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# FAIRWATER YAG MONITORING REPORT 2023-2024

WRITTEN BY JONATHAN GUNTER  
AND SABRINA ISLAM  
(MOL YOUTH SERVICES)

# INTRODUCTION

In March 2023, a workshop for partners who were involved, or interested in being involved, in youth services in the area of Fairwater took place. This workshop followed a consultation that was conducted by the Local Authority's SAFE Partnerships Team, who had undertaken a research programme regarding the needs and views of community stakeholders in the area. Drawing on the knowledge of the delivery of successful Youth Action Groups which had been formed by Communities First and Cardiff Youth Service in previous years, the SAFE Partnerships Team initiated the meeting in order to discuss the value and role of YAGs. The meeting brought community members and professionals together and the primary focus was to discuss youth issues, as well as to consider the notion of establishing a new YAG in Fairwater. The key purposes were to coordinate services and to draw on capacity in order to strengthen and support the area's youth provision.

This report documents the journey that Fairwater YAG has taken, illustrating the key milestones and positive achievements that have taken place between March 2023 and February 2024.

Report available at

[www.youthactiongroups.co.uk/fairwater-yagreport2023](http://www.youthactiongroups.co.uk/fairwater-yagreport2023)



# ATTENDANCE AND NETWORKS

In contrast to other YAGs in the city, rather than starting with a relatively low number of partners and building upwards, there was a relatively high attendance from the first meeting. As many as 17 partners attended that meeting in March 2023.

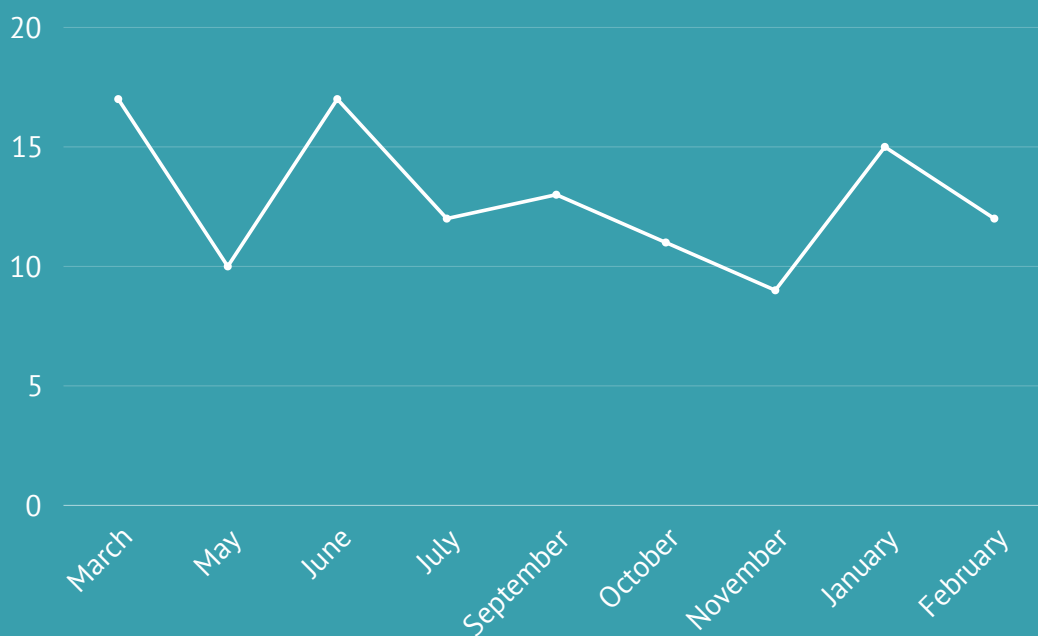
The high numbers at the start of the YAG meetings can be explained by the strong network of partners that was developed by the SAFE Partnership's Team following the undertaking of their research program which had built this involvement. As the YAG meetings progressed the number of consistently attending, and actively involved partners steadily declined to an attendance of around 10-15 core

partners. These partners varied from month to month, as some were guest speakers who tended to advertise their services and would attend on a less frequent basis.

Once again, consistent with the experiences of other YAGs delivered in other areas of the city, this demonstrates that it is not only the number of partners that meet that is important to the success of the YAG, but instead the *quality* of the conversations that take place within them. Conversations which are able to support a YAG network and harness the delivery of meaningful discussions, planning, and delivery of events have been crucial to this success.

