

Annual Report
2017/18

Northbourne in numbers



1360

Junior attendances



1886

Senior attendances



91

Additional young people engaged



72

Holiday activities offered



197

Number of individuals engaged



434

Number of sessions delivered

Welcome to our Annual Report

Director's comments

Steven Carney

With the redevelopment of the Northbourne estate this year, we have been afforded an incredible opportunity to expand our reach into the local community as well as benefit the young people of this area. We continue to pride ourselves on our commitment to 'supporting young people's development through activity and achievement.' It is one thing to discuss awards and accreditations, but what we consider equally if not more important at Northbourne are the soft outcomes of our young people, which, spearheaded by our staff, continue to grow.

Rachel, our manager, continues to guide the project in outstanding fashion in all aspects of what we do, supported by Kenny and Nicola, who ceaselessly deliver first class provision to our young people. Further to this, we have been supported by our European Voluntary Service (EVS) volunteers, Fatih and Chiara and Sarah a long term volunteer. Whom we thank for their support during their time here and wish them the best going forward

The challenge that we face every year never gets any smaller, and our continued success is a huge credit to all of Northbourne's stakeholders, our staff, our volunteer teams, and especially our funders who have continued to support us each year to achieve our objectives.

Youth worker comments

Nicola Mantalios-Thompson

I have been part of the Northbourne team for two years, my focus has predominantly been on wellbeing, the environment, social action, and community, I believe that I bring fun and creativity to the project. During my time here I have witnessed growth and change for the better! I believe one of the strengths of the project is its ability to adapt and change to the needs of the people attending. An example of this is the apparent rise in the community activities, this has brought families together forging friendships and helping to fuse a solid and friendly network around the neighbourhood.

Manager's comments

Rachel Martin

This year has been really busy at Northbourne, I have been here two years now and I feel right at home and I am really enjoying doing what we do. I very proud of what we have achieved this year as a project. The Project for pride awards in June of 2018 for me was one highlight of the year. Winning two awards was just an incredible achievement and goes to show hard work pays off, the competition was so strong as there were so many other worthy winners delivering projects for young people in the region.

Looking at our attendances over this year they are on the up and we hope to see more increases in the number of young people taking part in our activities in the coming years.

2019 will see more new sessions delivered by the request of our participants, as well as increased partnership projects benefiting not just young people but the wider community.

Youth worker comments

Kenny Lyon

As another year goes by and another successful year for the DofE, having completed a bronze, silver and gold expedition and more young people become engaged with the award. Also seeing another first for the project and myself, the Youth Exchange with Norway and Croatia. Whilst both were great experiences my highlight of the year, had to go to Eve who won the Volunteer of the Year Award through NE Youths Projects with Pride, it was really good to see all of Eve's hard work over the year being rewarded. Well done Eve!

Meet our staff and directors



Rachel

Occupation:
Youth Initiative Manager

Specialist skill:
Talking

What did you want to be
when you were growing up:
West End star

Favourite film:
Breakfast at Tiffany's



Steven

Occupation:
English Teacher/Director

Specialist skill:
I speak Italian

What did you want to be
when you were growing up:
I wanted to be a pilot

Did you attend a youth club:
Yes, this one!



Dillon

Occupation:
Barista/Coach/Director

Specialist skill:
Balloon modelling

The best thing about NYI:
The staff and the
opportunities it offers to
young people

Did you attend a youth club:
Yes for 14 years



Shanice

Occupation:
Retail Supervisor/Director

Specialist skill:
Cooking and baking

One piece of advice you'd
give a young person:
Find fun in everything you do

Did you attend a youth club:
Yes - Northbourne!



Jamie

Occupation:
MD/Director

Specialist skill:
Always being right

The best thing about NYI:
The range of opportunities
and clubs on offer

Favourite food:
Lasagne



David

Occupation:
Project Manager/Director

Specialist skill:
Leadership

The best thing about NYI:
Seeing the young children
develop in the environment

Favourite film:
Interstellar



Mohammed

Occupation:
Director of OpporTUNITY/
Director

Specialist skill:
Creation and innovation

One piece of advice you'd
give a young person:
Give it a go!

