

EXTENDED SCHOOLS ARE YOU READY?



YMCA

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THE EXTENDED SCHOOLS INITIATIVE OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND SERVICES TO BETTER SERVE CHILDREN, THEIR PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.



WITH THIS OPPORTUNITY COME CHALLENGES.

WHO WILL RUN THESE EXTENDED SERVICES?
WHAT SERVICES ARE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR MY SCHOOL? HOW WILL I ENGAGE WITH ALL PARTS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

The YMCA is excited about the potential of extended schools. For many years YMCAs have provided services and activities that would be recognised as 'extended school services'.

As a leading national charity with an established track record working with and for young people and their communities, the YMCA is well placed to help schools plan, develop and deliver the services and activities that are at the heart of extended schools.

This brochure provides some information about our expertise and services. We would be pleased to hear from you to look at how we can contribute to your school. Contact us on: schools@england.ymca.org.uk





WORK WITH US

We know that developing an effective extended school is about much more than just having longer opening hours.

We can provide services on and off site, which will help you provide the full core offer, compulsory for all schools by 2010.

We can also provide support with managing, co-ordinating, and delivering your extended schools services.

We draw on our expertise in specialist areas to:

- > Build healthy communities
- > Provide safe environments and activities
- > Encourage enjoyment and achievement
- > Enable participation and belonging
- > Address disadvantage and disengagement

CHILDCARE

The YMCA is a significant provider of childcare in England and offers a wide variety of services including nurseries, crèches, homework clubs, breakfast clubs, pre-school playgroups and after-school clubs.

Not only do we provide independent local services, we are also involved in Sure Start and Children's Centres.

YOUTH WORK

YMCA youth workers are qualified and dedicated professionals who work to ensure that every young person feels they have a place to belong, their voice is heard, and that they are valued and respected as individuals.

Our approach enables young people to explore, define and organise activities around their own interests and concerns. Many YMCAs offer tailored projects that re-engage young people with specific needs or facing unique challenges such as care leavers, young offenders, young people with mental health needs and young people with disabilities.

YMCAs have also developed initiatives for young people who have been excluded from schools or are vulnerable or hard to reach.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH

The YMCA is the largest voluntary sector provider of sport, health, exercise and fitness services that promote physical activity and healthy living. 26,000 children are estimated to take part in YMCA junior sports and fitness activities every week, many of them delivered through curriculum PE lessons. Over half a million people access group exercise programmes delivered through our network of health and fitness centres and sport facilities each year. YMCAs can help schools develop and deliver their Healthy Schools programme.

CONTINUED EDUCATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The YMCA works in partnership with schools across England, providing informal learning opportunities that complement formal education and allows young people to develop skills and achieve recognition.

Every year YMCAs assist over 3,000 young people in achieving vocational qualifications and pre-vocational qualifications through training programmes.

YMCA Training (one of the UK's leading vocational training providers) reaches over 6,500 participants annually, helps over 3,500 people into NVQ training and other accredited courses, and facilitates over 2,000 work placements.

PARENTING AND FAMILY SUPPORT

YMCAs provide a range of programmes to support families, many of which are facing serious challenges.

We offer family mediation, support for families with children who have special needs, specialised work engaging fathers in the lives of their children, programmes that are specific to black and minority ethnic communities, support for young carers, as well as work with young parents, sex education and programmes looking at issues such as teenage pregnancy.

CITIZENSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

The YMCA encourages young people to be actively involved in decision-making processes and to have their voices heard on issues that impact their lives.

We empower young people by involving them in activities that both stimulate and challenge, enabling them to realise their potential and make positive contributions to their communities.

HOVE YMCA – FACILITATING MULTI-AGENCY SERVICE PROVISION

Hove YMCA works with 24 primary schools across the city, eight secondary schools and is the leading partner in the extended schools pathfinder pilot in Brighton and Hove.

In secondary schools the YMCA provides an anti bullying project. In six of the primary schools, we provide a home-school liaison project, alongside art, play and other creative therapy.

The involvement of Hove YMCA in the full-service extended school pilot is at the very heart of the school where they run the multi-agency centre.

The centre provides counseling and information for pupils at the school on a broad range of issues, covering health, social and personal development. The YMCA also brought together several agencies to provide a coordinated service and made use of links with other agencies in the local community to assist with pupils requiring more specialist support.



SUCCESS

Our geographic reach and long history of providing integrated services that engage with over 1 million people every year, gives the YMCA a unique expertise in reaching young people. We believe this experience will be invaluable to extended schools.