The following table shows the number of partners that attended the YAG meetings.

Date	Number of attendees
29th March (taster session)	17
11th May	10
8th June	17
13th July	12
26th September	13
24th October	11
29th November	9
16th January	15
6th February	12



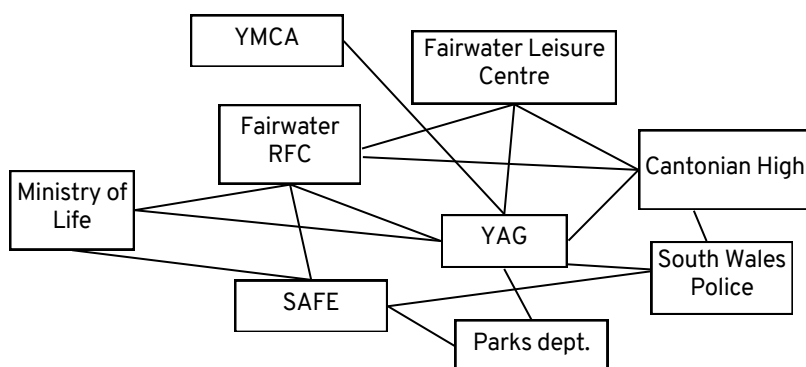
*Figure 1. A line chart illustrating the number of attendees at each Fairwater YAG meeting.*

# ATTENDANCE AND NETWORKS

## NETWORK DIAGRAMS

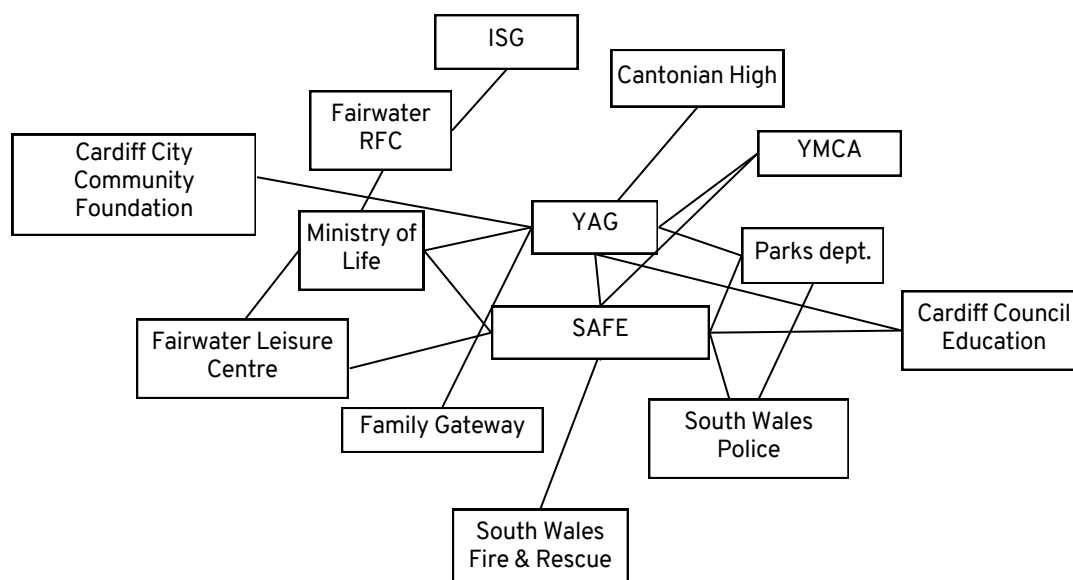
Building on the records of attendances, we can also explore the impact of the YAG on the networks and connections formed between youth service providers and other partners across the community. A network diagram can be particularly effective in illustrating this because it conveys not only the numbers of partners that attend, but also the connections between them. It is important to note that these

diagrams primarily serve to provide an illustrative representation of the connections between partners. They show the most apparent connections as a result of surface level analysis of the meetings' minutes and should not be interpreted in any way as an empirical analysis. Nonetheless, they do indicate some of the key connections formed and the development of networks established through the YAG's journey.