Favourite food:
Lamb and pumpkin curry



Nicola

Occupation:
Play and Youth Worker

Specialist skill:
Laughing extremely loudly

What did you want to be
when you were growing up:
Ballerina through the day and
a wrestler through the night

Favourite food:
Baileys ice cream



Brendon

Occupation:
MD/Engineer/Chairman

Specialist skill:
Urban cowboy

The best thing about NYI:
The provision of opportunities
which otherwise might not
exist for young people

Favourite film:
Shaw Shank Redemption



Kenny

Occupation:
Play and Youth Worker

Specialist skill:
Caring, Sensitive and
Approachable

The best thing about NYI:
We are one big family

One piece of advice you'd
give a young person:
Make the most of your life



Martin

Occupation:
Engineering/Treasurer

Specialist skill:
Mechanical Design

What did you want to be
when you were growing up:
Car Mechanic

Did you attend a youth club:
Cubs, Scouts, Football and
Basketball



Join Us

Occupation:
Volunteer

Specialist skill:
Engaging young people

Contact:
northbournestreetyi@gmail.com



Junior and inters activities

Junior activities for 8-13s are currently running three days per week, and each session takes on a different theme: football, adventure service challenge & project night. We also deliver inters activities for 11-14 years.

Each session develops naturally around the members' interests. Recently Thursdays have become a 'show and tell' session, where juniors bring in items which mean something to them. It's a time where they can tell others about things which are important to them. We have seen items from religions being shared, family items, foods, photographs and pets. We have met Spike the Pygmy Hedgehog, Phil the Tortoise and Buddy the Samoyed. In these sessions, young people have the chance to share something and practice those all important skills of listening and communicating. We encourage our juniors to speak openly about issues important to them and be heard by those around them.

For all junior and inters sessions, we embed opportunities for both learning and enjoyment.



John Muir and camping

The junior group participated in a campaign ran through the wildlife trust called '30 days of wild' each day they completed a challenge on a nature focussed task, some examples of the tasks included; meditate in nature, find a plant and sketch in close up, listen to the wildlife noises and write a poem. The juniors really enjoyed the project and expressed an interest in continuing to do something in a 'wild' place. To continue the theme, we introduced the John Muir Program into their activities, giving them more opportunities to be outdoors and explore, discover, conserve and share their findings.

The inters group as part of a social action project completed a stage 2 social action grant for £500 for the benefit of the junior group, this money was spent on a camping trip to Bromley Grange. Some of the young people hadn't camped before and some had never spent a night away from home. The activities were excellent for the young people's progression and personal development, many found that they faced fears (fear of the dark, heights and fire) and many tried things they didn't think they could do which helped build their confidence. During this trip, the juniors started their John Muir award.

So far the group have camped out, played hide and seek out in nature, collected pine cones and have made magic wands from sticks they found in the park. They will progress on to conserve a wild space of their choice, through litter picking. This award helps to educate young people to care for the environment around them and to preserve it for wildlife and other people to enjoy.



Social action

In recent times there has been a shift in available funding opportunities within the voluntary sector, there has been a significant emphasis on the pursuit of social action projects, this has steered our delivery here at Northbourne Youth Initiative.

We've completed a range of activities which are led by young people and are aimed at making a change for the better.

Some examples include, a recycling system has been introduced as young people were concerned we weren't really doing our bit to help the environment. We now separate all our rubbish and we are so surprised at the big difference this is making, it's certainly making everyone think before they throw their rubbish in the bin. Alongside this, our Junior members have been doing some litter picking in the back lanes and on their neighbourhood.

An example which should be talked about was the wellness weekend: In partnership with The Carers Trust, Northbourne's girls' group organised a weekend break for young carers with the emphasis on well-being and good mental health. This was awarded the Social Action Award of the Year through NE Youth's Projects with Pride ceremony. The selfless element of this allowed the girls to benefit another group in the community as well as make some lasting friendships and understand the needs of others. These are only two of the projects we have delivered and we continue to use social action as a way of addressing upcoming issues and working with the wider community.



