

# National Younger Leadership Groups

## Leadership Session - Action

### Report 4 - April 2022



THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK  
YOUTH TRUST  
*Be the change you want to see*



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
EDUCATION OFFICE

FOUNDATION FOR  
EDUCATIONAL  
LEADERSHIP

[abyyt.com/NYLG](https://abyyt.com/NYLG)





# About the National Younger Leadership Groups

The National Younger Leadership Groups (NYLGs) was formed from a partnership between the Archbishop of York Youth Trust (ABYYT) and the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership (CEFEL) in 2020. The strategic plans of both organisations have priorities focused on young voices, developing student leadership and growing faith in young people. The Church of England’s 2020 Vision and Strategy, led by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, has a focus on ‘growing younger’, which undertakes regular consultation and engagement with children and young people for the vision of the church.



The first year of the NYLGs were a real success, and we thoroughly enjoyed including over 250 young people in these sessions. In 2021-22, we’re pleased to be running these sessions again, with more young people from Primary and Secondary schools across the country. The groups will meet five times over the academic year, with different focusses on leadership skills, character virtues and practical actions for each session.

## Session Overviews

NOVEMBER 2021

25<sup>th</sup>

### November 2021

#### ‘What church would you like to see?’

This event will focus on building on the ‘growing younger’ aspect of the Church of England’s vision and strategy. For this session, Primary and Secondary pupils will join together in one call.

JANUARY 2022

25<sup>th</sup>  
26<sup>th</sup>

### January 2022

#### ‘Learning to Love...’ (LOVE)

These events will explore the teachings of Jesus, in particular the greatest commandment to: “Love the Lord your God and to love your neighbour as yourself”. We will explore what some of the barriers are to loving God and loving others, with a focus on diversity and inclusion.

MARCH 2022

15<sup>th</sup>  
16<sup>th</sup>

### March 2022

#### ‘Be the change...’ (EXAMPLE)

These events will explore the teaching of the Beatitudes and what it means to live a radical life that is focussed on ‘being the change’ you want to see and setting an example for others to follow.

APRIL 2022

27<sup>th</sup>  
28<sup>th</sup>

### April 2022

#### ‘Let your light shine...’ (ACTION)

These events will explore what it means to be the ‘Salt and Light of the earth’ (Matt 5:13). The session will encourage the children and young people to explore social justice and identify areas in their own local context where they could put their faith and leadership into action and be ‘salt and light’ in our world.

JUNE 2022

30<sup>th</sup>

### June 2022

#### Celebration ‘I can do all things...’ (DREAM)

These events will aim to review the journey of the last year with the participants and celebrate their growth in leadership, character, and faith. Alongside this, we will focus on the Great Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28.



“Acting to promote someone else’s welfare,  
even at a risk or cost to ourselves”  
**Definition from berkeley.edu**





We asked them to give us examples of **where the world is contaminated and needs a fresh perspective?**

Unique Responses

- Education
- Solar System
- Gun Control
- Coral Reefs

Feeling threatened  
Unpredictable

prosperity  
tradition  
afraid  
overthinking  
adjust  
agree  
opinion  
hot  
comfort  
arguments  
used  
people  
habits  
unable  
feel  
ways  
scary  
family  
patriarchy  
hate  
dominance  
adapting  
natural  
weakness  
power  
worry  
creatures  
confused  
difference  
global  
habit  
uncertainty  
unusual  
racism  
open-minded  
hard  
threatened  
unwilling  
ignorance  
sexism  
anxious  
warming  
know  
changes  
unpredictable  
anxiety  
different  
money  
scared  
bad  
climate  
life  
stuck  
annoying  
uncomfortable  
fear  
opinions  
stubborn  
wanting

Creatures of habit  
Its hard to change


To finish this section we asked our Young Leaders to give examples of where they had seen everyday people being salt and light in their communities, schools and homes.



