experience helping to build tracks, cut back bushes and look after the animals



Young Leader After School Activity

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Designed by Young Leaders for primary and secondary children in their own schools



After School Club Planning



Crafts After School Club



Crafts After School Club

Following some working sessions with our Young Leaders it became clear that they wanted to take some responsibility and co-create their own activities and they felt they wanted to be able to this, small scale in their own schools or feeder schools in their area. We met with the Leaders in their own schools and following agreements with key personnel in those schools, embarked on a series of After School Clubs.

The Young Leaders worked in groups of 3 - 6 and had to plan their sessions from start to finish on aspects such as...

- Who would benefit from attending?
- How would the session be marketed?
- How much would it cost?
- How long should it run for?
- What resources would be needed?
- Which Young Leaders would take responsibility?
- How would they work together to achieve this?

The remit was that it could not already be happening and was not an "add on" to an existing programme.

The skills that the Young Leaders had gained over their time as a Young Leader proved invaluable and their enthusiasm, professionalism and team spirit was commendable.

The clubs were a great success and the children who engaged with them had a fantastic after school experience.



Young Leader After School Planning

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Designed by Young Leaders for primary and secondary children in their own schools

In **Berwick 3 Young Leaders** arranged a Volley Ball league to take place after school - this ran for **5 weeks** and was attended by around **20 young people** each session.

In **Bedlington 6 Young Leaders** ran **two 4 week sessions** of Lazer Tag in their school gym, with lazer guns, haze machines and inflatable targets and barricades to add to the excitement. Each session was ran and planned by **4 Young Leaders** and had **25 children** at each session.

In **Walker 4 Young Leaders** ran a **6 week** long craft session in where **24 primary children** came together to make a giant Christmas themed chandelier for their school supported by an experienced Artist for the project.

In **Blyth 5 Young Leaders** held sessions after assemblies and decided to run a soft archery class - which ran for **4 weeks** and was attended by **16 young people** on each session.

In **Wallsend 6 Young Leaders** ran Glow Up Sports sessions. They created this idea to encourage some of those who were disengaged in PE because of fears of performance, body issue and peer pressure could enjoy and engage with if they felt less self conscious. They ran a **6 week session** of mixed ability dodge ball, volleyball and football - but in the dark! UV lights were used and all taking part wore UV Jackets, head gear and arm bands - this was great fun and engaged with over **30 children** on each session.



After School Club



After School Club Planning

In total there 29 weeks of term time after schools clubs engaging in 588 hours of activity for the children attending them.



Young Leaders at Seaton Delaval Hall

SEATON DELEVAL HALL PROJECT

Putting the Young
Leaders through their
paces in real life
situations

Our Young Leaders were trained by the staff and volunteers of the **Seaton Delaval Hall**, a major National Trust site. They were split into three groups that focused on a different element of Seaton Delaval Hall and we encouraged working together in groups on this project.

We had one group learning about and planning **games and circus skills** in the Saloon and Central Hall, where the Delaval's held their celebrated parties. Another group learnt the stories of the theatrical and '**mischievous gay Delaval's**' who used to prank their guests at each soiree. Our third group headed down to the Basement, to learn and explore the foundations of the Delaval's wealth, which included **coal, glass and shipping**. They also got to experience some of the original pieces from the Delaval household which they included in their presentations.

We spent two days at Seaton Delaval Hall and invited some **local families** to come along to be shown around and educated by our Young Leaders from what they had learnt.

Our Young Leaders then also **performed** their stage show to our visiting families as well and telling them about each room in the house and playing games with the children. This included a competition between the children who could erect the highest structure with some stone blocks.

The staff and volunteers were **very impressed** with all the knowledge the Leaders picked up during their time and commented on the great smaller details they had picked up about the Hall and the family – which typically takes volunteers years to host a tour themselves!



