

GABALFA YAG MONITORING REPORT 2021-2022

GABALFA YAG

December 2022

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WITH THANKS TO THE PARTNERS OF GABALFA YAG



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In September 2021 Gabalfa YAG was started with an aim of connecting local youth services in the community and strengthening provision. Since then the partnership has seen overwhelming growth with promising figures in relation to improvements in provision and reductions in anti-social behaviour. This report is aimed to offer an insight into Gabalfa YAG's journey, to capture the key moments and to detail some of the most promising statistics in its first year.

Gabalfa YAG was started in September 2021 and the first meeting was attended by 8 partners which included staff from Gabalfa community centre, South Wales Police, MoL Youth Services, Whitchurch High School and a youth justice department from within Cardiff Council.

Meeting on MS Teams has given a flexible approach to our work. We aim to meet every 4-6 weeks which is consistent, but creates enough time between meetings so that they do not become too repetitive. We discuss the planning and coordination of youth provision, any issues in the area and focus on how we can strengthen our services.

Within 4 months of the group meeting, South Wales Police reported that ASB calls had dropped from 26 calls a month down to only 3. Since then this number has remained very low. At the core of these meetings has been a collective ethos to focus on the area's youth provision and to deliver partnership events at periodic intervals.



2.0 ATTENDANCE AND NETWORKS

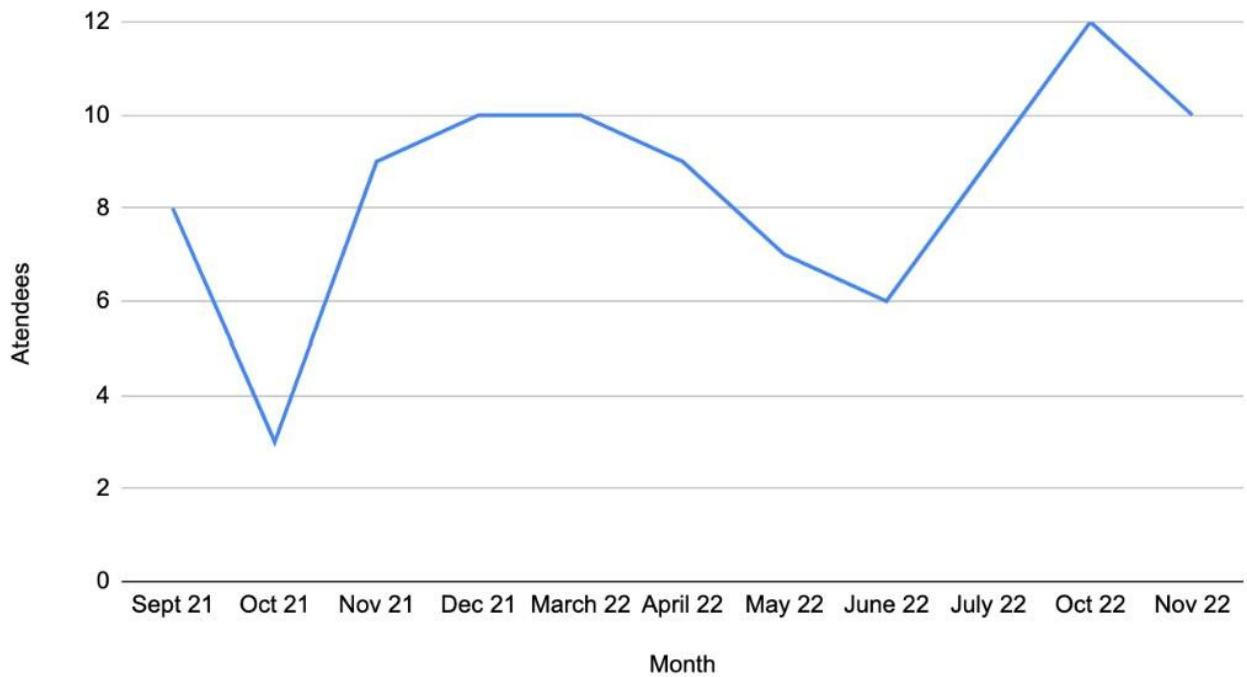
Over the 13 months that the partnership has existed, there have been 11 meetings with approximately 24 partners getting involved. While the meetings were held approximately every 4-6 weeks, in some months there were breaks such as for the Summer and at the end of the year.

