

THE YOUTH ASSOCIATION

“Rebuilding the status of
Youth Work as an
attractive profession and
career pathway”



Dmitry Fedotov
Operations Director, The Youth Association

Recent context I

Austerity

- Public spending cuts
 - Cuts to youth services
- Riots
- Youth centres closures 2010-2015

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Youth services suffer 70% funding cut in less than a decade

Parts of England and Wales receive nothing from local government, YMCA reveals



▲ Cuts to local authority spending on youth services led to the loss of 750 youth centres, the YMCA said.
Photograph: Matt Cardy/Getty Images



from 2011 The Guardian

Recent context II

The pandemic

How we have kept youth work going during the COVID-19 pandemic

COMMENT 28.01.21 BY NAHIM AHMED

Throughout the pandemic, *Nahim Ahmed* has continued to do 'detached' youth work – going to where young people are, rather than based out of a youth centre. The past 10 months have only shown how valuable this approach can be, he explains



Spotlight staff Rizwan Ahmed (left) and Inan Ali (right) carrying out detached youth work in Langdon Park, Tower Hamlets during the coronavirus pandemic



UK YOUTH

The impact of Covid-19 on England's youth organisations

► Covid-19 restrictions have led to the need to adapt or reduce and discontinue

As expected, government restrictions put in place to manage the pandemic, such as lockdowns, social distancing, and limitations to the number of people that can meet, have significantly impacted youth services. 97% of youth organisations report that their services required adaptation if they were to continue. Whilst youth workers acknowledge that some provision cannot be substituted, the need to offer support whilst normal services are unavailable has sparked innovation within the sector. The most significant modifications that youth organisations have made include moving to digital delivery, outdoor activity, and detached youth work, as well as ensuring their services are Covid-secure. Additionally, youth organisations have introduced further training to enable youth workers to deal with new and exacerbated issues experienced by young people during the pandemic. They also report greater partnership-working with charities, local community, parents, and other youth services. Together, they have been better equipped to provide, signpost, and refer young people to appropriate provision. **However, many youth organisations report that their efforts to adapt have been stunted by limited access to funding and staff time.** Consequently, many services with the potential to be adapted have been suspended, or offer far fewer places, eliminating vital support for many young people. As one youth worker explained:



The young people we work with lost these services overnight.



