

MEMBER VISIT

Fresh Futures, based in Huddersfield, is a regional charity with a 50-year history of supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged children, young people, and families across Kirklees and the surrounding areas. Established in 1974, the organisation works to improve lives and inspire change through a wide range of services focused on education, employability, health and wellbeing, and family support.

Through initiatives including alternative education provision, employability programmes, family support services, and community-based projects, Fresh Futures helps young people achieve positive destinations and empowers families to build brighter futures. With a strong commitment to inclusion, opportunity, and community impact, the charity continues to play a vital role in supporting children, young people, and families across Yorkshire.



Flexible Pathways Model

Fresh Futures has introduced a pathways model built around Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4, allowing young people to move between pathways as their needs, interests and circumstances change. This flexible approach ensures provision is tailored to the individual, creating bespoke learning journeys that support progression and positive outcomes.

Improving Literacy and Engagement with Reading

A key priority has been re-engaging young people with reading. Recognising that many learners have lower reading ages, Fresh Futures has focused on providing resources that are accessible, relevant and age-appropriate, helping to build confidence, improve literacy skills and encourage a positive relationship with learning.

Outreach and Re-engagement into Education

In response to the government's SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan, Fresh Futures has expanded its outreach provision to support young people who may otherwise be unable to access education. This includes tailored outreach packages for learners facing significant barriers, such as safeguarding concerns, with the aim of re-engaging them and supporting their return to full-time education wherever possible.

What have been your big wins / successes over the past year?

Over the past year, Fresh Futures has successfully introduced flexible learning pathways, allowing young people to move between levels and follow personalised programmes. It has also improved engagement in reading through accessible, tailored resources that build confidence. In addition, its expanded outreach programme has supported vulnerable learners facing barriers to education, helping many re-engage and progress into full-time learning.

How Fresh Futures Benefit from a YLP Membership

I have already attended a Strategic Forum, where I had the opportunity to meet new people, visit different provisions, and learn more about initiatives such as Women in FE.

The experience helped me build valuable connections with like-minded professionals, share ideas and good practice, and gain access to useful resources and recommended reading. It was a positive opportunity to expand my network and engage with others who are passionate about improving outcomes across the sector.

What further support do you need from a YLP membership?

As referrals for young people aged 13-18 continue to increase, we would welcome further support from YLP in helping us strengthen links with local providers, community organisations and facilities that can enhance opportunities for our learners. This is particularly important as we see a growing number of female learners accessing our provision, alongside the continued development of our outreach programme.

Support in identifying and connecting with organisations that can offer additional learning spaces, maths provision, kitchen facilities, and practical life-skills opportunities would be extremely valuable. Continued opportunities to network, share good practice and learn about what is available across the local area would help us build on existing partnerships and create even more pathways for young people to engage, develop skills and progress in their education.