Numbers of attendees have been between 3 and 14 individuals and by meeting through the YAG, connections have been made between partners outside of the meetings, which have benefited the delivery of youth services in the area. Attendance of the YAG's has always been optional and high attendance isn't necessary for the group to produce great results. A key driver of a YAG's success is its shared ethos in focussing on the area's youth provision and in delivering partnership events at periodic intervals throughout the year.

The table below shows the months in which the YAG meetings were held, and the number of attendees in these sessions.

Month	Attendees
Sept 21	8
Oct 21	3
Nov 21	9
Dec 21	10
March 22	10
April 22	9
May 22	7
June 22	6
July 22	9
Oct 22	12
Nov 22	10

The graph below plots the attendance of the YAG over the past year.

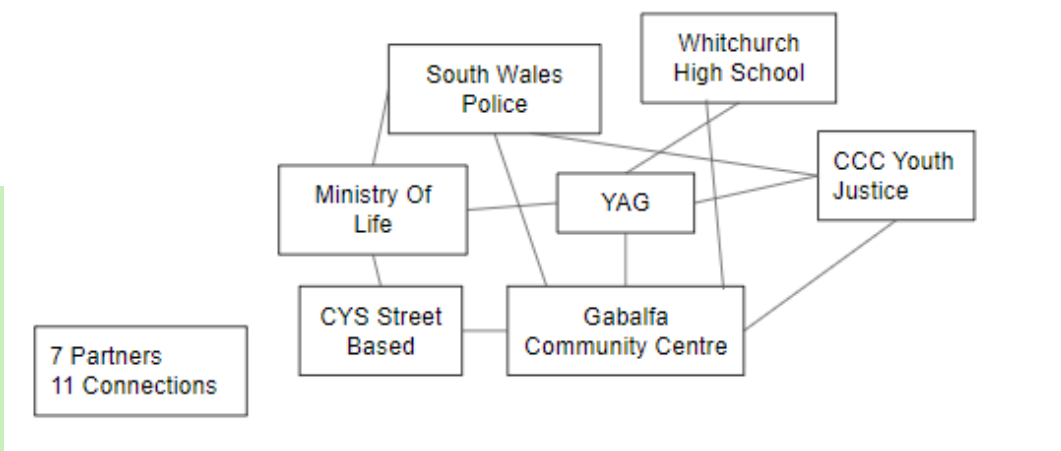


Attendance figures have fluctuated between meetings although have generally grown over time. High attendance certainly is not necessary. Instead a focussed number of partners directly linked to the delivery of services in the locality is most preferable to impacting service provision.