**Diagram 1. An illustrative network diagram of Fairwater YAG in May 2023**

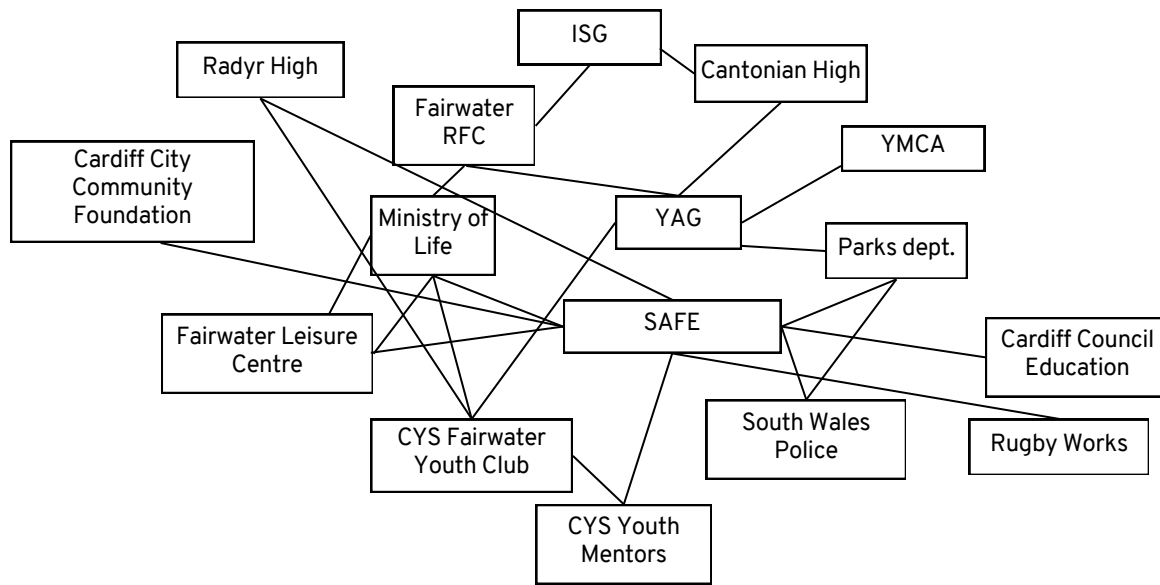
The YAG meetings started in May 2023 with eight organisations and a total of ten people in attendance. At a superficial level, it can be estimated that a potential of 16 connections were formed as a result, between the local high school, youth organisations, sports clubs, statutory organisations and the Local Authority Youth Service.



**Diagram 2. An illustrative network diagram of Fairwater YAG in June 2023**



As early as the next meeting in June 2023, there were 13 organisations that attended the YAG (17 individuals). As a consequence, the connections and networks formed grew not only within the meetings but outside of the YAG too.



**Diagram 3. An illustrative network diagram of Fairwater YAG in October 2023**

By October 2023, the meetings had grown, and a number of additional partners had joined. This led to a further increase in connections within the YAG network. Partners met and communicated outside of the confines of the YAG which supported in the delivery and organisation of youth provision in the locality.

Sometimes this could be as subtle as a follow up telephone call to book a community space or to arrange for the design of promotional materials for a community event. The following section now introduces many of the youth activities and events that were delivered since the start of the YAG.

# KEY MOMENTS AND PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

## MOL, FAIRWATER RFC, ISG AND GLL SUMMER POP UP YOUTH SESSIONS

Following the YAG starting in late Spring, by early Summer, there was a need to gather some information and evidence from young people regarding the need for youth provision in Fairwater.

Consultations were conducted both by Cardiff Youth Service Inclusion Team and Ministry of Life CIC (MoL).

MoL, in partnership with Fairwater RFC, ISG and GLL delivered 3 consultation sessions at Fairwater RFC's centre.

They were designed to trial the delivery of youth provision between partners as well as to gather information about the needs and views of the young people.



Fairwater youth provision questionnaire

Age: 13 Identify as: Female  
13

What do you like about your area?  
we love the parks

What do you dislike about your area?  
it's cruddy, (what means dirty)

What youth provision would you like to see in your area?  
Arts and crafts Rugby.  
Shine  
Pain &

What activities would you want to do in your area?  
ice cream.

Any other comments?  
The girls like rugby, they would like to play a rugby session.

**Left:** The poster that was used to advertise the activities. **Right:** An example of one of the questionnaires that was completed by a young person together with their responses.





