



Introduction to G:up



Growing Up in the West Midlands

G:up is an alliance of West Midlands children, young people and families', voluntary and community sector (CYPF VCS) organisations, networks, and partners.

G:up works in a regional space to develop networks, collaboration and communications, build capacity and shape policy. Joining G:up is free! For more info, visit the G:up website: www.gup.org.uk

G:up in brief

- **Our members** represent the diversity of the children, young people (aged 0-19) and families', voluntary and community sector (CYPF VCS), across the West Midlands.
- **We are driven by** the needs, interests and aspirations of our alliance members and the children, young people and families that they work for.
- **We are currently governed by** a steering group that strives to reflect the diverse organisations working with children, young people and their families.
- **We cover** the West Midlands region.
- **Our website** is: www.gup.org.uk
- **We offer numerous tools and online resources including:** news, regional Training and Events Calendar, Signposting Database, automatic email Updates and an extensive report archive.
- **Our core work** is to:
 - Engage** – build and strengthen networks and communications
 - Influence** – shape policy, locally and regionally
 - Develop** – build organisations' capacity and share learning
- **Our values are** to collaborate, to work openly and inclusively, and to stay children and young people focused.
- **We are** committed to developing new approaches and new ways of working.
- **We enable** organisations to contribute to policy and strategy at a local and regional level.
- **We work with** national partners including Children England, NCVYS (National Council for Voluntary Youth Services), CWDC (Children's Workforce Development Council) and Play England to support our mission and values.
- **G:up manages a range of major projects**, including currently, [G:XL](#), see further details below.
- **G:up's quarterly newsletter** is full of news and opportunities: www.gup.org.uk/newsletter
- G:up's monthly Spotlight also offers a snapshot of G:up's news: www.gup.org.uk/spotlight
- [bayc](#) (Birmingham Association of Youth Clubs) acts as the accountable body for **G:up**.





About The G:XL project



G:XL is a three-year project within **G:up**, funded through Big Lottery's BASIS 2 programme. G:XL was developed in partnership of over 40 organisations and is designed to improve how infrastructure agencies support the West Midlands children and young people's voluntary and community sector.

G:XL has commissioned VCS infrastructure organisations that support the CYP VCS, within G:up's membership, to deliver a range of work streams by October 2012. Learn more about the project, work streams and latest opportunities at: www.gup.org.uk/gxl

About the Progress project

Progress your workforce

Accredited training for the voluntary and community sector young people's workforce

G:up managed the **Progress** project in the West Midlands, securing £135,000 of investment in CYP VCS organisations in the West Midlands, the uptake of over 1300 accredited training places by CYP VCS staff and volunteers and supporting nearly 20 trainers to complete PTTLS train the trainer qualifications when the project ended on 31st March 2011. Progress was a national project funded by NCVYS (National Council of Voluntary Youth Services) through CWDC (Children's Workforce Development Council). Learn more, including about Progress impacts at: www.gup.org.uk/progress
This success has enabled G:up to increase its role as a regional training hub.

About The Catalyst projects

Catalyst is a consortium of four organisations working with the Department for Education (DfE) as the strategic partner for young people, as part of the Department's wider transition programme for the sector. The consortium is coordinated by NCVYS.

Catalyst will work to deliver three key objectives over a 2-year period. It will strengthen the youth sector market, equip the sector to work in partnership with government and coordinate a skills development strategy for the youth sector's workforce.

Within this, NCVYS announced 2 tender opportunities nationally, G:up applied for both opportunities and was successful in obtaining these, which we hope will enable G:up to increase its role as a regional training hub. Learn more about the Catalyst opportunities on the G:up website: www.gup.org.uk/catalyst



bayc acts as the accountable body for **G:up**. Registered charity No. 1090789. Company No. 4347150



Skills Development Programme for Youth Sector Trainers

Is an opportunity to deliver an session/event to trainers and training organisations across the West Midlands, covering elements such as teaching practice, assessment and verification training, which will enable trainers to deliver a range of courses at all levels and fulfil the accreditation requirements of awarding organisations.

A flexible budget of £1000 per region was made available to support this work and G:up is now delivering the [Knowledge into Action - Training Summit](#) on the 14th December 2011.

Training Partnership Programme

NCVYS sought to work with a small number of voluntary sector-led training partnerships working across a number of local authority areas, to increase their ability to bid/tender for skills funding from a range of sources and develop a more sustainable business model. G:up applied for this tender and in the process coordinated the setting up of Learn: WM the West Midlands CYPF VCS training consortium, we are currently working with NCVYS to develop an outcomes-focused individual support package to include financial aid and access to specialist advice and guidance. Initial activity to support the partnerships started in October 2011 and will run until March 2012, although the support would extend into 2012/13.

A budget of £11,700 was made available to support this work and G:up is now coordinating the activities of [Learn: WM](#).

Contact us:

e: gup@bayc.org t: 0121 460 5870 w: www.gup.org.uk
a: G:up, Hilda Simister House, 581 Pershore Road, Birmingham, B29 7EL

G:up Programme Manager

Gail Lucas, e: gail.lucas@bayc.org, m: 07841 603 963

G:up Information and Communications Coordinator

George Turvey, e: george.turvey@bayc.org, m: 07841 603 964