3.0 THE GROWTH OF THE YAG NETWORK

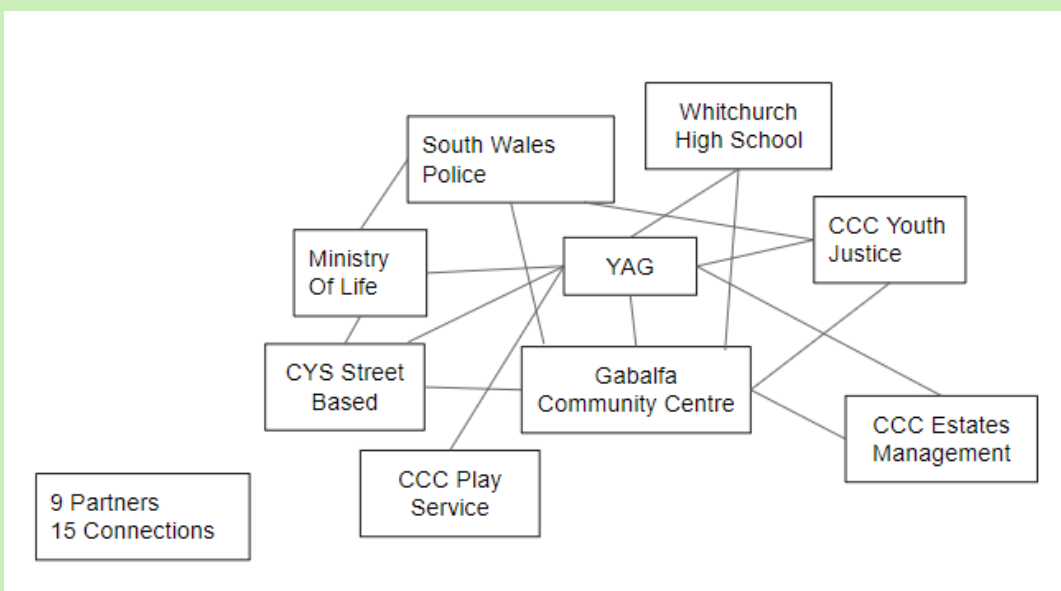
Building on the records of attendances we can explore the impact of the YAG on the networks and connections between youth services and partners. A network diagram can be particularly effective in illustrating this picture because it conveys not only the numbers of partners, but who was involved and the connections formed between them.

SEPTEMBER 2021



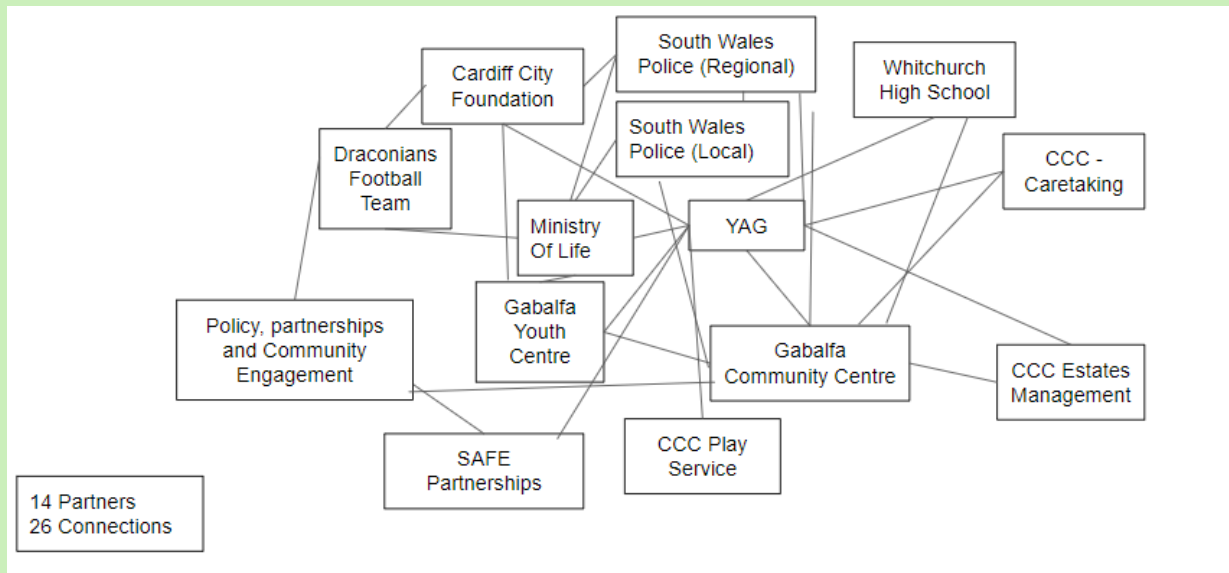
The YAG meetings started in September 2021 with 7 partners attending. 11 Connections were made including between the local high school, youth organisations, statutory organisations and the Local Authority Youth Service.