## Community Examples

- Volunteers looking after graveyards
  - Neighbours watering each other's plants
  - Our neighbours put on an Easter egg hunt
  - My church did a huge project for the youth over Easter
  - My dad helped our neighbour fix their toilet
  - People accepting refugees into their home could be seen as salty
  - Eco team who plant trees, pick up litter around our community
  - Local parents who are campaigning to keep our local streets safe

## School Examples

- ### School Examples
- Anti-bullying initiatives and ambassadors in school
  - Ex-teacher who lost her limbs due to sepsis and now raises lots of money for charity and spreads awareness
  - We had a campaign about better lunch meals and it worked!
  - We have just welcomed two Ukrainian children into our school!
- 



## Personal Examples

- Choosing to donate blood
  - Staying back after parties to help clean up
  - My friend defended someone who was a Vegan
  - One of my friends stood up for me, in a respectful way
  - Tom, my friend, walked 106 miles to raise money for a children's hospital

# St Marks CE Primary School, Bromley



**“The persistent people who continuously worked hard to create the covid vaccine to help us all”**

## Focus 2

### Everyday actions becoming our mission

We loved hearing their brilliant examples of everyday people whose actions had inspired our Young Leaders. There were many more shared throughout the session, and Young Leaders verbally shared some of their personal stories.

After hearing their example, we shared the stories of two other leaders whose everyday actions have gained national attention. These leaders were:

#### Jack Monroe



Jack Monroe is a food writer, journalist and activist, known for her work and campaigns on poverty issues, particularly hunger relief. Jack's activism and social justice work started for her years ago when she started a blog called 'A Girl Called Jack'. At the time, she was 24, a single mother living in Southend-on-Sea and had started a blog about her struggle to feed her young son on a food budget of £10 a week.

Jack blogged, tweeted, Facebooked and Instagrammed herself into a successful career, as a cook and poverty campaigner, helping people to cook nutritional meals for less. Jack wanted to help others living in the same position as her, and she now writes recipes for people who are living on extremely tight budgets, including people relying on food banks.

Jack has recently been in the public eye campaigning against food poverty. Food poverty basically means that the cost of food has increased to an extent that people can't afford to feed themselves. Her argument was that supermarkets are reducing their basic range of foods, which are the cheapest, and which millions of people across the country rely on. In response to her campaigning, Asda have agreed to double their offering of these basic food items, from 4th March this year. This will help struggling families across the UK to be able afford food for themselves and their families.



#### Shiden Tekle



London teenager, Shiden Tekle and his friends, worked with coaches at the Advocacy Academy who asked them what they most wanted to change about the world they lived in. Having suffered racism from a young age, they all agreed they wanted to recreate famous movie posters, as they were frustrated by the lack of black actors in films and TV and felt they never saw any positive representations of black people.

The posters were originally only intended for the bedroom walls of Shiden and his friends. But a forward-thinking advertising organisation spotted the posters online and loved the idea so much that they decided to print out 6ft versions of the posters, locating them in bus stop billboards around Brixton, south London. One day, when Shiden was on his way to school, he saw his image in a bus shelter! The advertising organisation had placed them all around his hometown. He commented:

"The first I knew was when I saw a poster of myself at the bus stop, it was quite overwhelming actually to see how our project can reach a wider audience".

Since this campaign, Shiden and his friends have spoken passionately on national television and have been interviewed by national newspapers to help raise awareness for fair representation of races throughout television, film, and other media formats.





# Focus 3

## Telling your story

The Young Leaders were then challenged to think about these two leaders. We asked them to work with others in their group to create a newspaper headline that captures the heart of either Jack's or Shiden's story. The headline needed to attract the public's attention to their cause and to help inspire others.

We digitised some of the most impactful headlines, here's a snapshot of some of them:



# Focus 4

## Taking a change action

After hearing and reflecting on these inspiring stories, we then got the Young Leaders to focus on their passions regarding social justice issues. We specifically wanted to hear more about the issues that the Young Leaders identified within their own local communities, that with **effort and time**, they could make a difference to, for others.