Adventure Service Challenge Award (ASC)

At Northbourne, we regard the DofE award highly, so we like to try and prepare our younger group with the tools they will need to help them with this is the future if they chose to progress onto the senior groups. The award encompasses some interesting and worthwhile topics whilst exposing young people to multiple opportunities for skills development. Some of the sections include; Cooking, The living world & wildlife, Crafts, Community, Health and Volunteering.

The young people have completed the section on 'The Living World.' Some of the activities included; writing poetry inspired by nature as well as observing creepy crawlies and other animals in both the garden and the park. The 'Craft' section has also been completed, for this the young people made a personalised flag all about their identity, they also made a papier-mâché piñata. The group are currently partaking in litter picking for the 'Community aspect of the award. This is not only supports both the John Muir award and the ASC but it also has helped them realise the impact littering has on their neighbourhood, some of them, as an extra activity, made their own posters with environmental messages.

Although the sections of the award are fixed in category, there is a lot of flexibility within the award. The young people are able to choose the order in which the complete the sections and can collectively decide on specific activities. They shape their own award.



Inters sessions

Inters Sessions are our new addition to the program, we have been trialling the 11-14 years sessions as a way of providing a more age-appropriate session for those perhaps too old for juniors but not quite yet a senior. So far we have been able to use the time to introduce the members to 'The Key' framework and develop some important new skills. The summer saw them visit York and the Dungeons through a key project and also a beach trip rock-pooling. All ideas which came from the group themselves. The group is taking responsibility for advertising the new session among their friends and to people at school. There appears to be a growing need for provision for this age group, so watch this space as we start to develop more sessions in the year to come.



A photograph of a person wearing a large blue backpack and a blue jacket, hiking up a rocky path. The person is in the foreground, slightly out of focus, with their hand on a rock. The background shows a grassy hillside and some green foliage in the lower right. A large blue diagonal overlay covers the right side of the image, containing white text.

Senior activities

Three evenings per week we are delivering activities to young people 13-19 years. Still, a growing number of young people attend our Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme over a range of levels. The popularity of the award is still apparent in the area and the young people involved are keen to progress to the highest level. 15 young people are working towards Gold this year with completion of expedition elements set for Oct 2018.

Our Football & Girls group session run alongside each other and provide many opportunities for fun, learning & development. Alongside these focused sessions, regular weekly drop in sessions allow young people to come together and socialise in a relaxed and safe space. With a feeling of ownership young people can bring new ideas and focus to the sessions, staff support them to do this to ensure the sessions reflect those attending.

New sessions see a number of sub groups being developed around social action & entrepreneurial skills, the sessions reflect themes important to young people at the time.



Youth exchange February 2018

A new strand of work was welcomed to Northbourne's usually weekly timetable, we were offered an opportunity to take part in a youth exchange involving young people 13-19 from 3 countries; Norway, Croatia, and the UK. Each youth organisation recruited 8 young people and brought them to Newcastle for 8 days.

The exchange was a great learning experience for those involved on many levels, for some it may have been the longest time they have been away from home, there were language barriers in place but everyone found a way of coping and overcome the challenges. We talked about topics around tolerance, discrimination and culture and many young people built confidence to talk about difference in a way they had not done before. As well as the issue based sessions, there was plenty of fun to be had and lots of free time to socialise and build new friendships. The UK group showed the other young people the sights by creating a Metro Challenge around the North East, visiting coastal towns, monuments and landmarks.

Young people told us they learned a lot from the exchange and all were pleased they took part in the opportunity. Many of the young people surprised staff by their enthusiasm and interactions throughout the program. In feedback, they listed communication as the key skill developed closely followed by increased confidence. It was a new way of exposing young people to skills development and challenging their experiences. We hope to follow this up soon and take a group to a different country to further their learning and experiences. Young people have some very clear ideas on some new places they would like to visit.