**Above:** Young people engaging with ACT staff about courses. A connection that was formed through Fairwater YAG.



**Left:** Young people at the consultation sessions taking part in arts, crafts and face painting. **Right:** Young people playing tennis outdoors.

The following quotation is taken from the minutes of September's YAG. It illustrates the coordination that went into managing these activities as well as the results that were generated from the consultation:



***“MoL/Fairwater RFC/Fairwater Leisure Centre/ISG partnership pop up youth club. Partners handed out the results of the popup youth club questionnaire... Monday night sessions were held at the Rugby Club over the summer, with around 15 young people coming to each session. MUGA is very popular in the area. They dislike the violence in the area and the off-road bikes. – See attachment for full report. The young people were also asked what they would like to see in the area. They wanted to do slime and face painting – core group at provision were female” (September 2023 - YAG)***

In addition to discussing and planning sessions together, the below quotation illustrates how these discussions could be channelled towards the reduction of ASB, while developing meaningful engagement activities for young people:

***“Halloween Ideas: Lindsay suggested planning a diversionary event for Halloween to prevent / reduce ASB. Adelle has 2 marquees and Lindsay may be able to offer use of the leisure centre hall. Partners will need further discussion to explore who might be able to help including PCSOs, Street Games and CCFC”. (June 2023 - YAG)***

Furthermore, these discussions lead to effective partnership working, which while at face value appear very simple day-to-day conversations, they clearly involve an intricate level of coordination and collaboration between partners which was crucial to their successful delivery.



**Above:** Young people learning to DJ. **Below:** MoL youth club set up at Fairwater RFC.



# FAIRWATER RUGBY CLUB AND PARTNERS COMMUNITY FUN DAY

Fairwater Community Funday took part on Sunday the 20th August. This event had taken place in previous years and was led by Fairwater Rugby Club. The introduction of Fairwater YAG in 2023 made it possible for the event lead, Adele, to be able to advertise it to the YAG partners and involve some stall holders who attended the YAG. This is illustrated in the below quotation from the June YAG:

***“Fairwater Fun Day 20th August, 12-4pm. Fairwater Rugby Club / Leisure Centre. ISG will look to provide a stall. Plasdwr and other local housing development organisations have been invited to set up a stall for community engagement. Ministry of Life can bring gazebos, music and a PA system for announcements as well as DJ workshops. Family Help will look to set up a stall with freebies. YAG partners could look to set up a stall.”***  
(June 2023 - YAG)



**Left:** The poster for the event and the various partners that took part. **Right:** An example of a social media post covering the event.





**Above:** South Wales Fire Service doing an amazing job at engaging with the young people.

**Below Left:** Ministry of Life supporting with a DJ workshop. **Below Right:** South Wales Police Supporting with the event.



**Left:** Stalls that were at the event, they included Bentyg, Cardiff youth service, South Wales police, Cardiff City Community Foundation and many more. **Right:** The activities available including food stalls, games, and inflatables.



# THINGS HOT UP WITH CYS STREET BASED PROVISION!

As Fairwater Youth Action Group continued to build momentum. Cardiff Youth Service were working in the background to allocate resources of funding to be able to offer youth provision in the area.

Intervention would be based on feedback from the CYS Summer consultation that was led by Cardiff Youth Service Inclusion team as well as MoL's Fairwater Consultation sessions that were shared at the September YAG.

The photos below shows some of the street based activities that took place. These included toastie making, music, one to one conversations and games.

Youth Workers out and about in Fairwater last night meeting young people and offering hot choc and squirty cream.



CARDIFF  
YOUTH  
SERVICE  
GWASANAETH  
IEUENCTID  
CAERDYDD



During the sessions food prep took place, as well as young people having hot chocolate from Cardiff Youth Service pop up van.