Young Leader Half Term Activity



Guided Tour by Young Leaders



Young Leader Half Term Activity

NORTHUMBERLAND HOLIDAY PROVISION

Northumberland
Holiday Provision
...whether it rains or shines!

Leading Link are the strategic partner for Northumberland County Council and manage the HAF (Holiday, Activities and Food programme) branded as Northumberland Holiday Provision.

In its third year now the programme has gone from strength to strength and has worked hard to develop relationships with children, young people and families across Northumberland and together with over **60 partner organisations** has delivered over **108,000 hours** of provision over the Winter, Easter and Summer holidays during 2023 alone.

Lottery funding, via NECPT has been key to supporting many local organisations receiving training on aspects such as **Safeguarding, First Aid, Food Hygiene** and also **DBS checks** - all to make sure the sessions they are conducted to high standards in safe, secure and happy environments.

The Young Leaders Programme has been an integral part of the development of HAF in Northumberland as Young Leaders are encouraged and supported to help out at the camps. We have **42 Young Leaders** helping out at Summer Camps alone in South East Northumberland and it has become a highlight for them and is a big part of the focus and build up their plans for the year.

By giving young people an opportunity to enhance their skillset, focus on the future and widen their contacts network to both their peers, the public and other partner organisations we have seen opportunities arrive for paid work and apprenticeships as well as continued volunteering within their networks.

Over the last **3 years** Young Leaders have given up of **12096 hours** of their time to support HAF summer camps alone! They chose to give up their summer holidays and support the camps in their areas.



Young Leaders supporting a Summer Camp

NORTHUMBERLAND HOLIDAY PROVISION

Northumberland
Holiday Provision
...whether it rains or shines!

During Winter and Easter holiday periods many Young Leaders supported the show tour that was laid on for children and families. The show itself was provided by the amazing team at Q20 Events and was specifically designed for our audiences Northumberland.

10 Young Leaders per day would accompany us on a panto tour across Northumberland covering **8 venues in 4 days** and would serve the food, sort the tickets and seats / tables and give out goodie bags - looking after around **1000 people** per show week including **16 page work books** for the children attending, all themed to the show.

7am starts but very happy memories and all possible because of the training they have had and the real life experiences put before them - and they relish it!

Workbooks have always been a well received addition to our events and after school provision. Our first workbook was a Christmas activity book to support our Christmas events and panto tour. There were Christmas puzzles, colouring pages, quizzes and more! This provided around 16 hours of activities children could complete at home during their school holidays.

Next, our summer workbook went out to the North of Tyne schools and families to begin with, then onto children at HAF funded camps. This included an additional **20+ hours of activities** for children to complete during their Summer, such as bug hunting, games to play with your family, sports challenges and arts and crafts projects and getting '**school ready**' ahead of September.

Our most recent workbook was to support the 'Justin-Credible Super Show' tour over winter. This workbook incorporated all the characters involved in the show promoting a healthy lifestyle, exercise and games with an additional **16 hours of activities** to complete at home - which also led into our partnership working with oral health. All children who attended received a workbook and a **teeth cleaning pack** which included toothbrushes, toothpaste and a 'teeth timer' so children were able to learn about taking care of their teeth. We were able to supply **500 packs** to children and their families.



Peter Pan Show Tour



The masked Young Leaders

HAF PLUS CONFERENCE

Local Young Leaders but on a National Scale!

In February of 2024 a conference was hosted by Northumberland and Gateshead council to celebrate the achievements and developments of the **HAF Plus** programme. HAF Plus is a term developed as a focus on teenagers who were not benefiting from the HAF Funding.

Back in 2022 a Teen Sprint was designed across 4 areas of the UK where young people came together to co-create and discuss how their peers could be engaged more in the scheme, led by Prof Greta Defeyter, Director of the Healthy Living Lab at Northumbria University

The Conference was held at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Arts and has just under 100 delegates from across the UK. There was representation from the **Mayors Fund for London**, and **Street Games** from Birmingham together with **Gateshead** and **Northumberland**.