JANUARY 2022



By January 2022 the meetings had grown, 2 additional partners joined to make a total of 9. This led to an increase of 15 connections within the YAG network. The organisations that joined were the Local Authority Play Service and Estates Management. This demonstrates how just a small increase in partners leads to a much higher increase in potential connections across the network.

OCTOBER 2022



The above network diagram illustrates the YAG approximately 1 year on from the start of the partnership. By October 2022 the YAG meetings had a total of 14 partners which led to an exponential rise in connections. The partners that joined included additional service providers such as Draconians Football Team, Cardiff City Foundation, an ASB department of South Wales Police Service and a Community Safety Officer of the Local Authority's Policy, Partnerships and Community Engagement department, plus the newly created Gabalfa Youth Centre. Here is a quote from the community safety officer of the Local Authority, demonstrating the value of the network:

"It was the local PCSO that introduced me to the YAG, and having that opportunity really helped link me in locally with the staff at Cardiff Youth Service. I was already in contact with the ASB co-ordinator from Cardiff and the Vale Community Safety Team in South Wales Police. The YAG has definitely helped our Community Safety department develop stronger links with Draconians, Cardiff City and of course Ministry of Life in respect of support with diversionary activities." (Sharon, Community Safety Officer)

4.0 KEY MOMENTS AND PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

The following section shows how valuable partnerships between youth service providers in the area can be. By meeting, partners were able to collaborate on community events. This positively impacted the area and showed young people that we were collectively working together for the benefit of Gabalfa. Below are some of our key events and we look forward to many more to come.

SOUTH WALES POLICE HATE CRIME EVENT OCTOBER 2021



The first partnership event to take place was a hate crime event near Lydstep Park which was led by the local police officers. Building on Gabalfa Fun Day (which took place in 2017) this event demonstrated how just a few partners with a collective ethos can bring together an effective community event on a relatively low budget. Partners included Gabalfa Community Centre, Ministry of Life and South Wales Police. Over 40 young people were engaged including juniors and the harder to reach seniors. In the following YAG meeting the value of this collective engagement was discussed. The Police Officers recognised the huge benefits of this positive engagement with their daily crime prevention work and it created a platform for future partnership events.

Here is a quotation from the notes taken during the following YAG meeting from the local police officers:

Update from SWP: *“We would like to give a massive thank you to all the partners that came*

together for the event on the 14th October. We were really pleased with the people who attended and since then seeing yp on the street and speaking with them shows how valued the event was because they're all asking when the next one will be. Cardiff Youth Service, Craig Bartlett and Ministry of Life being there was really positive because it showed the young people that us (SWP) can actually be seen to do positive engagement rather than it just being asb matters and call outs all the time etc. So really grateful and pleased with how it went. (Gabalfa YAG, 26.10.2021) ””

This is also reflected in the comments from Cardiff Youth Service (GCC):

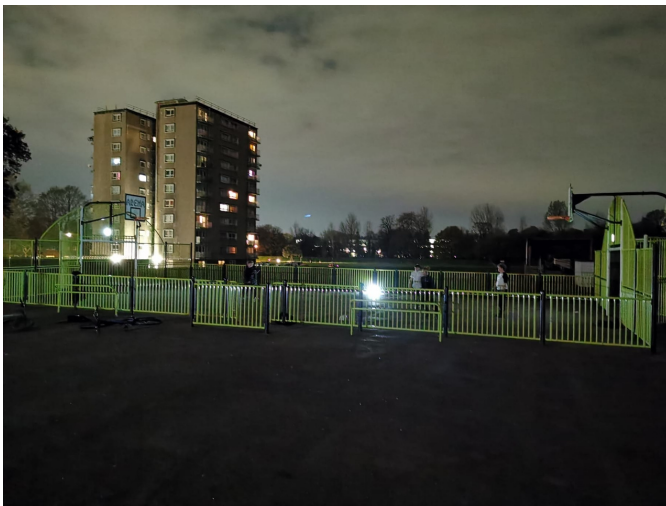
Gabalfa Community Centre: *“the event was good in terms of breaking down barriers and strengthening positive relationships between the area’s youth partners, the police and the young people.”* (Gabalfa YAG, 26.10.2021)