Girls' group

Last year the girls' group focussed on planning a residential break in partnership with the carers trust. The theme was all around wellness of self and of others. This was something the girls highlighted as important to them. The group saw success at the Projects with Pride awards through NE Youth when they were chosen as 'The Social Action Project' of the year for the impact they had on others. This is a great achievement for the group who were very new to the notion of social action.

Still on the theme of health the group have been focusing on cooking and exercise. They have taken part in boot camps in the local park and indoor circuit classes, as a means of being active in a safe space. The girls continue to choose their own program of activities, this works to address any current needs or interests.

The attendance of the girls' group is slowly increasing with the introduction of the inters into the group. The group is becoming more focused on specific projects and using the Key Framework to achieve their goals and nurture key skills such as communication, planning and budgeting.





Tuesday football group

We successfully secured funding for senior members to have a regular weekly football session for the 12 months. Session are free to take part in and provide a weekly opportunity to be active and to keep healthy, meet new people and develop social skills as well feel the physical benefits.

Some of our participants told us that playing football every week helped them to relieve stress particularly during exam periods or at times when stress levels were high. The energy boost they get from football gives them a feel good factor which boosts their moods. Over the past 12 months, we have had 64 individuals attend the weekly session with an overall 588 attendances ranging from the age of 12 to 20.

We have had some young people who have shown an interest in becoming a referee or becoming a football coach, so this year we will be looking to push that forward and provide them with the opportunity to take part in courses to help them achieve this. Other potential ideas from young people include creating a Northbourne football team!

Going for GOLD

The Duke of Edinburgh gold group has been literally going for Gold this year. They have been busy embarking on a fundraising goal to help towards carrying out their expedition later in the year. They aimed to raise a total of £3000 towards costs and this has demanded lots of commitment and dedication from the group, as well as creativity to come up with the fundraising activities. A team of 15 young people and volunteers have supported this work to make it a success. Our gold group this year is one of our largest cohorts to take on this challenge.

A calendar of events were scheduled throughout this year in order to raise a their £3000 target. Some of the events included:

- Battle of the Bands @ Newcastle o2
- Morrisons Cowgate, bag pack
- Christmas markets
- Summer coffee mornings for local residents
- Comedy night at the Stand in Newcastle
- Sponsored hair shave
- NE Youths sponsored walk along Hadrian's Wall

The group managed to hit their target just in time for the gold practice expedition. Throughout their attempts each individual excelled in different areas, there were natural sales people in the group, good organisers and those who could communicate well with potential donors. Many had to balance busy lives with fulfilling their commitment to the fundraising activities. Each person worked to their strengths as well as developed other skills in more challenging areas.



Case studies

Armaan (14yrs)

HIS STORY

Armaan was 9 when he started attending Northbourne, he has always shown confidence and maturity, when he turned 13 Armaan got involved with the senior group and fitted in really well from the start and now attends 3 sessions a week.

Over the past year, Armaan has completed his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, took part in a Youth Exchange, where he impressed staff with his confidence and ability to work with and meet new people. He is always reliable and enthusiastic and from this he has grown as a person by meeting new people, making new friends, doing things for others.

What we hope for Armaan this year is that he continues to progress onto his Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award and to gain a coaching qualification and to improve his leadership skills.

Ellie M (12yrs)

HER STORY

Ellie has been attending the project for 4 years now and has continued to progress from the junior group into the inters group, Ellie also attends the Tuesday evening girls' group.

As she approached 11 years Ellie slowly began to outgrow the junior group, and she was pivotal in designing an 'inters' group for young people ages 11-14 years who are transitioning from junior school to senior school. The inters benefited from topical issue-based discussion steered by their experiences and questions, Ellie is very organised, passionate and committed to her group and the project. She has expressed interest in volunteering with the juniors as a peer mentor and we will support her into this role. Ellie often participates in consultation with the view to shaping the future projects.

Luis (9yrs)

HIS STORY

Luis joined straight after his eighth birthday and Luis comes along almost every night. Luis has been involved in a lot of projects here at Northbourne and has played a vital role in many including "Our Newcastle" and "30 days wild" in connection with the wildlife trust. Luis benefited from attending a weekly language session run by our EVS volunteers Chiara (Italy) and Fatih (Turkey) and he seemed to have a real flair for learning languages.