The street based sessions were pivotal to gathering useful information about the needs of young people, as well as staff gauging what areas had the most need and what locations may work for a more permanent base over the Winter. As a result of conversations and connections stimulated at the YAG meetings, Cantonian High School became available and formed a base for further centre based youth work delivery over the Winter period of 2023/2024. Conversations around planning and discussing provision are shown in the following quotatio

***“Youth provision Updates.... Steve has been given the role of looking at Youth Provision in the area. Currently doing pop up sessions – toasties going down really well as an engagement tool. Two sessions a week, could possibly stretch to after school sessions too. Steve wants to do some work around Birdies lane and tidy up the area – paint the bridge and brighten it up with the young people. Harriet (ISG) said she is doing something similar in RCT at the moment. She would have to get permission off Highways. Steve (CYS) said he’ll speak to Network Rail . Steve said it won’t cost a lot of money just staff time and paint. Looking at making it a positive route to and from school. Louise said that her and Dean Ali could support an after school session”. (September 2023 - YAG)***



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# THE LAUNCH OF CARDIFF YOUTH SERVICE FAIRWATER YOUTH CLUB

A testament to the partnership working within Fairwater YAG with partners working together for a common cause, venues readily became available for CYS Street Based Team to set up on Tuesdays at Cantonian High School. There were discussions around the use of buildings which shows how the YAG was effective in supporting discussion around the availability of resources:

***“Louise said that Cantonian High is in a temporary build for the next 2 years minimum. The sporting facilities are looking amazing and should be open by the end of October... Louise has also got two indoor halls that can be used after school. Could we do a pop up session at Cantonian High? Might be a little bit daunting for the young people as it’s one way in and one way out – they may feel it’s a bit like being in school. Louise will look at the North Hall. Steve asked for one night a week over the winter. Louise said that she will look into this for Steve. They will be able to play sports in there – maybe a twilight session? Moveable basketball nets would be good. Steve said that it’s important to have an indoor session over the winter.”***



Within weeks, a youth club at Cantonian High School was set up. Left is the poster which was used to advertise the club. Cantonian High proved to be a very popular location with between 50 and 70 young people attending regularly. Toasties and games that had been provided during the Street Based activities took place here too. The strong attendance of sessions was also partly achieved through strength of the YAG network enabling partners to be able to advertise to their networks.



Here are some photos and social media posts of the huge range of activities that took place at Fairwater Youth Club. Young people took part in engraving, playing board games, playing music, sports and dancing.

Young people having fun at Fairwater Youth Club Tonight



Young people having fun at Fairwater Youth Club Tonight







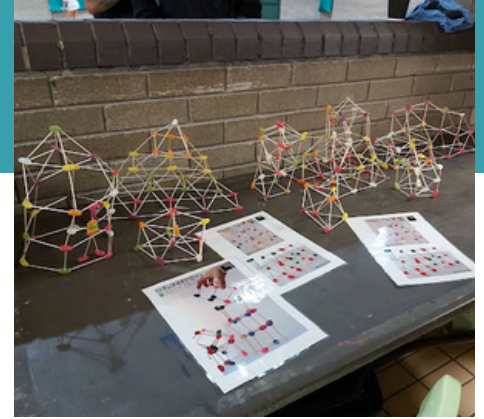
**LEFT:** YOUNG PEOPLE PLAYING FOOTBALL IN TEAMS BEING COACHED BY CARDIFF CITY FOUNDATION.

# A GREAT TIME HAD BY ALL AT FAIRWATER YAG MULTI SPORTS DAY

Inspired by conversations within the YAG, a multi activity sports day took place during the November Half Term. Cardiff City Foundation, Dallaglio Rugby Works, ISG, MoL, Fairwater RFC and Cardiff Youth Service all participated in what was a hugely successful partnership event. It demonstrates the impact of strong synergy which can be galvanised as a result of the team work fostered during the YAG meetings. The following quotation illustrates how the YAG served as a platform to discuss and coordinate the event between partners during the November YAG meeting:



*“Half term planning – multi sport event on 2nd November. Will ask Adele if the rugby club can run a tuck shop. We will update the posters to include netball and promote activities for girls. Louise will contact Ray, caretaker for Fairwater rugby club. Dan will contact Tesco Community Champion to ask for donations of food and drink. PCSOs, Matt and Dean will visit local businesses including Brutons and Coop to see if they can offer snacks and display posters. Joff will send a copy of the poster to Matt to translate into Welsh.” (November 2023 - YAG)*



**Left:** Here is a photo of Cardiff City Foundation and Dallaglio Rugby Works coaches, who have been working with young people and teaching them to play football and rugby.

**Middle:** young people involved in Netball and group sport activities with ISG and Cardiff Youth Service.

**Right:** Young people, when they were not involved in the sports participated in arts and crafts activities which involved jelly beans, led by ISG.