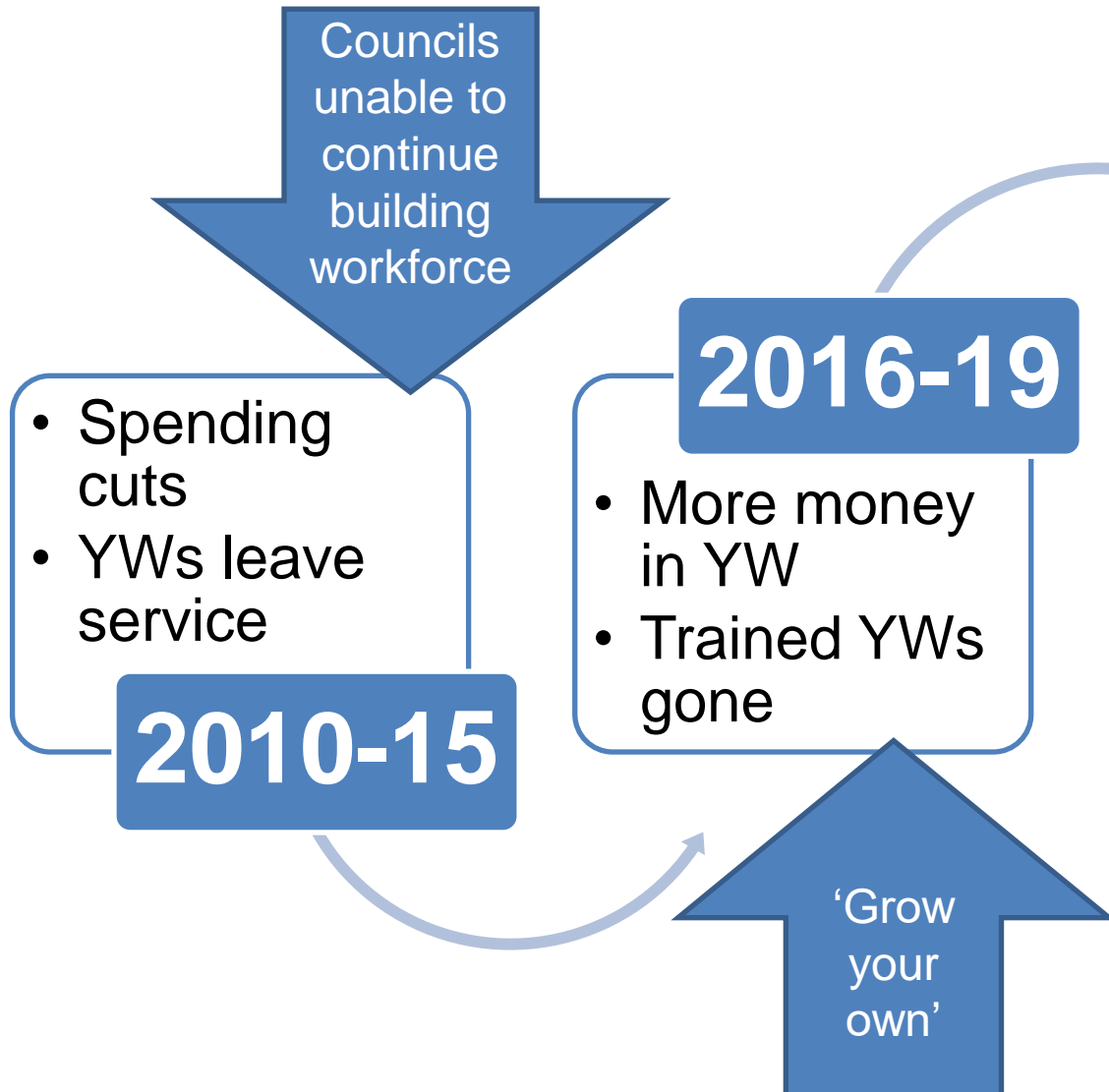
Youth work, funding & workforce

Councils
unable to
continue
building
workforce

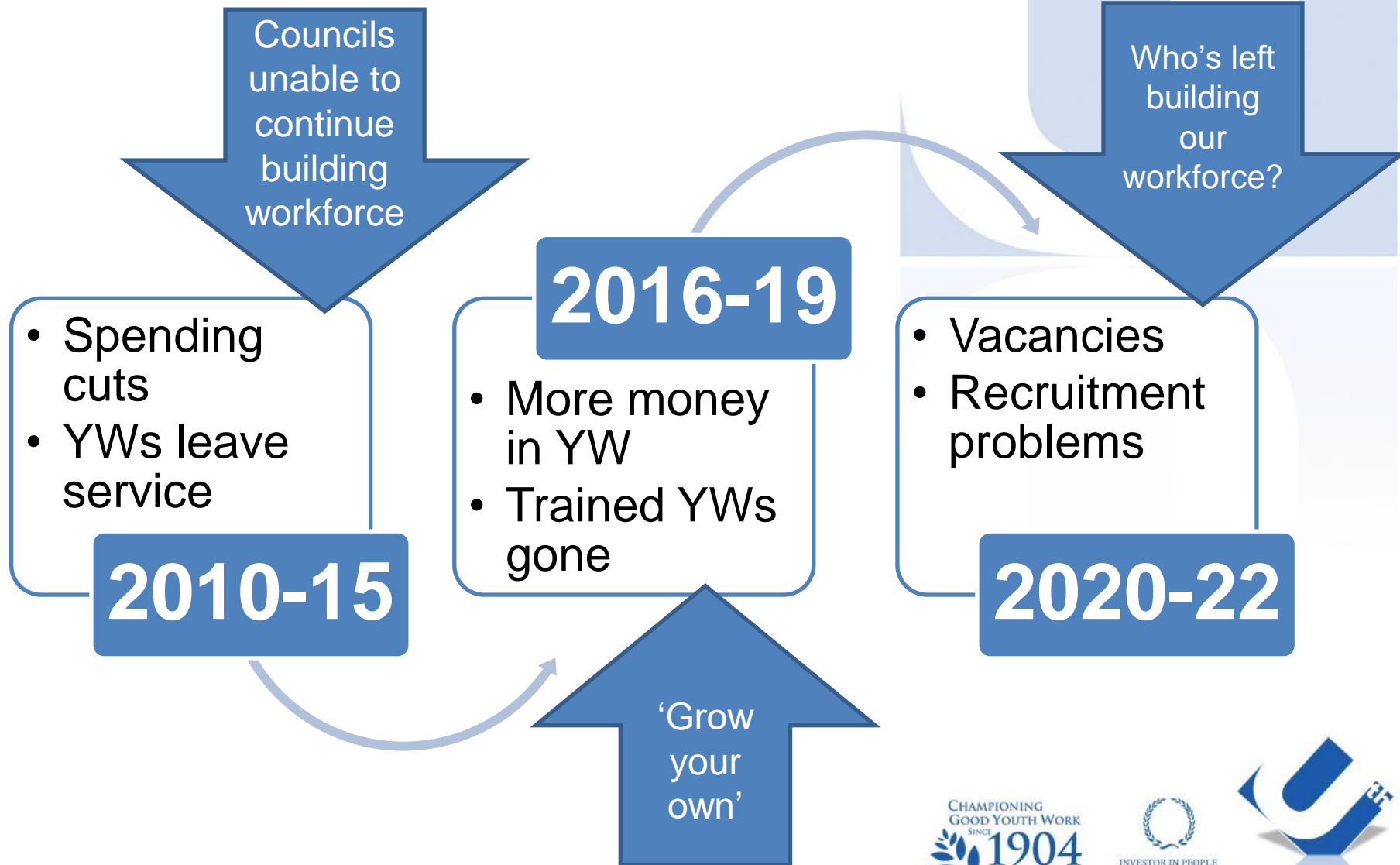
- Spending cuts
- YWs leave service

2010-15

Youth work, funding & workforce

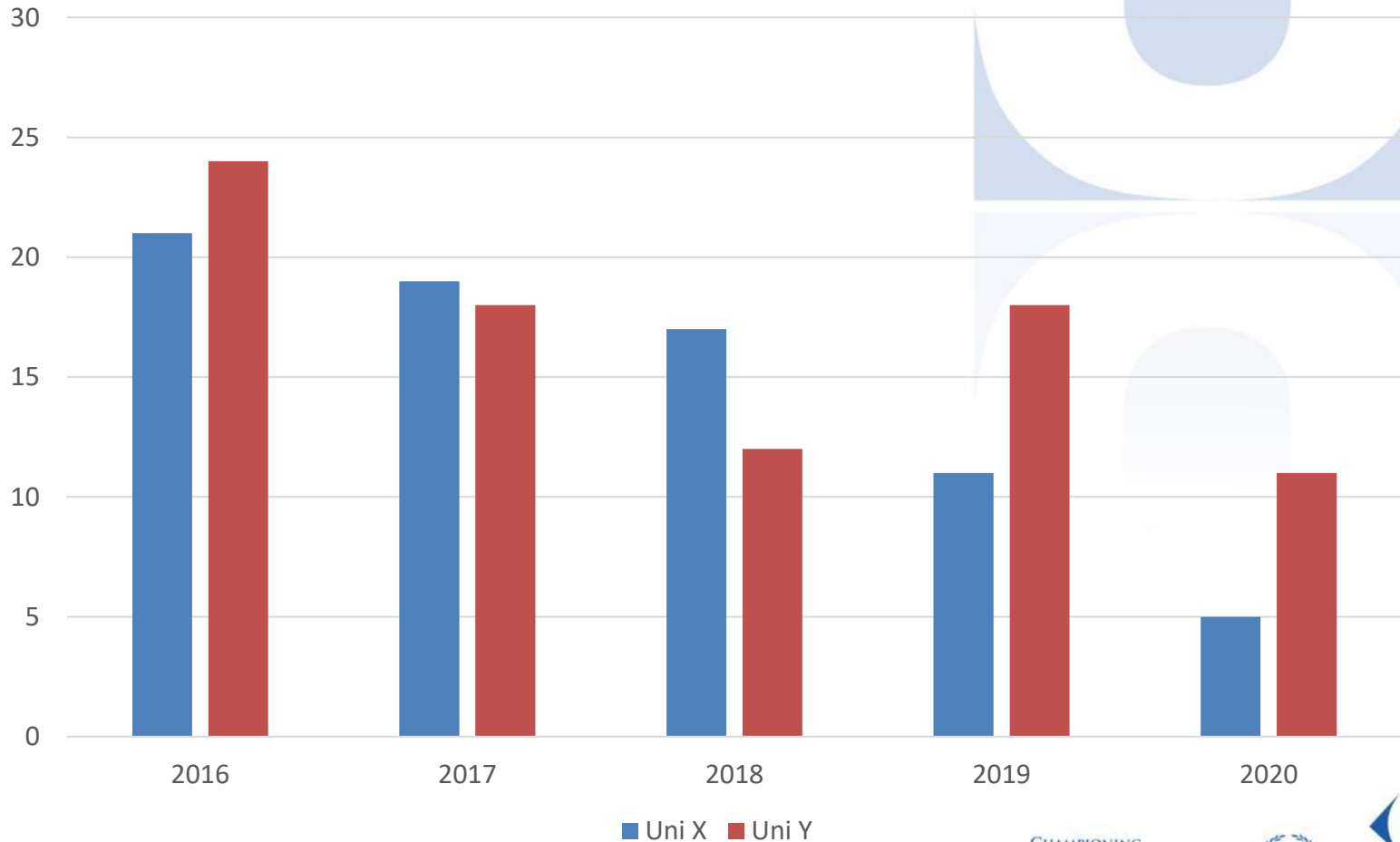


Youth work, funding & workforce



Youth work, funding & workforce

BA Y&CW student enrolments: two universities in Y&H



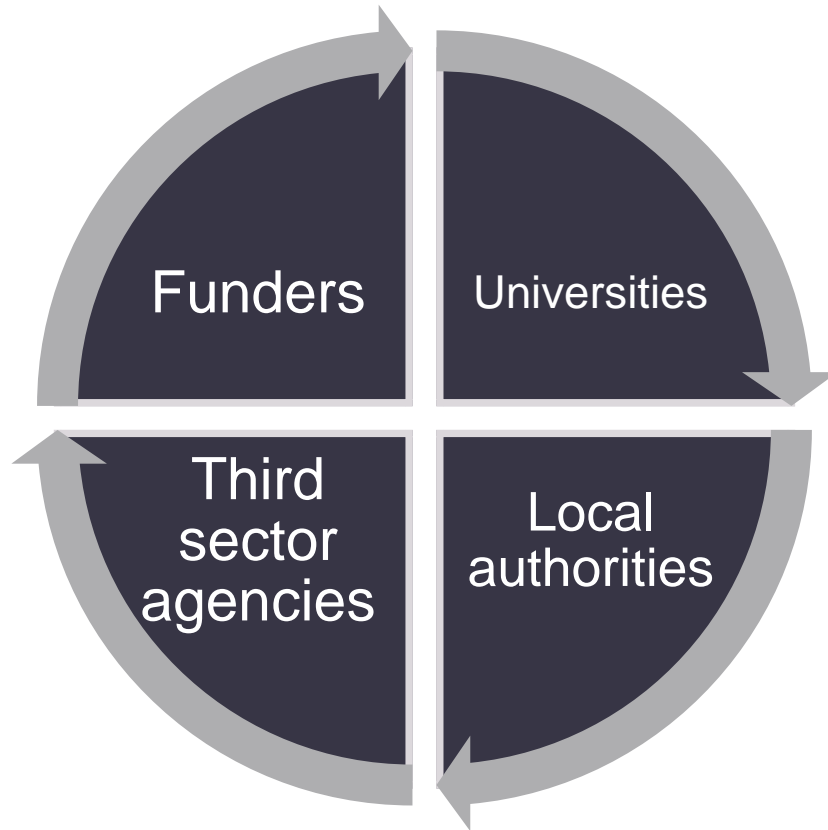
Youth work as an attractive career pathway

Jobs available – trainees needed!

- Helping young people improve their lives
- Working with young people in their peer groups, delivering challenging and developmental activities
- Working in a range of settings, e.g., youth clubs, sports projects, creative arts groups and on the streets



Working together to promote our profession



Youth work as an attractive career pathway

Local 'community champions'

- Often not working in Youth and Community profession
- Often motivated by helping community
- Often (not always) have more life experience

'Career builders'

- Often motivated by building a profession/career
- Building CVs
- School/college leavers, university students

Related professionals

- Working in related professions
- Sideways move into youth work



Youth work careers & training

Youth Work Career & Training Pathway

Youth Work is a fantastic career. You will find Youth Workers supporting young people in a variety of settings and services. The one thing that unites them is the belief and use of the underlying principles and practices of Youth Work.

STARTING OUT

Lots of people, (including young people) start their Youth Work career as a volunteer, or a part-time assistant and as they gain more experience and training they progress.

JNC

Youth Work is a distinct profession, it's qualifications are endorsed by the 'Joint Negotiation Committee' (JNC) - made up of employers and unions. Responsibility for validating courses and ensuring quality is delegated via the National Youth Agency to the Youth Work English Education Standards Committee (ETS), an independent body made up of representatives of the sector

If a qualification doesn't say its JNC it's not youth work

Level 1 Introduction
covering the very basics with a focus on key principles and practices

Level 2 Award
the foundation units for the Certificate and Diploma - for individuals assisting in youth work delivery.

