

Youth Voice

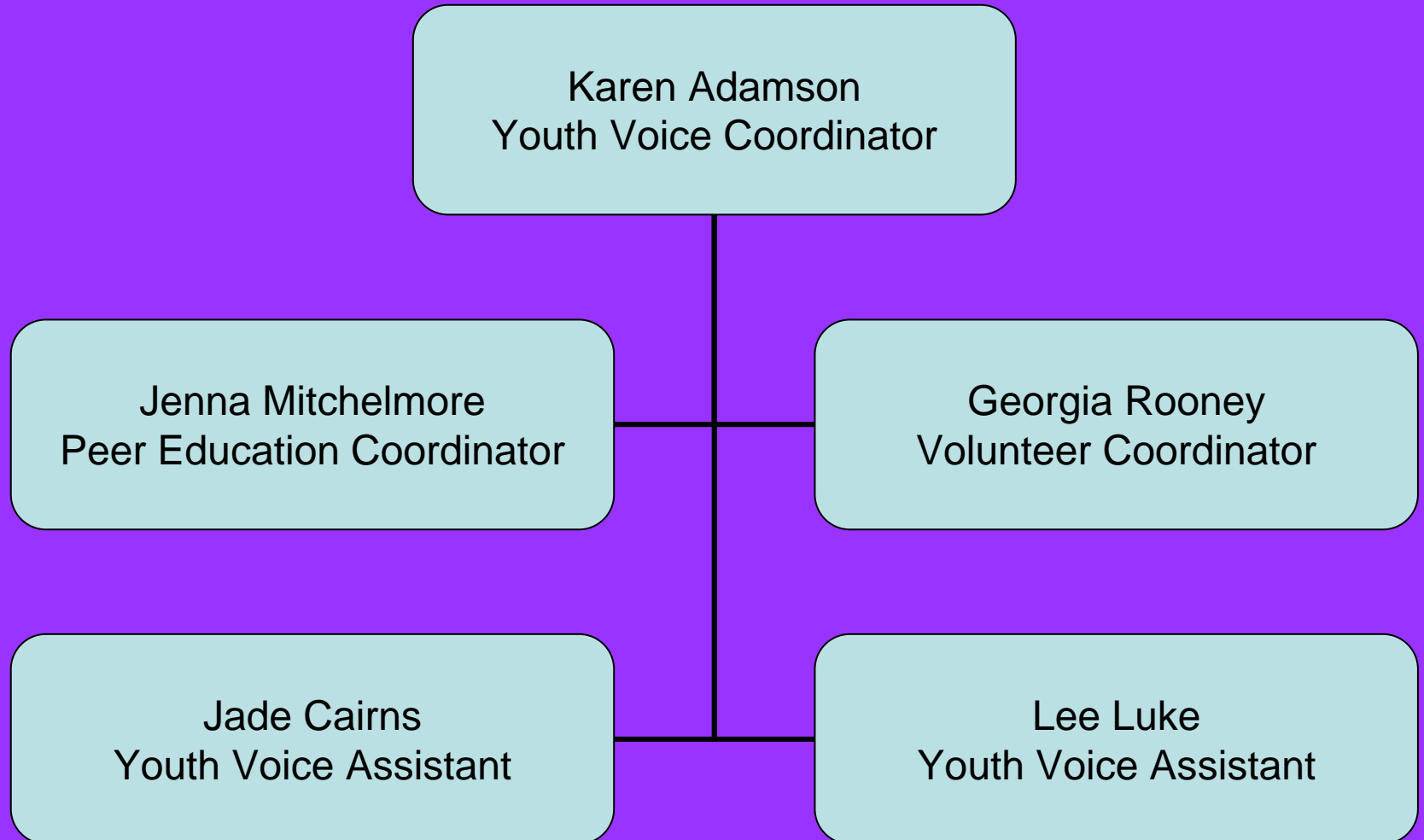


What is Youth Voice?

- Youth Voice is a project for young people aged 16 – 25 living in Newcastle Upon Tyne who have experienced homelessness or housing issues.
- It's a chance for young people to have their say about things that matter to them, learn new skills, meet new people and have fun.



The Team



What do we do & how do we do it?

- **Peer Education** – young people felt that because of their experiences they would have benefited from more available information in schools about services and support that is available to young people. From this programmes have been developed to meet this need and are delivered as part of PHSE in secondary schools and Pupil Referral Units.
- **Youth Independence Forum** – this was set up and is facilitated by young people who are supported by accommodation services in Newcastle. The aim of the forum is to create an opportunity where young people can speak to decision makers in the city to ensure that their voices are heard and they can make a difference. This meeting is held monthly.



- **Drop in sessions** - a weekly opportunity to meet up with other young people, get involved, chat, eat and have some fun!
- **Code of Conduct** – young people felt that depending on which services they accessed would then depend on how they were treated by that service. They developed a quality framework for services that support young people who have a housing need, and annually they inspect these services and support them to improve on particular areas which are important to young people.



- **Positive activities** – we support young people to plan activities that they would like to take part in
- **Interviewing & inducting new staff** – due to the experiences of the young people we support, they are part of a group of young people who make up an interview panel and take part in the interviewing and inducting of new staff in Children’s Services. They are also part of the interview panel for the Young People’s Service.
- **Volunteering** - all young people who work with Youth Voice have the opportunity to be registered as volunteers



- **Campaigning for change** – young people use the systems and services we work in, so they are experts in these experiences, because of this they are able to identify improvements and we support them to do this.
- **Awards & celebrations** – young people can gain accreditation for the work they do with Youth Voice through the Youth Achievement Awards. We support the celebration of all young people's achievements and have responsibility for arranging annual events for all of the young people who are supported by the Young People's Service.



- **Workshops and events** - we are often asked to present our work to other services and attend event to discuss what we do.
- **Citywide, Regional & National work** – we work with partner organisations across the country to promote and support youth participation. This includes being a partner in the Regional Youth Homeless Network, working with the National Youth Reference Group and working with the City Council Participation Unit



How do we do it?

We use a variety of methods to engage young people

- Forums
- Drop ins
- Group work
- Fun activities
- One to one sessions

We use tried and tested models of participation



Who do we work with?

We work with a range of services across the city to improve outcomes for young people.

These include both statutory & voluntary services:

- Barnardos
- Stonham / The Foyer
- De Paul
- Youth Services
- Newcastle City Council
- Your Homes Newcastle



How can you make a referral?

- No criteria, just their age – 16 - 25
- Project workers discuss opportunities with young people. We would expect support from their workers to engage them in our work & inform us if a young person would like to get involved.
- Meet with Youth Voice team to chat about opportunities to get involved
- Come along to a session – drop in every Monday from 3 – 5pm. We have a list of what's on each week



How we measure outcomes?

- We focus on soft skills development, confidence, self esteem, time keeping etc
- From observing this we can determine the development of young people
- We contribute to support plans & the Outcome Star



How do we monitor?

- Evaluate every session
- All work is planned & outcome focused
- Use Every Child Matters framework
- Collect statistical & qualitative data



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