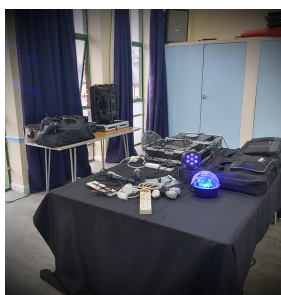
Key to the success of this partnership event were the links with the community sector; in this case, particularly Fairwater RFC, who were able to advertise the event to their groups with relatively short notice and to ensure a strong attendance. This can be seen in the following quotation.

***“The support of Adele and parents at the RFC was noted and pivotal to the success in attendance of the event and demonstrates the huge value of community links to events and activities by the group.” (November 2023 - YAG)***

# YAG EVENT BRANCHES OUT INTO PENTREBENE ZONE AND FAIRWATER HUB!

Following the success of the November half term multi activity event, Fairwater YAG sought to do it again in the next half term. The December YAG meeting involved an evaluation and reflective practice regarding the November event. Key reflections were around the delivery times and recognising the lack of provision that existed in Pentrebane. Therefore plans were soon forged to deliver another partnership event in February half term. This time partners built on the success of the previous event by delivering a provision in Pentrebane and Fairwater Hub and continuing with netball, rugby, football and crafts at Fairwater Leisure

Centre. This involved partners reflecting on logistics and finding ways that partners could branch out into these new areas. The Fairwater Leisure Centre activities continued to be a huge success and there was a good turn out at Fairwater Hub. While attendance at the Pentrebane Zone was limited, key achievements included the introduction of more delivery partners to Pentrebane and engagement of young people who were passers by, to learn more about the needs of the community. Indeed one of the strengths of the YAG model is the opportunity for partners to come together to engage in reflective practice, and to evaluate what to build on moving forward.



**Top row:** Activities and poster for Leisure Centre event. **Bottom row:** Sessions at Pentrebane Zone and Fairwater Hub with accompanying poster.



# CONCLUSION -

## FAIRWATER YAG: THE ETHOS AND PRINCIPLES THAT HELPED TO SUSTAIN IT

In the span of approximately nine months, Fairwater Youth Action Group (YAG) has evolved into a dynamic platform for collaboration, coordination, and community engagement. The success of Fairwater YAG is not merely measured by the quantity of partners attending meetings but is deeply rooted in the quality of conversations, partnerships formed, and impactful events that have taken place.

The initial high attendance at YAG meetings was a testament to the robust network developed by the SAFE Partnership Team, reflecting a community eager to engage. As the YAG progressed, the number of actively involved partners may have fluctuated, but the depth of discussions and the forging of meaningful connections continued. Network diagrams illustrated the growth of connections, not just within YAG meetings but extending beyond. Partnerships formed between local high schools, youth organisations, sports clubs, statutory bodies, and the Local Authority Youth Service demonstrates a strong network that went beyond the confines of regular meetings.

The report highlights key moments and events, such as the successful summer pop-up youth sessions, the Fairwater RFC led

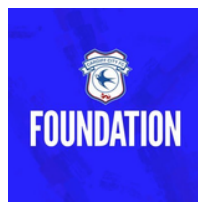
Community Fun Day, the impactful street-based provisions, and the launch of Cardiff Youth Service's Fairwater Youth Club. The multi-sports day in November demonstrated the synergy achieved through teamwork, bringing together organisations like Cardiff City Foundation, Dallaglio Rugby Works, ISG, MoL and Fairwater RFC. The event demonstrated the power of strong collaboration in delivering successful and engaging youth activities.

In conclusion, Fairwater YAG has provided a space for the planning and coordination of youth work that goes beyond conventional meetings. The success of the YAG can be attributed to its consistent meetings, needs-led approach, community work focus, and a commitment to inclusive discussions. The report underscores the importance of this collective approach, emphasising that promising results are achievable when partners unite with a shared goal. As the YAG continues its journey, the hope is that its ethos will inspire and support even more youth activities and community events supporting young people in Fairwater. For further insights into the principles and ethos of Youth Action Groups, interested parties are encouraged to visit [www.settingupayag.co.uk](http://www.settingupayag.co.uk), where additional information and past success stories are available.





## WITH THANKS TO THE PARTNERS OF FAIRWATER YAG



Plus all other organisations that have supported with Fairwater YAG