

Youth Vibe 2019 – 2020 Report



What is Youth Vibe?

Deafness Support Network's Youth Service, Youth Vibe provides opportunities and activities for young people aged 8-19 years linked to D/deafness across Cheshire. D/deaf; hearing impaired; friends and siblings of; or Children of D/deaf Adults (CODA). We also support young deaf adults up to 25 years taking them on as young volunteers, supporting them to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Our current Youth Vibe delivery model is made up of 3 areas of work: Accessible youth activities for D/deaf young people 8-19 years; A young leaders programme for young people aged 13-25 years and Deaf Awareness Workshops for the community.

Please join us in reflecting back on the past year in this document with text, photos and links in blue to short films that we produced throughout the year.



A year in brief...

In the financial year 2019-20, Youth Vibe has never been busier. This year we launched a new branch of Youth Vibe in Crewe which has proven to be a great success, engaging Young Deaf Adults to support our younger children in activities. Chester Youth Vibe continued to grow and develop with a vibrant group of young leaders planning and supporting staff to deliver a range of activities for the younger children. In November 2019 we received great recognition of our success by being shortlisted for a National Youth Charity of the Year Award.



Our membership database now includes 101 Children and Young people from Cheshire and surrounding areas with 20 – 30 attending each week. This figure includes 66 young people that are Deaf or Hearing impaired, 5 Children of Deaf Adults and 30 hearing friends and siblings. The communication methods of this cohort are 20 of these Young people are BSL, 14 Speech and sign, 2 Signed Supported English and 65 speech.

Our Young leaders and Duke of Edinburgh's programme continues to develop with 9 Young leaders achieving their Bronze this year. Many of those are now working towards their Silver level alongside our new Young leaders working towards their Bronze. We have 19 Young leaders Cheshire Wide actively working towards either their Bronze or Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

In both Chester and Crewe, the Young leaders have been fully involved with planning the Youth Club's weekly sessions for the younger Youth Vibe members. These sessions have been a mixture of fun social activities, developmental sessions and building confidence as a deaf young person. They have completed online safety sessions,

Team challenges, virtual reality activities, travel training, family bowling nights and cooking skills all supported by our Youth Support & Communication Workers.

Throughout 2019-20 our Young leaders have delivered 15 workshops and were part of 11 community events all aiming to raise Deaf Awareness across Cheshire. In total they had direct impact with 856 members of the public. It is unknown the indirect ongoing impact this has had in the wider Cheshire community. Services and communities that they engaged with included ITV Granada Reports, The Story house in Chester, NHS, Crewe Pride, and lots more.

What did we pack into each Month?

In April...

- We launched the second phase of our Deaf Awareness Workshops across Cheshire.
- Our Young people raised funds for 'Comic relief' by organising a talent show within Youth Vibe. <https://youtu.be/gS8MIFxA1Q>
- This month Youth Vibe also...went to crazy golf, had Easter fun relaxed with a Movie night.



In May...

- Our new Crewe Youth Service was launched. We consulted with a group of ex Youth Vibe members and asked them what their thoughts were for developing a service in Crewe. By the end of May we had a venue, activity timetable for 8 – 19year olds and a Young leaders programme Duke of Edinburgh programme laid out.
- Our Young people were challenged to teach 50 people to fingerspell their names in one night to promote Deaf awareness week. They taught 74 people including John Lewis staff, Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Starbucks! <https://youtu.be/aVdopW99nuw>
- This month Youth Vibe also... went Go-karting, completed online safety sessions, delivered Deaf Awareness Workshops, and took part in team building sessions.

In June...

- Our Young leaders began their training for their Cycling expedition, testing out different mobility bikes. The rest of Youth Vibe were involved with the cycling sessions too.



- Crewe Youth Vibe were part of the parade and hosted a stall promoting Deaf Awareness at Crewe Pride!



- Crewe Young leaders team met for the first monthly planning session in Costa coffee and designed a great timetable together.
- Our Crewe Youth Vibe was launched at Jubilee house in Crewe with Pizza and Arts and crafts.
- This month Youth Vibe also... did clip and climbing sessions, travel training, a Cheshire wide visit to Chester Zoo and regular Youth club nights.

In July...



- In the Summer of 2019 we extended our Deaf Awareness Workshop to ITV Granada reports where our Young leaders gave a presentation on Deaf awareness top tips and then taught some of the staff to sign their names.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oveLx8GqXbg&t=56s>
- Our Chester Duke of Edinburgh group completed a weekend training session, learning first aid how to put up a tent, bike maintenance and team building. By the end they were ready for their Bronze expedition.
- This month Youth Vibe also... had chill out and chat nights, Trampoline sessions, a Youth Vibe family Picnic, and a family Crazy golf session.

In August...

- Our Duke of Edinburgh group cycled 38 miles on their expedition, camping overnight in tents in a Youth Centre, and working amazingly as a team together.