### Here's what they shared:

#### Environmental

- Electric car technology
- Reducing plastic waste
- Protecting wildlife and insects
- Deforestation
- Stopping badger culls
- Green architecture
- Animal abuse/testing
- Reducing sewage on beaches and in rivers
- Help illegally captivated monkeys Technologies which combat climate change (Ecosia)
- Make organic less expensive
- Go chemical free
- Overfishing
- Shark finning
- More green buses
- Stop factory farming
- Reducing food waste
- Fly tipping and bonfires
- Worldwide litter pick day

#### National

- Help single parents
- Nurses should be paid a lot more
- College and University tuition fees. Students are in massive debt already
- Stopping littering in my school and community
- Play grounds near houses and have safe play equipment. Especially in communities where children don't have gardens
- Helping people find homes, affordable and homeless
- Teachers should be paid more because they are the ones who help us chase our dreams
- To have a wider curriculum in our education system

#### Global

- Working together to achieve peace and stop wars
- Free healthcare in countries other than our own
- The refugee crisis
- Online bullying
- Women's rights
- The treatment of people with mental health issues
- Changing the law that women can't go to school in some countries
- Forced marriages

#### Equality

- Homophobia in schools
- Respect LGBTQ+
- Getting funding for deaf athletes
- Women should be equally paid
- Remembering gender inequality goes both ways
- Women's sport need same profile as men's
- Inspire children from different racial backgrounds into doing more sports, especially swimming as they lack the role models



All Saints Church of England Academy

"Sending messages through music & paintings"

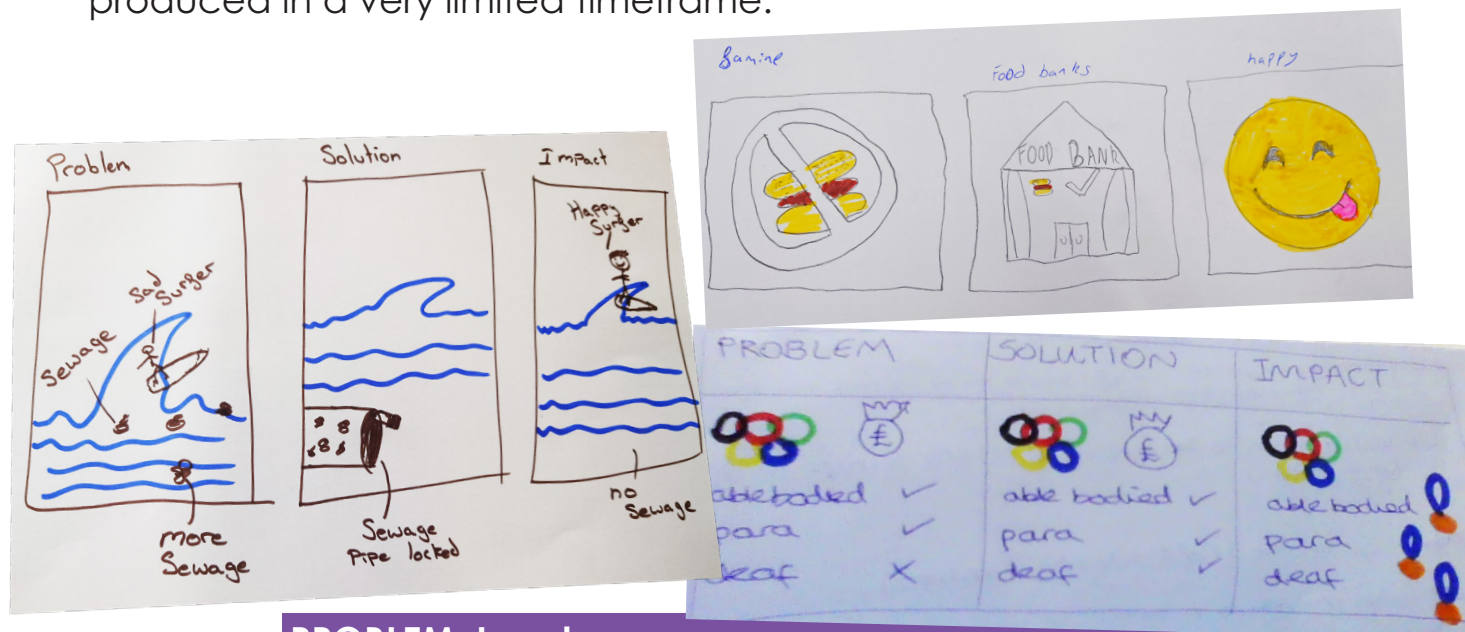
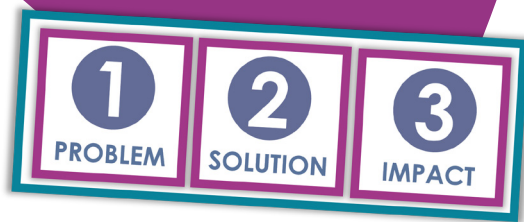


# Focus 5

## Problem, Solution and Impact

To close the sessions, the Young Leaders were tasked with thinking proactively about their change actions. We asked the Young Leaders to create a three-panel storyboard that displayed: the problem they see in the world, what solutions could be employed to address it, and the impact this could have beyond their own lives.