Our Young Leaders were involved in the set up for the day, looked after registration and were involved in the presentations on the day, together with their peers from Gateshead.

Our Young Leader, Lucas, even opened proceedings to welcome everyone to the day.

Their professionalism, passion and enthusiasm shone through on the day.

One of many amazing outcomes...

The impact of our young people attending and being involved in these events certainly rang through, as one of Young Leaders, Josh, was then invited to speak at a Zoom meeting with the DfE's Permanent Secretary, Head of Ofsted and other senior people across different parts of the education sector.

Obviously, Josh was brilliant on the call!



Lucas welcoming delegates



Young Leader's Presenting



Young People at Conference



Lucas and Josh

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

Acknowledging and understanding the need to celebrate achievement



Celebration event at Air Box, Cramlington

Celebrating achievements is key to a healthy life.

Could be something small or a huge deal - we all need to feel that sense of achievement and understand how it feels to be valued.

We've learnt that Young People often feel frowned upon, looked down on and in many cases blamed for things, that simply, are nothing to do with them and this can have a huge effect on both mental and physical health as well as motivation to achieve or succeed.

Celebrating our Young Leaders brilliant efforts, achievements and value is massively important to both them and us, as it gives a sense of pride and belonging - which is a big part of what we try to achieve at Leading Link.

It doesn't have to be massively expensive, wild and ostentatious and can be something as simple as little gathering, a pat on the back, a well done or of course a collective trip out or experience. **Pizza parties**, in our own pizza oven where the Young Leaders can relax and socialise in a safe environment, **a trip to the beach** with an ice cream, an afternoon of **ten pin bowling** or trip to an **escape room** - means something to all, and a lot to many.

Young Leaders can, if they wish, record their hours working on the various projects in their own record book and they are really proud of themselves and their peers.



Bowling trip



We launched our Young Leader record book in Easter of 2023 and many Young Leaders have recorded over 250 hours of activities already.

Every hour they volunteer, train, deliver projects gets recorded

5667 hours of Young Leadership in one year!

Something they (and we!) can be very proud of themselves!

A lot of work goes into supporting young people and their families within the community - to ensure they have the support, facilities and resources they need.

- First Aid Training
- Safeguarding Courses
- DBS Checks

Its about getting the basics right!

HOW DID WE SUPPORT COMMUNITY PROJECTS?

Resources with a meaning...

- In 2021 we purchased a range of resources that were designed to be used by community groups in the area.
- We developed an **event pack** that included all key aspects that would be need for a local community event and contained everything from laminators, to cable ties and from blank bunting to **tables and chairs** - these proved to be so beneficial to so many different groups and organisations.
- In total there were **25 6m x 3m gazebos** purchased for community use - they have been loaned out to groups doing outdoor events mainly during the pandemic - so when the indoors became the outdoors! Once out of the pandemic these were used for **carnivals, street fairs and local fund raising activities**. As a shared resource that are expensive to purchase / hire this was a great way to support the community.
- We purchased **10 outdoor sound systems with microphones and speakers** so that to event organisers could be heard and music could be played to entertain the children whilst doing their activities. The impact of this equipment has made such a difference to the events and the young people taking part in them, as well as supporting the organisers with often aspects that had not been considered before.



Community Event at Blyth Carnival

HIGHLIGHTS

Increase in Young Leaders in Northumberland
from 32 - 113

Increase in Young Leaders in North of Tyne area
from 0 - 28

Number of young people trained in Health &
Safety, Risk Assessment and Food Hygiene
211

Residentials Stats

168 young people attended
756 days of activity
10584 hours attended

After School Club Stats

5 After School Clubs
26 Young Leaders
29 Weeks of clubs
115 children attending


Summer Camp Stats

48 days
42 Young Leaders
12096 hours of delivery

Children's Workbooks

3000 workbooks
16 hours of activities per workbook

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 North East
Child Poverty Trust

 **COMMUNITY**
FUND