The following meeting in November reflected on Halloween and the apparent decrease in ASB. The next YAG meeting was held in January and grew to 10 partners. The partnership with Whitchurch High School was clear to see and offers of information exchange and support were made. The core focus for this meeting was the next partnership event which was led by Gabalfa Community Centre. This was due to take place on 23rd February and once again many partners from the YAG meetings collectively came together to help achieve a successful event.



MINISTRY OF LIFE OUTDOOR ENGAGEMENT OVER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC 2021-2022

Throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic Ministry of Life sought to deliver consistently in the community of Gabalfa. Refusing to be held back by the pandemic, the weekly youth club was relocated from the local hub to Lydstep park. A pop up youth club was set up by youth workers using gazebos, sports equipment and speakers so the young people could take part in singing and rap workshops. The PCSO's popped over to the sessions as well as the Street Based Team which tended to be coordinated at the YAG meetings.



mol
ministry of life

Young
volunteers

- 5** Work Experience Days
- 20** CV's with our YP
- 3** YP in paid employment



In addition to open access engagement, MoL also sought to deliver targeted engagement. As such, a job club was started which facilitated

a space for young people to write CV's. Their journey's into the world of work were continuously supported by offering work experience days and interview preparation for paid positions in Greggs, Home Bargains and Next.

GABALFEST FEBRUARY 2022

Gabalfest took place in Gabalfa Community Centre and provided a space for partners to come together to actively work with the young people of the community. This event built upon the previous event and demonstrates the value of reflective practice which takes place in YAG meetings. By coming together at Gabalfest we were able to collectively promote an ethos of working together which helped galvanise partnership work going forward.

The young people were able to enjoy a day of fun activities which included exotic animals, music (led by MoL), a food station (led by NHS), den making (led by Cardiff Play Service), bike workshops (led by doctor bike). Cardiff Youth Service Street Based Team also coordinated and managed a bike ride along the Taff Trail.



The following quotation at the next YAG illustrates the success of the event:

Ministry of Life: “The event was a huge success with many partners coming together. It just goes to show what can be achieved. The fact that the senior young people didn't want to go home, demonstrates how much they valued the event which built a foundation for the forthcoming youth club led by CYS.” (Gabalfa YAG, 3.3.2022)

This event transformed partnership working in the area and galvanised a collective ethos between service providers. The work of the four previous YAG meetings alongside these events created bonding and bridging social capital (Putnam, 2000).

GABALFA YAG MEETING MARCH 2022



The YAG continued to build and many key partners joined. Gabalfa Draconians Football Team was another very strong community partnership. This led to discussions around building football and fitness sessions between partners. In the following partnership event led by South Wales Police. Draconians Football Team kindly allowed SWP to use their football pitch for a police dog demonstration at their Summer Fun Day.

Draconians Football Team: "Looking forward to the next Summer partnership event! And new partnerships with the local gym" (Gabalfa YAG, 13.6.2022)

*Putnam, R. (2000) Bowling alone: the collapse and revival of American community. New York/ London: Simon and Schuster

GCC SUMMER POP UP CLUB 2022

At the tail end of the Covid-19 pandemic, Cardiff Youth Service coordinated Street Based youth workers in Gabalfa up to three times per week. A number of activities and trips were organised. Following this a Summer pop up youth club was set up as a means of trialling a new youth club in the community. Below shows a photo of one of the Summer trips to Cardiff Bay Aqua Park over the Summer of 2022. The pop up youth club was a huge success with 30 to 40 young people per night.



