

Every Youth Access activity aims to support or promote our members.

Here are a few highlights of what we achieved for you in 2009 to 2010.

Training: new skills and knowledge for YA members



New Training courses

We delivered a packed calendar of training, including **15 new training courses**, covering a wide range of skills and knowledge areas: from Equalities and human rights; to Conducting research with young people; to Working with young people at risk of suicide or self harm.

Co-ordinators events

Managers from across the network joined us at our regular Co-ordinators events, most recently, on supporting member agencies in the development and local implementation of integrated youth support services.

'Learning sets': in-house specialist training for members

Our team travelled to member agencies across the country to deliver specialised in-house 'learning sets' on topics like user involvement, case recording and monitoring outcomes. Please enquire about these if you're interested.



Supporting the workforce

Towards qualifications and accreditation

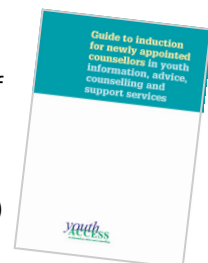
We have made major steps towards the first ever qualification in providing rights based advice to young people: CWDC are now consulting on its inclusion in a new qualifications framework for the youth sector. We are also working towards the accreditation of our CPD youth counselling programme with the University of East London.

Professional regulation for counsellors

We lobbied and fed your views into the ongoing consultation process on the legal regulation of counsellors and psychotherapists led by the Health Professionals Council.

New counselling induction resource

In response to members' feedback, we have produced (using the expertise of many members) a new FREE resource: the first **ever** national induction resource for newly appointed counsellors working in YIACS services.



Information services: keeping you up to date

Ebulletins and mailings: expanded and improved

We have improved and extended our information services to members: alongside your monthly members' e-bulletin, Funding Updates are now an expanded separate monthly bulletin, and the Policy Digest is about to be launched as a separate ebulletin. Plus monthly workforce and training news from the sector. All information is also sent by post.



Safeguarding—updating you on the latest changes

We updated our briefing on the Vetting and Barring system (ISA) to include the latest changes, and have been delivering in-house safeguarding training for members around the country.

Recession support

To support our members during the recession, we published evidence of young people's increasing needs for your services in **'The impact of the recession on young people and on their needs for advice and counselling services'**. We also surveyed members to gather your views about the impact of the recession on your services: the findings and next steps will follow this spring.



Building the evidence base

Bringing you new research

We have published and provided members with copies of *With Rights in Mind*, looking at the links between mental health and advice for young people; briefings on the *Youth Advice Workforce*, young people's *Advice Needs* and *Access to Advice*; and *Rights Within Reach*, about outreach advice.

Youth Advice Outcomes Toolkit: piloted

We successfully piloted an improved version of our Youth Advice Outcomes Toolkit with 10 member agencies, eliciting data from over 500 young people demonstrating the life-changing difference your services make. Look out for our report on this which will follow in 2010-11.

Trialling counselling outcome tools and databases

Counselling services at three member agencies are currently piloting the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies outcome toolkit, with other nationally validated tools, as part of the Making Tracks project. We've developed a supporting database and analysis package, and the evidence produced will go into a full report, which will be with you in July 2011.



Campaigning and Coalition work

We are working with numerous influential organisations in our mission to promote young people's access to information, advice, counselling and support services:

Vice-chairing the new Coalition for Children and Young People's Mental Health

Director Barbara Rayment will be vice chair of the new Coalition for Children and Young People's Mental Health, and is looking forward to co-ordinating its work on older young people

Linking up with CHYPS and National Connexions Network to respond to the IAG strategy

We're working closely with the Confederation of Heads of Young People's Services (CHYPS) and the National Connexions Network to produce a co-ordinated response to the government's Information, Advice and Guidance strategy, to increase local authorities' recognition of the role of YIACS.

Justrights: campaign leaders

Youth Access led the launch of the JustRights campaign for fair access to legal services for children and young people, together with our partners Law Centres Federation, the Howard League and Children Rights Alliance for England.



YA's Barbara Rayment with Shami Chakrabarti at the launch of JustRights

Influencing Policy

IAG strategy: wider needs beyond careers

Youth Access fought for the inclusion of a wider view of IAG than just careers in the DCSF's IAG strategy, and member agency MAP in Norwich was included as a case study. We were also invited to meet with the Minister Ian Wright MP, who assured us that wider IAG needs are part of the strategy despite its final incarnation being heavily dominated by a careers agenda.

Building understanding across the political spectrum

Youth Access also met with shadow Minister for Young People, Tim Loughton, to highlight YIACS to the Conservatives and have ensured his advisors have been kept in touch with our work.

Promoting the role of YIACS to the Department of Health

We are ensuring that the Department of Health understands the role and contribution of YIACS to the development of 16-25 year old CAMHS to AMHS transition services, set out in New Horizons. For example we are arranging for the DH to visit Youth Access member agencies.

More information on Youth Access projects, our training programme, and your downloadable library of publications and resources is at www.youthaccess.org.uk