Luis is sometimes known as the little "town crier" if there is something exciting happening at the project Luis helps the staff spread the word and helps everyone find out all of the details! As a result of his 'announcements' we have had a number of new referrals come to join both the youth and community activities. Luis is always keen to get involved, to be a helper and is enthusiastic and ready to come up with new and exciting ideas for future projects.

Ellie P (14yrs)

HER STORY

Ellie started attending Northbourne when she was 8 years old, Ellie now 14 had the opportunity to get involved in a youth exchange programme where she had to live with a group of young people from Norway and Croatia for 1 week, this was a challenge for Ellie as she had not done anything like this before. She was expected to share a room with people she did not know and whose first language was not English. By getting involved in the youth exchange, Ellie has grown as a person and become more confident in herself. She has broadened her horizons, learned new skills to deal with new situations, made new friends and most of all had fun doing all of this.

The year ahead for Ellie, we hope she will complete her bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, She is a regular member of the girls' group and we will support her to develop vital skills and become a role model for the younger members of the group and lead by example.

Zain (20yrs)

HIS STORY

During Zain's time at Northbourne, he has been able to further develop his skills as he worked his way through his Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards. As well as attending the youth sessions Zain has taken the time to help others by assisting them in their studies and with revision for exams. Currently studying Law at University Zain's involvement in the project reduced in order to allow him to focus on his studies.

Zain has recently re-engaged with the project on a number of levels. During the summer he supported a number of the summer activities and worked with our junior participants in a volunteering role, and also he has come up with some great ideas for future projects around giving young people a voice. Zain has been working on new ideas for the program and is currently applying for funding for a digital project for Northbourne and young people in the local area. With this project, there are multiple opportunities for Zain to continue to volunteer and further develop his skills.

Kenzie (9yrs)

HIS STORY

Kenzie is one of our junior members and he lives on the Northbourne estate, just down the street. He's 9 now and joined us at 8 when he moved into the area. Kenzie seems to have really settled into a routine with us at our junior clubs. Kenzie is a very regular attendee coming along to the club 3-4 times per week. Over time he has gained a lot of confidence in the sessions, starting off shy and now having a lot to say about almost everything. He's keen to share stories and tell others about his experiences.

His mam Natasha has added "The club has given Kenzie encouragement to start mixing with other children and he has gained confidence since he started going last year"

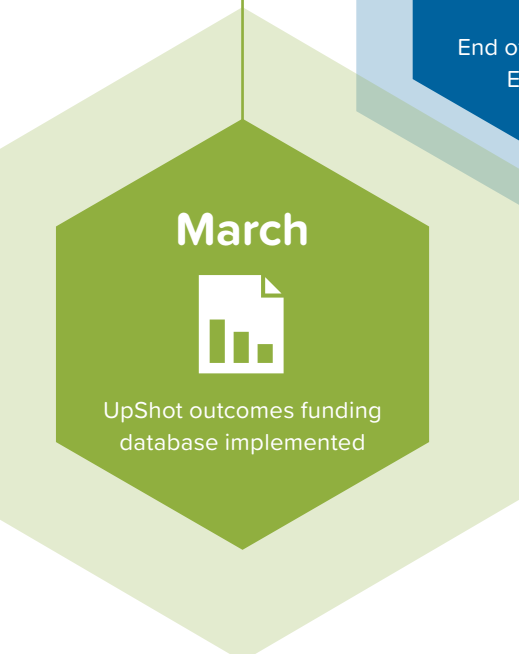
Moving forward we can see Kenzie being involved with the club for many years to come, and starting from a young age we are getting to know him better and learn about his interests, which will help us encourage him to further engage in any new opportunities which may arise.

A Year of achievement





Aug 2018



Testimonials

From parents, community members & young people.



"Northbourne is like a family, it doesn't matter where you come from or how long you have attended. Each person is made to feel welcome every time, even my extended family when visiting from down South. I am proud to say I have been part of the summer."