GABALFA!
YOUTH CLUB

Monday 5-7pm
(Juniors)

Wednesday 5:30-7:30pm
(Mixed)

**Lots of Activities : Gaming ,
Arts, Music, Cooking and Trips**

**Contract us via Facebook and
Instagram**

Gabalfayc

Gabalfayc

The pop up youth club led to a regular open access youth club taking place at Gabalfa Community Centre. The youth club is popular among young people in the area and initially opened one day a week, this has now been extended to three times per week. A community consultation was shared with the Youth Action Group and sent to partners. This demonstrates how beneficial the YAG could be to get support, knowledge and expertise from local partners when needed.

SOUTH WALES POLICE SUMMER FUN DAY AUGUST 2022

The next event to be held was by South Wales Police and was due to take place at Lydstep Park. Once again this was planned to be a coordinated partnership event and the local supermarkets donated food and refreshments. This event was discussed during the YAG meetings leading up to it, showing the value of being able to have the time and space to meet and engage in community planning collectively:

SWP: ”We’re looking at the 19th or 26th August for an event 11-4pm. Lydstep park, dogs, police unit, Dogs doing a demo, any groups to get involved? Get the police van out. ”
(Gabalfa YAG, 13.6.2022)

Draconians: ”Happy to help with the Picnic in the Park event. ”(Gabalfa YAG, 13.6.2022)



The above photos show the Summer Fun day event and many of the the stalls taking place. Food was donated by local supermarkets and many hundreds of children and families attended.

SOUTH WALES POLICE CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL NOV 2022

The YAG Partnership exists not only within the meetings, but outside of them too. The individual strength of each partner helps continue the momentum between the meetings and the South Wales Police toy appeal which was set up in the Gabalfa hub demonstrates this.

Email to the YAG partnership: ” Afternoon All, Please see attached Gabalfa Shop opening times poster.... still time to collect more donations... as you can

see by the pics it has been a huge success! Please forward poster on to whom you feel will benefit ... Thank you all for your support.” (SWP, 11.2022)

The Christmas toy appeal was extremely popular within the community and the above email shows that once the YAG partnership is established, communication and conversation outside of the confines of the meetings can happen openly.