- Youth Vibe hosted their biggest 2 night residential ever!! 28 Young people linked to Deafness from across Cheshire,



many of whom had never been away from home before. They took part in outdoor pursuits, climbing, building fires, and tackling obstacle

courses. Youth Vibe residential Video can be seen here <https://youtu.be/YlmggyATIN8>

- This month Youth Vibe also... supported a family fun day at Wepre Park and took a day trip to Liverpool on the train.

In September...

- In September 2019 we attended the Cheshire West Youth Awards. Our Young people performed a signed song at the event making us all very proud.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_iZ9jknKTCc
- This month Youth Vibe also... had a chill out and chat session, Origami sessions, Young leaders first aid training, and trampolines fun!



In October...

- We hosted our annual Youth Vibe Awards night. Lise McNally from Granada reports presented our Youth Star Awards and our Young leaders received their Bronze DofE Awards.



- Our Crewe Young leaders began Badminton sessions to improve their independence but also to count towards their Physical section of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.
- Crewe Youth Vibe made a D/deaf aware scarecrow that was displayed at Jubilee House in Crewe.
- This month Youth Vibe also... took part in Pizza and information sessions, Manga Drawing, Halloween parties, Team challenges and an Improving independence night.

In November...

- Youth Vibe were finalists for the Youth Charity of the Year at the [Children and Young People Now Awards](#). A few staff got dressed up and attended a presentation in London, sadly we did not win but the experience was amazing!!



- The day before the above event, one of our Young leaders had a day's work experience with Granada Reports ITV and produced [this News item](#).



- This month Youth Vibe also... had fun bowling, experienced Virtual reality sessions, did a Youth Vibe Bake off, Superheroes sessions and

made Christmas presents for their family.

In December...

- We launched a great piece of partnership work with The Story house, with our Young people delivering 2 Deaf Awareness Workshops in addition to our staff supporting Santa deliver a BSL friendly story time session.
- This month Youth Vibe also... had a Christmas Party, Family Bowling night and Christmas walk round Chester!



In January...

- The Storyhouse provided Youth Vibe with subsidised tickets to watch the signed performance of Peter Pan. For some Young people this was their first theatre performance.
- Our Crewe Young people began their Online food Safety training.
- We began a project with a group of theatre students from The Hammond School in Chester looking to improve Deaf Awareness in Theatres.
- This month Youth Vibe also... had planning sessions, celebrated Chinese New Year, and relaxed at Chill out and chat sessions.

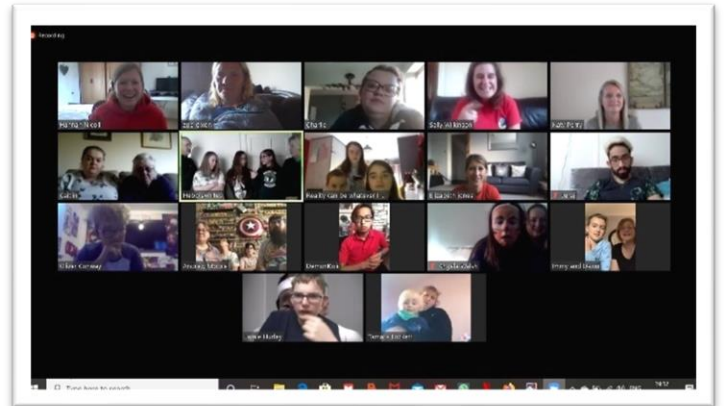
In February...

- We launched our new “Youth Vibe Matters” Project, for Young leaders to have their say on wider issues within Youth Vibe, planning and budgeting activities throughout the year.
- Our Young people delivered the final 2 Deaf Awareness Workshops of the year to scouts groups.
- 2 of our Young leaders were successful in gaining apprenticeships with a Young Curators programme with Manchester Deaf Centre.
- Our Young leaders supported an intergenerational Project teaching Deaf Adults origami.
- This month Youth Vibe also... experienced virtual reality sessions, made pancakes and celebrated Valentine's day.



In March...

- We joined in partnership with The Boaty Youth theatre project to complement their play with a signed song. Our older Young people took part in rehearsals and practiced hard. They loved every minute of the amazing opportunity and enjoyed socialising with the other groups, raising deaf awareness along the way. The play was due to open at the end of May at The Story house, unfortunately COVID-19 stopped those plans.
- Youth Vibe managed to squeeze in a pool tournament and food tasting night before Isolation rules hit us all.
- Since the lockdown we have moved to online video calls. For those that want to join in, these are a great tool for communication and quite often the only conversation the young people may have had in BSL that week.



What next?

- Chester and Crewe Youth Vibe Youth clubs will continue once government guidance says it is safe to do so. We will be looking at how we need to adapt our delivery to make sure everyone is safe.
- We will be continuing to support our Young leaders programme and hope to successfully support more young deaf adults to complete their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.
- The new Youth Vibe matters forum in both Chester and Crewe will be extremely valuable for our Young leaders to have their say and perhaps review what is important to them in the new society they live in after Lockdown.

Just a few extra photos...