"It's rare to find a place that can accommodate and welcome such a wide range of people. The staff manages this and we want to continue to support them to help the community."



The Northbourne youth initiative team is fantastic. My time with the team has always been a memorable one. From walking as part of fundraising to actually completing both my bronze and silver D of E has been an exciting journey. The staff are more than happy to give help and support all the time. Young or old, writing a CV to explain the pros and cons of moving out for uni; they are happy to give the right guidance and advice. I have without realising gained skills such as communication which has shaped me to become a lot more confident. They also encourage individuals to come along no matter how long we been away for, which I love. It is almost as if it is a big family :) Without a doubt, I would recommend more youngsters to be part of the team



My children love going they have made lots of new friends and learned lots of new skills along the way x



We are new to the area and to find this place, it is a hidden gem! Many of the children come from the next two streets, so its great to allow the children to get to know each other and to be safe and spend time together. I know they will be safe at Northbourne.



I've been attending Northbourne since 2015, in order to partake in the Duke of Edinburgh awards. Initially, I was convinced I would only join Northbourne for the aforementioned sole reason, though I inevitably yielded and began taking part in numerous activities the club including key-funds and residential trips. I think this is mostly due to the excellent staff, who provide support to all young people and show a real dedication and passion for their roles. From my perspective, I see no significant issues. Personally, it is sometimes difficult to travel to Northbourne, since I live almost 7 miles away.



I found out about the club through a friend and everything they said was true. Some of the things my son has taken part in our beyond our dreams.



"The football session is great on a Tuesday, the staff are very helpful throughout the community, they do several activities through the school holidays like trips, they offer good support to young people with stuff like learning struggles, offer a range of things to do within the building like pool, a PlayStation and PC's

And our survey said...



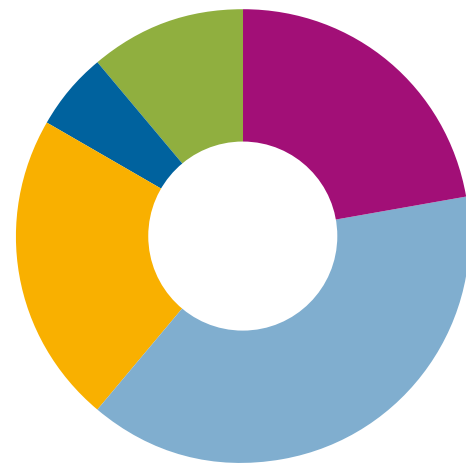
Junior survey results:
My favourite summer activity was:

- Camping
- Family trips
- St James Park
- Canoeing
- Other



Junior survey results:
In future sessions I would like to:

- Make slime
- Play football
- Raise money for charity
- Cook
- Arts & crafts



Community survey results:
Northbourne's activities allowed me to:

- Build confidence
- Make new friends and meet new people
- Improve my child's interaction with others
- Visit new places
- Other





Senior survey results:
Northbourne has helped me too:

- Increase confidence
- Make new friends
- Gain an award
- Develop a skill
- Feel part of something
- Voice my opinion
- Have fun
- Other



Northbourne Youth Initiative
105 James Street, Elswick, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7RP
Charity Number: 1139235
Company Number: 07398880

Email: northbournestreetyi@gmail.com
Call: 0191 272 3384
www.northbourneyi.org

 @Northbourneyi
 northbourne_youth_initiative

Northbourne Youth Initiative would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us during this 12 month period. We are always grateful to our supporters, both continued and new. It goes without saying that the work we do could not be achieved without the kind donations and grants which we receive. Our thanks go to you all, some of our supporters include; J H Burn Charity Trust, The Key, St Hilda's, Nissan, Tynexe, DWF Foundation, Newcastle Building Society, Newcastle City Council-Ward funding, Reece Group, Hadrian Trust, Sir James Knott, Garfield Western and the many Tyne and wear Community Foundation funds who have supported the work which we do. No matter how big or small the donation, it's all put to good use, benefiting the children & young people we work with.

