



Wake up Call initiative

Background

Wake-Up Call is funded by the OPFCC and is a course available to 24 Secondary schools across North Yorkshire and York. Wake-Up Call looks at Pre-Prevent work with young people at risk of being radicalised, committing a hate crime, or showing negative racial behaviour. The purpose of Wake-Up Call is to develop a counter narrative in young people, so they feel more equipped at challenging hate crime and also become ambassadors within their schools.

The aims of the course are:

- To support young people to re-route their negative beliefs and behaviours into positive attitudes.
- To identify the different types of hate crimes and recognise behaviour that could be classed as hate crime
- To explore young peoples' thoughts and attitudes to prejudice in particular racism
- To clarify the law in relation to hate crime and racial tensions
- To explore the consequences of hate crime and prejudice on victims and how communities can suffer at the hands of prejudice and racial hatred.
- To explore what it is to be a positive role model and how this can help to empower those around you to change their negative behaviour.
- To prepare and enable young people to provide a counter narrative to peers expressing strong views
- To give young people confidence in reporting hate crime and understanding of the prevent agenda Although the course is predominantly around racism, hate crimes in other groups are explored too e.g. LGBT, disabilities, age, etc.

The course is aimed at young people in school years 9-13 as experience so far has shown that years 7 and 8 in the group can be difficult to manage due to their maturity levels around these topics.

The course is for a maximum of 12 young people and takes place over **two full school days** in school.

Two qualified NYY Youth Workers run the course and the course is supported by the Police Schools Liaison Officers. Referrals can be made by school and in partnership with the Police and Community Safety Partnership.

A total of 28 courses have been completed.

Case Study of Change Direction and Wake Up Call working in partnership:

A referral came into Change Direction to work with a young person who was carrying out anti-social behaviour in the community, prank calling the police, causing vandalism, and fighting. The young person was also expressing negative behaviour in school including smoking on school site, making poor friendship choices and there were concerns around county lines. Prior to Change Direction the young person had been spoken to by a PCSO for smoking on school site, the young person was verbally abusive towards the PCSO during this time.

The Change Direction Youth Mentor began their work with the young person with a focus on building a trusting relationship. Hobbies and interests were discussed as well as discussing future goals and aspirations. Once the relationship developed work was carried out on risk taking behaviour and making poor choices, particularly with friends. Work around attending school, having good sleeping patterns and reduced smoking, drinking and drug taking was also prioritised. As the Youth Mentor got to know the young person, they realised the young person had a real interest in fireworks and fires and would ask question about how much trouble they would get into if they did something bad. During the later sessions the young person showed an interest in Hitler and the war.

The young person started to talk about their own negative views around religions and the the LGBTQ community especially trans people. They spoke about derogatory videos they had shared and viewed as well as videos they had received from others, nudes they had sent and receive and pranks they had played on friends. Work was carried out on who influenced their life and decisions, it was clear that family had a huge influence on their opinions and ideas. Over the coming weeks, the young person shared their views about religion and people living in Britain who aren't from Britain. The views were getting more extreme, so school was advised to partake in Wake-Up Call and invite this young person to the sessions. Wake Up Call was carried out over two days in school. The staff delivering the session had never heard such extreme views from a young person, particularly from one who was very proud of their views and showed no remorse in their negative comments even when challenged by friends and other young people. Following Wake Up Call one of the delivery staff went away and spoke to the lead for Prevent, it was agreed that this would be a referral to Prevent. The young person has consented to this. The Change Direction Youth Mentor continues to support this young person in a one-to-one capacity. NYY are looking to provide more diversionary activities that this young person can access

Future Sessions available for 2023-24:

A funding application to the OPFCC Community Fund was successful and NYY will be able to deliver another 10 courses in the 2023/2024 Academic year free of charge! For more information or to book a session please **contact: Clare Yates, Service Manager, North Yorkshire Youth Tel: 07918761106. Email: clare@nyy.org.uk**