



UK Youth's Youth Achievement Awards National Conference took place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008 to Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at the Chancellors Hotel and Conference Centre in Manchester. The objective of the conference was to focus on Accreditation and the Youth Achievement Awards within Informal and Non-formal Education. The target audience for the conference was practitioners, development officers and managers involved in delivering accreditation opportunities to the young people within their network.

The conference was attended by 51 delegates and 7 staff. The delegate list can be found in Appendix 1. There was an option to attend a pre-conference Introduction to Youth Challenges and Youth Achievement Awards training day on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2008 - this was attended by 14 delegates. During the plenary session, Dr Tony Chapman and his colleagues from the Social Futures Institute gave a presentation on the research project that they are currently working on which focuses on 'The Impact of UK Youth's Youth Achievement Awards upon young people's perceptions of positive life choices'. Honor Wilson-Fletcher from the National Year of Reading gave a presentation on 'Reading for your Rights' and spoke about how reading can be used to change young people lives.

This conference offered delegates 2 workshops from a choice of 4, networking opportunities, and discussion forums. At the conference, delegates had an opportunity to take part in a carousel activity to find out about development within the Youth Achievement Awards such as the Take Up The Challenge resource, the new online workspace for workers running the Youth Achievement Awards, the Junior Achievement Awards and the new Youth Active Toolkit. Delegates also received a goodie bag containing new resources such as the Youth Active Toolkit.

## The Programme

### **Optional Pre-conference Introductory Training Day - 17th**

11 am - 5 pm	Youth Challenges and Youth Achievement Awards Introductory Training Day
--------------	---

### **YAA Conference Day 1 – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

11.00 – 11.30	Arrivals, coffee and registration
11.30 – 11.40	Welcome, housekeeping and introduction to the conference (Flowers Room)
11.40 – 12.30	Presentation on research project ' <b>The Impact of UK Youth's Young Achievement Awards upon young people's perceptions of positive life choices</b> ' by Dr Tony Chapman, Professor of Social Futures, Teesside University plus <b>Q&amp;A</b>
12.30 – 1.15	Lunch
1.15 – 1.45	Presentation ' <b>Reading for your rights - the evidence that literacy changes lives</b> ' by Honor Wilson-Fletcher, Director, <b>National Year of Reading plus Q&amp;A</b>
1.45 – 3.15	<b>Workshop 1</b> (network-led sessions) - Select from: A. 'Peer Education Projects' (Morley Room)

	B. 'Offering Effective Support to your Participating Units' (Cavendish Room) C. 'Developing Youth Leaders through the Platinum YAA' (Griffiths Room) D. Involving Young People in Decision Making (Spencer Room)
3.15 – 4.00	Check into rooms and tea break
4.00 – 5.30	<b>Workshop 2</b> – select from: A. Using IT as a Tool for Engagement (Morley Room) B. Foundations – an introduction to the model (Cavendish Room) C. Involving Young People in Decision Making (Griffiths Room) D. Developing Young Arts Leaders (Spencer Room)
5.30 – 6.30	Free time
6.30 – 7.30	Dinner
7.30 – 8.30	<b>Speed Networking session</b>

### YAA Conference Day 2 – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008

7.30 - 9.00	Breakfast
9.00 – 10.00	<b>What's new?</b> (Flowers Room) A carousel activity offering you the opportunity to find out more about new developments for example web-based developments, new toolkits, promotional materials, Take up the Challenge, the Junior Achievement Awards...
10.00 – 10.30	<b>Discussion Forum – What next for us and UK Youth?</b> Based on roles: A. New to YAA (Morley Room) B. Experienced YAA Award Group Worker (Cavendish Room) C. Coordinator role (Griffiths Room)
10.30 - 11.00	Tea and Coffee Break
11.00 – 11.30	<b>Discussion Forum – What next for us and UK Youth? (continued)</b> Based on roles: A. New to YAA (Morley Room) B. Experienced YAA Award Group Worker (Cavendish Room) C. Coordinator role (Griffiths Room)
11.30 – 12.00	Presentation on Developing Enterprise Skills – Vanessa Brown, Youth Campaigner, <b>Make Your Mark and Q&amp;A</b> (Flowers Room)
12.00 – 12.30	Final words, close of conference and evaluation (Flowers Room)
12.30 - 1.30	Lunch (optional)

### Statistical Evaluation Analysis

Delegate evaluation statistics are based on 33 evaluation forms returned at the end of the event.