Level 2 Certificate
demonstrating practice for the role of an assistant youth support worker.

TRAINING

Youth Work Qualifications and training are often linked to levels of responsibilities outlined in youth work job descriptions and pay

Level 2 is for individuals who assist in youth projects - similar to a school playground assistant
Training content builds on knowledge and understanding from the L2 Award as individuals progress

and consequently won't be recognised as such on job applications.

APPRENTICESHIPS

the Level 3 Apprenticeship is the equivalent of the Level 3 Diploma

PROGRESSION

If a person successfully completes their level 3 qualification they are eligible to apply for entry onto a degree programme and will have 'youth work' in the title

APPRENTICESHIP

DEGREE

the Level 6 apprenticeship in Youth Work is a BA Honours

Level 3 Certificate
demonstrating practice - for those working without direct supervision, who manage small scale provision or teams.

Level 3 Diploma
Building on the L3 certificate - for the role of Youth Support Worker.

Level 6 BA Honours Degree
for the role of professional qualified Youth Worker

Level 7 PGC or MA
conversion courses for those with degrees or other prior learning

Level 3 is for individuals who manage small scale provisions, teams or have specialist responsibilities - similar to a teaching assistant

Level 6 and above is for individuals who manage large scale or multiple provisions, teams or have specialist responsibilities. - equivalent to a teaching or social work degree

Once qualified there are lots of opportunities to continue your learning and career progression

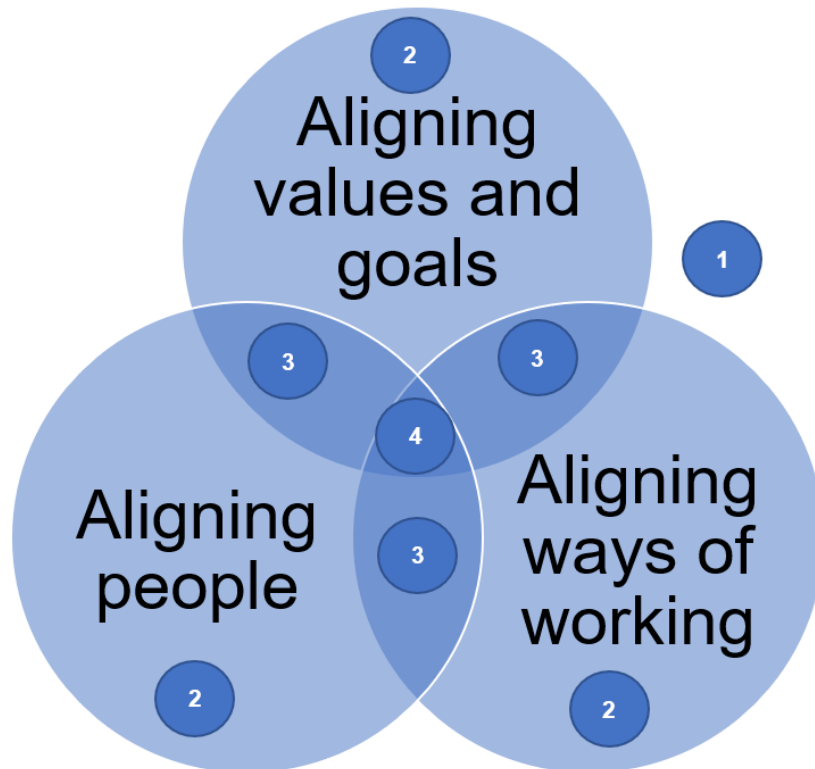
For more information:
theunit@youthworkunit.com



MBA: my recommendations on working with Grantmakers – alignment

Principle recommendation: ‘demonstrating alignment’

- Developing relationships with funders who already share their values, goals and practices... or adjusting practices to align more closely with funders
- Alignment reduces potential for funder dissatisfaction and creates a relationship where achievements are mutually beneficial.



1. Unfavourable conditions for trust and relationships
2. Some conditions for trust and relationships
3. Favourable conditions for trust and relationships
4. Very favourable conditions for trust and relationships

Keeping core YW values at the heart of regrowth

1. Voluntary participation
 - The right to walk away
2. A group/social experience
 - Recognising we're social creatures and the high priority YP put to their relationships with peers
 - Work with self-chosen friendship groups
3. Societal power balances
 - Acknowledging YP as victims of society's problems, not cause
 - Seeking to tip the balances of societal power in the favour of young people
4. Starting where young people are starting
 - A need for kids to pass exams or to reduce youth crime?
 - ... or wherever the young person is in their life right now?