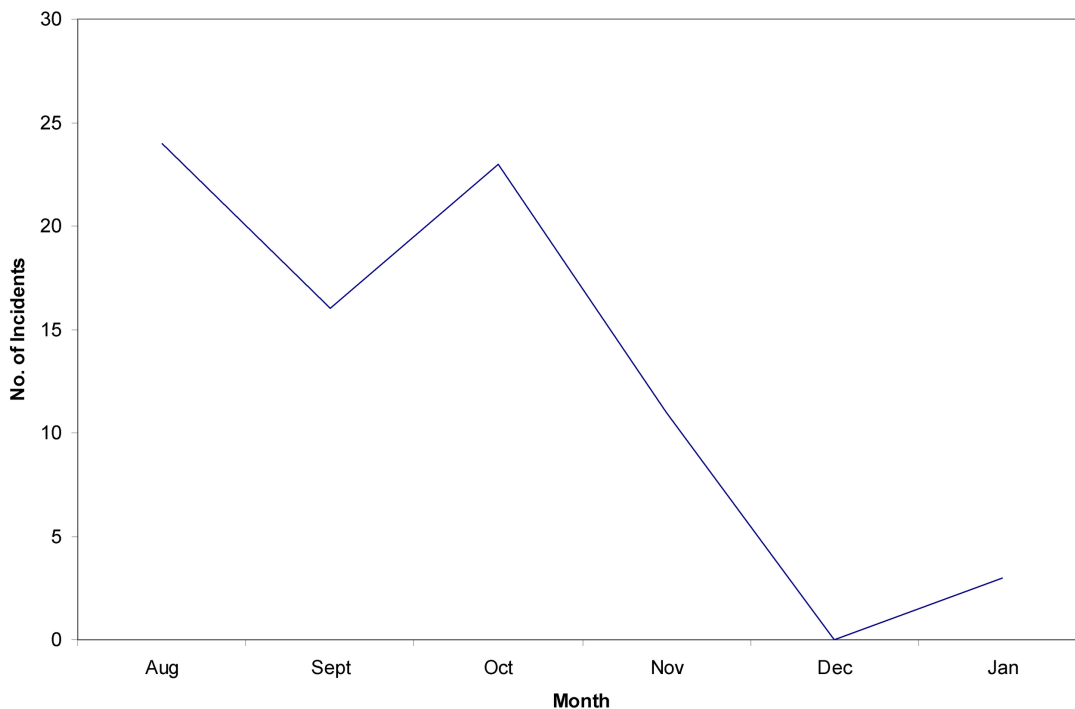


Photos of the Christmas Grotto held at Llandaff North and Gabalfa Hub over December 2022.

5.0 CHANGES IN ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The below graph illustrates the number of Anti social behaviour calls per month between August 2021, prior to the YAG starting, and January 2022, when the YAG had been running for four months. It shows a decrease from an average of twenty six call outs per month to only three call outs per month. In some months there were no call outs at all.

Incidents of Antisocial Behaviour in Gabalfa as recorded by South Wales Police since the start of the YAG in September 2021



These figures are supported by comments from partners within the YAG. Police directly attributed this decrease as being a result of the influence of the YAG and partners working together in a more coordinated way.

SWP: “Kylie left a note to say that at the moment things have ramped up a bit in terms of ASB. There’s been call outs about young people breaking into flats to smoke cannabis. (PCSO, October 2021)”

Following only two months of meeting there was a clear improvement in ASB:

SWP: *“Since 4th of Nov no calls for ASB. Because we are not inundated with ASB we can pick up on the nicer work. A massive thank you from SWP for this.”* (PCSO, Nov 2021)

Members of South Wales Police were hugely welcoming of these statistics and recognised the impact that this had on their day to day work.

They commented that it meant that they could focus on preventative work rather than continually dealing with call outs and complaints. It is therefore clear to see that not only is it a good thing that ASB call outs have decreased, police are further able to prevent ASB by being more freely able to deliver preventative work.

6.0 CONCLUSION

After running for approximately one year, Gabalfa YAG and its services have seen incredible growth. This has led to many community partnership events occurring and a decrease in ASB within the community. Most importantly the group has stimulated relationships between partners outside of the meetings, promoting a collective ethos and creating an environment where conversations, phone calls, emails, drop ins between partners has become the norm. Here are some factors which have helped make the YAG a success:

- Consistent meetings (every 4-6 weeks).
- Conversations in meetings focussed on planning local activities and events.
- A section in the meeting termed 'Service providers Updates' so that every partner has equal opportunity to contribute, is valued and included.
- Opportunity for valuable information sharing to take place from statutory services but to not dominate the content of the meetings, instead for this information sharing to take place in guest slots.
- A needs led approach and community focus within meetings.
- Minutes documenting the content of each YAG meeting.
- Keeping the meetings simple and focussed on local youth issues.
- Opportunity for a rotating chair.

Many of these principles echo values in youth work such as being needs led and having voluntary engagement. We hope that this approach can be preserved so that many more youth activities and community events can be discussed, promoted, supported and coordinated through the YAG meetings.



5 Pillars of Youth Action Groups

NEEDS LED

- It's agenda and the content of the meetings is based on local needs.

GRASS ROOTS

- Community led and focussed on the needs of the community.

DEMOCRATIC

- All partners/ attendees have an equal right to speak and raise topics.

DELIVERY FOCUSED

- Main focus of the group is managing and coordinating events and services. But it can be informed by wider issues – ie training.

SAFE

- Safeguards and protects the wellbeing and autonomy of young people and services.