### Event Overview

Feedback from delegates was that the advance information and preparation for the event was good but could be improved by sending the workshop descriptions to inform workshop choices.. Feedback on the venue and accommodation was good. Delegates were asked what

they enjoyed the most about this year's conference and their comments are below. Feedback on what delegates least enjoyed were the catering and the length of the second workshop.

- “Opportunities to share good practice”
- “Networking”
- “Meeting interesting people“
- “Sharing information with other workers and learning lots to help me and my colleagues to deliver the Awards“
- “Very informative“
- “Meeting the team, meeting others delivering the Awards and hearing young peoples experiences“
- “The variety of agencies in attendance“
- “Meeting key contacts of other agencies“
- “Young people’s presentations“
- “The range and quality of workshops“
- “Opportunities in workshops for open floor discussions and sharing of knowledge by people in the room not just the facilitators“
- “Group exercises“
- “Introductory training- well delivered and through, gave me all the information I needed as I knew nothing about the Awards“
- “It was very thought provoking, really made me think about what and why we deliver the Youth Achievement Awards”
- “This was my first conference and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting new colleagues and the presentation of the conference”

The following tables are a summary of the scores given for each stage of the conference.

<b>PRE-CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>Strongly disagree ←————→ Strongly agree</b>				
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Advance information was sufficient	0%	0%	11.8%	47.0%	41.2%
I felt well prepared	0%	0%	29.4%	35.3%	35.3%

<b>THE CONFERENCE</b>	<b>Strongly disagree ←————→ Strongly agree</b>				
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Fulfilled the stated aims and objectives	0%	0%	16.7%	47.2%	36.1%
Promoted equality of opportunity	0%	2.9%	17.6%	32.4%	47.1%
Was relevant and helpful to my work	0%	0%	11.4%	34.3%	54.3%

The following tables are a summary of the scores given for each stage of the conference where 1 = Poor and 5 = Excellent.

	Main Plenary Speakers	Workshops
Relevance of information to delegate	4	4.5
Enough detailed information given?	4	5
Presentation of information	4	4

THE VENUE	Strongly disagree ← → Strongly agree				
	1	2	3	4	5
The venue was suitable for this type of event	0%	0%	2.9%	17.1%	80.0%
The catering arrangements were adequate	0%	0%	2.9%	14.3%	82.8%
The accommodation was adequate	0%	0%	3.0%	21.2%	75.8%

Delegates were asked to give comments about the venue, the comments are listed below

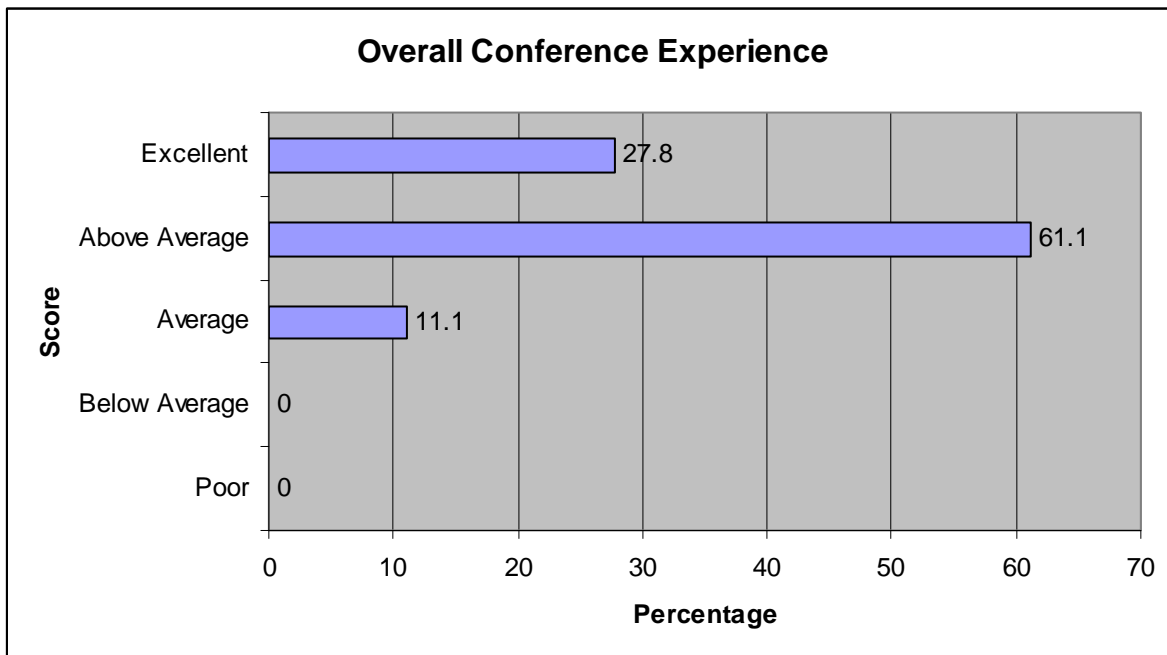
- “Food was really good and staff very friendly”
- “Really neat and tidy”
- “Excellent venue”