With strong community roots and a good idea of what services and activities are already provided in the local area, the YMCA can also contribute to your school by helping you with:

- > Mapping existing services and planning extended services in and around schools. We are experienced in community engagement.
- > Encouraging participation. We are skilled at working with hard to reach groups and our focus on participation gives young people a sense of ownership and genuine involvement.
- > Facilitating and co-ordinating partnerships with local voluntary and community organisations. Community engagement strategies can take time to introduce. As an established voluntary organisation, the YMCA already involves members of the local community as volunteers and partners, helping us to shape the delivery of services around the needs of the community. We are experienced at working with partners from national, regional and local government, as well as with other statutory authorities, local businesses, charities and voluntary organisations.
- > Facilities management. The YMCA professionally manages the use of school premises and resources by voluntary groups and other organisations.

- > Funding. As registered charities, YMCAs can access funding from sources not available to statutory bodies.

HIGH QUALITY SERVICE DELIVERY

In addition to assisting schools with managing, planning and co-ordinating extended services, the YMCA can also offer direct service provision. We have considerable experience with delivering innovative initiatives and have a variety of programmes that can contribute to extended services. We have experience of working with current regulatory frameworks such as Ofsted, and can respond to new inspection arrangements.

WORKFORCE REFORM

YMCAs can also help schools deliver workforce agreement requirements by freeing up teachers. We can offer activities such as curriculum PE and Personal and Social Development to enable schools to fulfil their obligations.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer involvement is important to many YMCA activities. As such, we have the ability to recruit, induct and involve volunteers that might be required to support the successful delivery of extended services.



HORNSEY YMCA PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND LEISURE COURSES

Hornsey YMCA has close links with four local secondary schools and eight primary schools across Crouch End, Haringey, Hornsey and Stroud Green in north London.

Following a request from one local school, Hornsey YMCA now offers sport and aerobics classes to young people, as part of the school's curriculum, both at its fitness centre and on the school's premises.

PE provision in the area is poor, and many local schools use the YMCA's expertise and facilities to replace or supplement their physical education programmes. At Grieg City Academy, the UK's first city academy, YMCA provides football coaching on Saturday mornings.

Before and after school and during the holidays, the YMCA has a programme of clubs for children and young people where they can take part in a wide range of activities, including creative and performing arts, and sports.



WELWYN HATFIELD YMCA CHILDCARE AND AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

In 2003, Welwyn Hatfield YMCA was called upon by the local council to take over the running of its play schemes, which were under threat of closure. Since then, the YMCA has provided day nurseries for children and young people aged over six months including, early years education, crèche, and pre-school provision.

For young people aged five to 14 the YMCA offers four after school clubs and holiday play schemes where the emphasis is on having fun and taking responsibility. The YMCA offers high quality childcare, which emphasises the personal and development of the children who attend.

Pupils from the local Applecroft and Templewood schools are collected by minibus and taken to the YMCA, while young people from the nearby Panshanger, Watchlytes and Homerswood schools walk to the clubs accompanied by staff.

The after school clubs run from 3pm to 6pm and cater for a wide cross-section of the community.

WORKING WITH THE YMCA WILL ENSURE
YOU HAVE ACCESS TO OUR:

- > EXPERIENCE OF WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS AND WITH ALL ABILITIES
- > EXPERTISE IN OFFERING DIVERSE SERVICES IN A COHERENT FASHION
- > PROVEN ABILITY TO CREATE STRONG PARTNERSHIPS AT ALL LEVELS
- > COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE DELIVERY EXPERTISE
- > SPECIALIST RESOURCES

CONTACT US:

For more information about how the YMCA can work with your school, please contact:
Jenny Oskiera, YMCA England
Email: schools@england.ymca.org.uk

THE YMCA BRINGS THE FOLLOWING STRENGTHS TO ALL OF OUR WORK:

- > **YOUNG PERSON CENTRED**
WORKING WITH AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO DELIVER THE EVERY CHILD MATTERS OUTCOMES
- > **PROFESSIONAL**
WE ARE EXPERIENCED EXPERTS IN THE FIELD AND HAVE HIGH STANDARDS OF QUALITY IN SERVICE DELIVERY
- > **MAKING A DIFFERENCE**
THE YMCA EFFECTS A REAL AND POSITIVE CHANGE IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIVES
- > **RECOGNISED**
NATIONALLY RELEVANT AND LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT, THE YMCA'S VOICE ON THE POLITICAL AGENDA IS SHAPED BY OUR STRONG LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS AND FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE

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The YMCA is a Christian Charity committed to helping young people, particularly at times of need, regardless of gender, race, ability or faith.
National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations (Incorporated). A Limited Company registered in London no. 73749.
Registered office: 640 Forest Road, London E17 3DZ. Charity no. 212810. www.ymca.org.uk

The logo for the YMCA, featuring a stylized 'Y' with a triangle inside it, followed by the letters 'MCA' in a bold, sans-serif font.