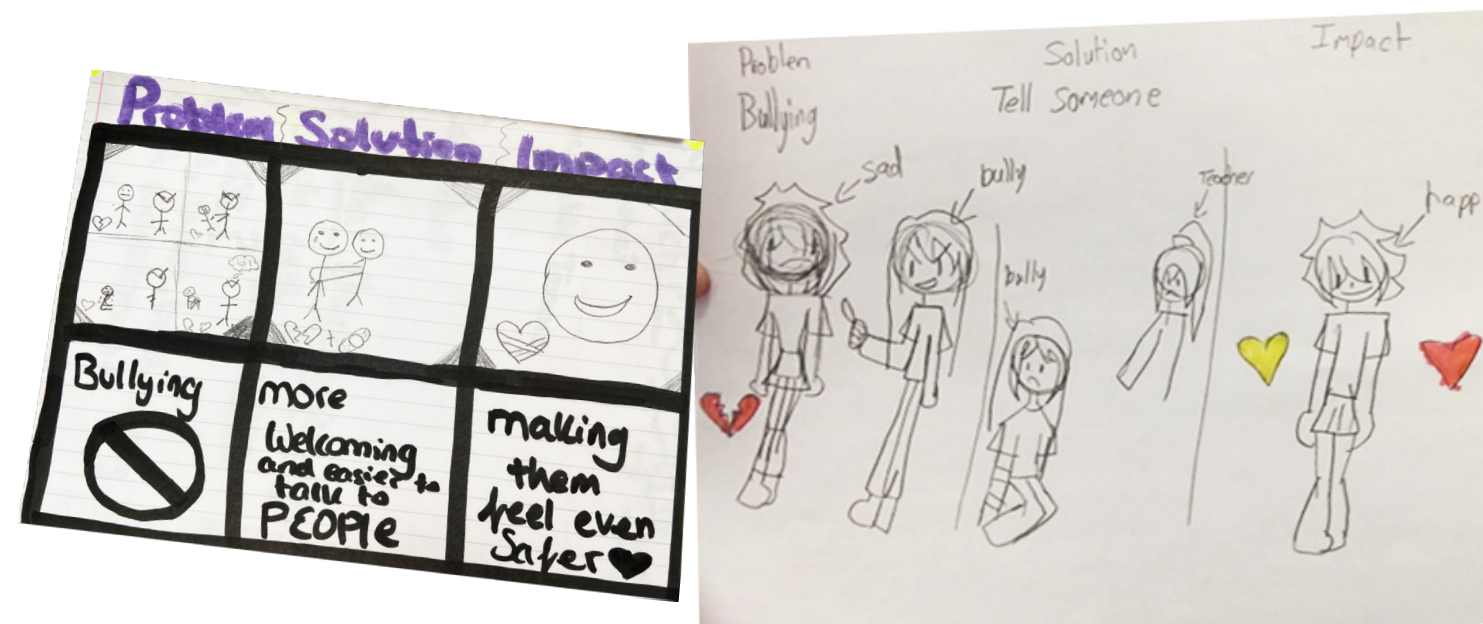
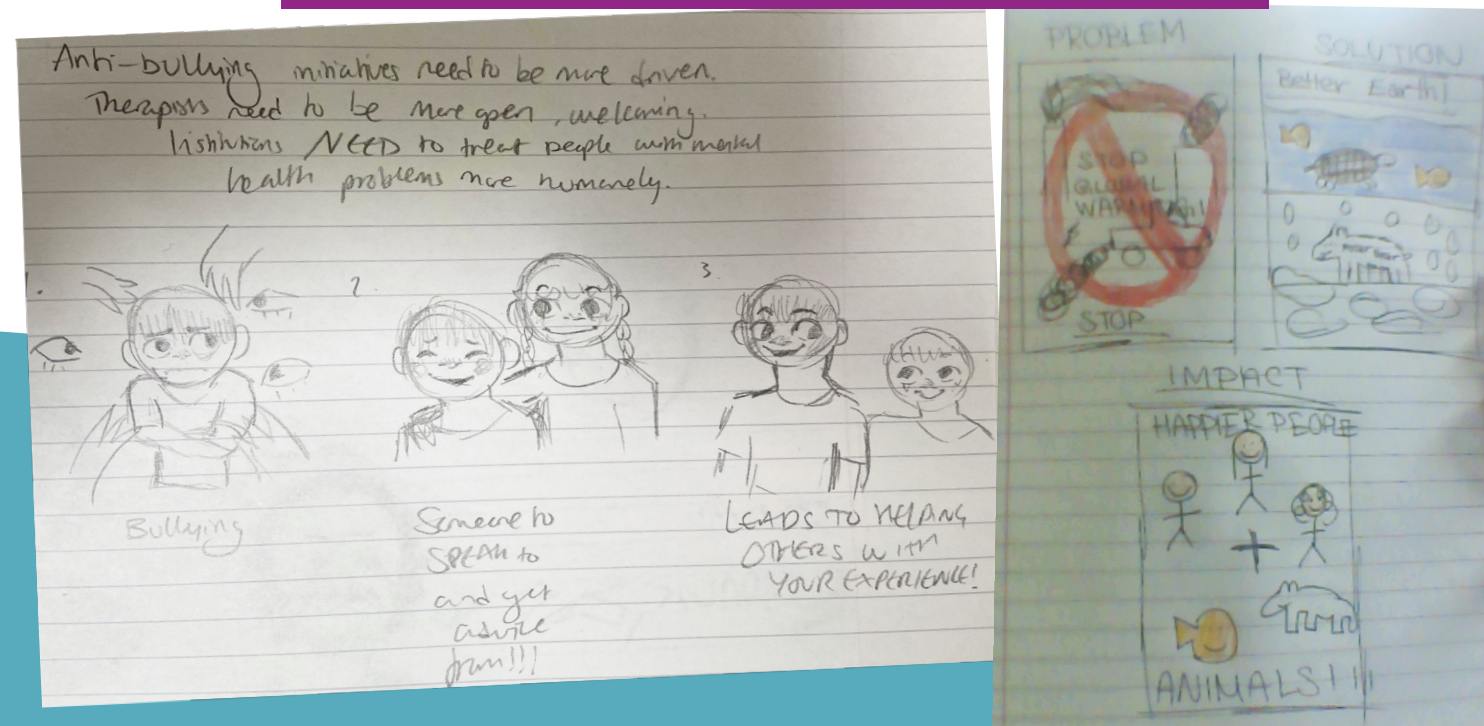
Here are just some of the fantastic storyboards that the Young Leaders produced in a very limited timeframe:



**PROBLEM:** Lonely year sevens

**SOLUTION:** Buddies and mentors

**IMPACT:** Happy year sevens with support and friends



**PROBLEM:** illegal poaching in poorer countries

**SOLUTION:** : Aid to countries to support poachers and find them well-paid jobs

**IMPACT:** Animals will be protected, and the poachers will have a stable income



**PROBLEM:** Climate Change

**SOLUTION:** Plant trees, reduce fossil fuels & find sustainable energy sources

**IMPACT:** Cleaner world

As in previous sessions, we were hugely impressed and energized by the Young Leaders' input throughout the session. Their collective awareness and sense of justice resulted in some mature conversation around actions that each of them are now able to take away and implement within their own lives. We look forward to seeing the results of these brilliant actions!



# Where we're going next

There will be one final session of the National Younger Leadership Groups in 2022 which will focus on celebrating the learning of the last year and Dreaming about the future.



## June

I can do all things  
(Dream)

For more information on the NYLGs, please contact Andy Wolfe on [andy.wolfe@churchofengland.org](mailto:andy.wolfe@churchofengland.org) or the Youth Trust team on [comms@abyyt.com](mailto:comms@abyyt.com)

To read the previous reports, please visit [abyyt.com/NYLG](http://abyyt.com/NYLG)



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