Delegates were asked what they most enjoyed about the conference, the comments are listed below:

- “Networking”
- “Meeting new people and sharing ideas”
- “Carousel activity - really good idea and very useful”
- “I gained a sense of motivation for the positive work that young people are participating in”
- “Good range of different workshops”
- “Plenary presentation on research”
- “I enjoyed receiving information that will help me when I return to my work setting”
- “Information on toolkits and resources”
- “Meeting other accreditation workers and Operating Agencies”
- “Learning about a possible YAA Qualification”
- “Being able to check-in immediately”
- “Workshop delivered by young people (Peer Education Projects)”

Delegates were asked what they least enjoyed about the conference, the comments are listed below:

- “Would have liked to hear from young people who have completed the Youth Achievement Awards”
- “Not enough time to discuss changes and developments in the Awards”
- “Felt that the conference could have been one day and that day 2 activities could have been added to day 1”
- “A long day”



Feedback from delegates on their overall experience of the conference was that 61.1% thought the conference was above average.

Delegates were asked to give comments on their overall conference experience, the comments are listed below:

- “I was able to look at solutions to many issues within my borough and realised that I was not alone”
- “Everyone was approachable and welcoming”
- “Too much focus on working with disadvantaged young people whereas not so much emphasis on YAA helping to provide opportunities to more academic/privileged youths, such as through the Platinum Awards”
- “Inspirational to be around others who understand the challenges and benefits of youth work”
- “UK Youth staff always to hand”
- “The whole experience was enjoyable and very interesting”

- “I feel motivated to go back to my staff team and encourage team to deliver the Awards”
- “A thoroughly inspiring two days with lots of variation”
- “Good freebies”
- “I am a beginner in this field, it has been very informative”
- “It was first YAA conference and enjoyed it thoroughly”

Delegates were asked if they thought the conference was value for money and 93.9% said yes. The 6.1% who thought that the conference was not value for money was that the travel costs involved in travelling to Manchester was too high.

Delegates were asked to give suggestions for future conferences, the comments are listed below:

- “Greater profile raising at the conference with more corporate invitations and agencies.”
- “Young people presentations and workshops”
- “The conference to be held in southern England”
- “More information about new developments and more opportunities to comment”
- “Shorter breaks so that we could finish earlier”
- “Let us evaluate workshops”
- “Discussion around qualifications and credit framework.”

## Appendix 1: Delegate List

### Pre-Conference Training

First Name	Surname	Position	Organisation
Phillip	Austin	Youth Volunteer Development Manager	Salford Foundation/ vinvolved Tameside
Sheralee	Birchall Turner	Development Officer	Lancashire Youth Association
Angela	Conifer	Project Coordinator	Merseyside Youth Association
Nicola	Fenwick	Youth e-Participation Officer	UK Youth
David	Given	Youth Volunteer Adviser	V Knowsley
Yvette	Gratton	Youth Worker	Shropshire County Council
David	Hammond	Project Officer	V- Groundwork Merseyside
Mike	Howlett	Youth Volunteer Development Manager	vinvolved Sefton
Sue	Jones	Part Time Youth Worker	Shropshire County Council
Morven	MacLean	Youth Volunteer Advisor	vinvolved Trafford
Addam	Merali-Hosiene	Youth Volunteer Advisor	vinvolved Tameside
Manju	Pearce	Youth Volunteer Development Manager	vinvolved Trafford
Michelle	Ryding	Community Officer	V- Groundwork Merseyside

### Conference Delegates

First Name	Surname	Position	Organisation
Nanette	Ababio	Outreach Worker	Wandsworth Youth Enterprise Centre
Salma	Adam	Sessional Youth Worker	Mencap
Emma	Bailey	Research Assistant	Social Futures Institute
Alan	Bailey		Prospects Education Resources
John	Bateman	Chief Executive Officer	UK Youth
Stella	Baynes	Education & Training Development Officer	UK Youth
Sheralee	Birchall Turner	Development Officer	Lancashire Youth Association

Susan	Blaudfaust	Team Leader	The Vibe (IYSDS)
Barry	Bradford	Accredited Awards Coordinator	Doncaster MBC Youth Service
Laura	Brain	Volunteer Peer Educator	Young Bristol
Robert	Brierley	Youth Achievement Awards Advisor- Wales	Youth Cymru
Vanessa	Brown	Youth Campaigner	Make Your Mark
Dr Tony	Chapman	Professor of Social Policy	Social Futures Institute
George	Cherrie	Senior Awards Development Worker	Youth Scotland
Abby	Chu	Senior Professional Youth Worker	Plymouth City Council Youth Service
Josh	Cope	UK YV	
Jane	Deamer	Director	Service Six
Jax	Effiong	Accreditation Manager	Tameside Youth Service
Jenny	Evans	Youth Worker	Wootton Youth Project
Lorna	Fisher	Centre Manager	Penworth Environment Education Centre
Dave	Gibbs	Education & Training Development Officer	UK Youth
Ruth	Gilchrist	Education & Training Development Officer	UK Youth
Sarah	Harris	Senior Youth Support Worker	Plymouth City Council Youth Service
Jenny	Hodson		Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire
Rhiannon	Holder	Youth Worker	Young Bristol
Tony	Hyman		Prospects Education Resources
Catherine	Iles	Research Fellow	Social Futures Institute
Rob	Inett	Volunteer Development Manager	Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Adam	Jackson	Children & Young Peoples Involvement Worker	Warrington Youth Service
Ruth	Jalloh	Youth Development Officer	St John Ambulance
Kirstie	King	Youth Volunteer Development Advisor	VSU in Action
Nia	Lyn Davies	Outreach Youth Worker	Anglesey County Council
Sharon	Lyn Jones	Accreditation Development Youth Worker	Anglesey County Council
Andrew	McDonald	UK Youth Foundation Principle	7KS Limited
Darryl	McKendry	Accreditation Officer	Walsall Youth Service
John	Melia	Client Development Director	BIIAB
Emma	Parker	Development Worker	Young Bristol
Jamie	Patterson	Volunteer Development Officer	Mencap
Jenny	Pickup	Volunteering Coordinator	University of Central Lancashire
Helen	Pine	Youth Volunteering Coordinator	Doncaster YMCA
Kenneth	Purvis	Volunteer	Barnardos
Laura	Quinn	YAA Coordinator	The Lifetrain Trust
Yvonne	Richards	Education & Training Manager	UK Youth
Stewart	Roy	Youth Development Worker	Volunteer Centre Edinburgh
Claire	Shephard	Training Coordinator	London Youth
Stephanie	Silk	YAA Steering Group Chair	The Lifetrain Trust
Charmaine	Simpson	Education & Training Administrative Officer	UK Youth
John	Smee	Project Worker	Barnardos
Zoie	Smith	YAA Administrator	Youth Cymru

Julie	Smith	Education & Training Development Officer	UK Youth
Clair	Smith	Accreditation Officer	Westminster Youth Service
Florina	St Marthe	Accreditation Development Worker	London Borough of Newham-Newceys
Kate	Stevenson	Youth Development Worker	Surrey Youth Development Service
Sarah	Taylor	Accreditation & Volunteering Coordinator	Youth Federation
Pauline	Taylor	Youth Work Director	UK Youth
Peter	van der Graaf	Research Fellow	Social Futures Institute
Alan	Wain	Accreditation Director	7KS Limited
Honor	Wilson-Fletcher	Director	National Year of Reading